

Knocknacarra Educate Together NS

Board of Management Meeting

9th March 2020, 20.00

Present: Maggie Hall (patron nominee), Liz Daly (female parent nominee nominee), Aneil Rawat (male parent nominee), Paul Adams (chairperson and patron nominee), Elaine Keane (community nominee), Vivienne Kelly (teacher nominee) and Matt Wallen (principal and secretary)

Apologies: Louise Shields (community nominee)

Paul chaired the meeting.

Principal's Report

Enrolment

- There are currently 158 pupils enrolled in six classes.
- All the places for the new junior infant class have been filled, and a waiting list has been created.

Staffing

- An application for review of our support hours was returned explaining we are not eligible to special consideration. A campaign is being organised involving a number of developing Educate Together schools to raise this issue.

Health and Safety

- The Health and Safety Policy was revised and ready for consideration.
- Information from the Department of Education and Skills regarding the Coronavirus was sent to parents via email. It was agreed that opportunities for handwashing will be increased and systemised in all the classrooms.

Attendance

- Attendance for the year to date is 93.3%. 13 children continue to have perfect attendance so far this year. Six children have missed 20 days or more, most of whom have or are spending time abroad. Letters have been sent out to children who have reached 15 or more absences reminding parents that absences of 20 days or more will be reported to Túsla.

Curriculum Development

- The draft of the SESE plan is complete and the staff have approved it. It is now ready to be ratified by the Board.
- The next curriculum plan the staff is working on is the Arts Plan (Music, Drama and Visual Arts).

Building

- The Department agreed to pay the additional costs related to the door. The doors have been ordered, but the lead time is 6-8 weeks, so the doors will be replaced immediately after the close of the school year.
- We have appointed a consultant for the pipes replacement. The process for tendering for contractors now begins.
- Some new evidence of leaks from the roof are present. We need to look at some of the gutters and downpipes as there appears to be a blockage immediately. Once the weather improves, we'll aim to make general remedial repairs as soon as possible.

Policies

- A revised policy on Financial Procedures and Protocols is ready for discussion.
- The Health and Safety Policy is ready for review.

Misc. Events/Information

- First Class went to the university for an Engineers Week event.
- Sarah Gundy from CÚRAM came to the school to work with Junior and Senior Infants for Engineers Week.
- The Green School Committee has decided on a motto. They also made their first batch of paper briquettes.
- Tá Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl an tseachtain seo. Bhí dioscó ciúin againn inniu. Beidh scéalaí agus rincoir ag tabhairt ar an scoil chomh maith. Beidh tionól speisialta ann ar an Aoine. (This is Irish Language week. We had a silent disco today. A storyteller and Irish dancer will visit this week. We will have a special assembly on Friday.)
- Matt will attend the Educate Together Principals' Conference on Thursday and Friday here in Galway.
- Bertrand Huvé brought two other woodwind musicians, Michael Dooley and Joanne Cater, and the trio gave us a fantastic concert.
- Matt will meet with a representative of Music Generation Galway tomorrow to look at how our school can become involved.

- Rugby sessions with Craig from Connacht Rugby continue for three more weeks.

Financial Report

- The accounts have been certified and posted online through the FSSU (Financial Services Support Unit) on the day they were due.
- Spending targets continue to be met.

PTA Report

The PTA is focused on preparing for the Spring Fair. There is a meeting tomorrow morning to coordinate volunteers.

Financial Procedures and Protocols Policy

A revised policy was discussed. It was ratified with a minor change.

Health and Safety Policy

After the Health and Safety review, a revised policy was approved after some minor changes.

SESE (History, Geography and Science) Curriculum Plan

The Board approved the SESE Curriculum Plan after some minor errors were rectified.