

**Knocknacarra Educate Together NS**  
**Board of Management Meeting**  
**10<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 19.00**

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

**Apologies:**

Paul chaired the meeting.

**March Minutes**

The minutes from the March meeting were approved.

**Principal's Report**

**Enrolment**

- There are currently 211 pupils enrolled in eight classes.
- We are inviting our new infant families to attend events at the beginning of June.
- At present we anticipate a similar enrolment in the coming year.

**Attendance**

- The attendance percentage to date is 91.2%. The attendance over the past two months has been much improved, with the attendance level in April and May and just under 95%.

**Curriculum Development**

- An English Curriculum Evaluation was carried out by two inspectors on Monday and Tuesday this week.
- The teachers completed a second professional development day related to the Primary Language Curriculum as well as an introduction to the new Primary Curriculum Framework at the end of April. Online modules on Language Transfer and Interdisciplinary Literacy were completed. The teaching staff also completed the revision of the English Curriculum Plan and the drafting of the Handwriting Policy. The support staff completed various tasks related to movement breaks and emotional regulation and they also discussed planning and timetabling for the coming year.
- The School Improvement Process related to school ethos will continue next year, most likely helping to inform our new SSE focus on wellbeing.

**Policies**

- The draft 2023-2027 school plan is ready for ratification.

**Building**

- Work continues on the heating system, with thermostatic rad valves to be installed over the June Bank Holiday weekend.
- The roofers returned to address the evidence of water ingress. It will be monitored over the coming weeks.
- We still await a reply from the Department regarding our application for additional accommodation.
- A door lock was replaced, and all the exterior doors were serviced.
- The exterior of the school was cleaned in an effort to remove red algae. While some areas are improved, some areas are not significantly improved, and the company will return to correct this.
- The quality of the security cameras is extremely limited and largely unhelpful. We have priced for new cameras, and the cost is approximately €7000. This would allow staff members to view the cameras remotely as well as ensure a much higher quality of image.

**Misc. Events/Information**

- Our junior (under 10) quiz team won the All-Ireland Credit Union Quiz, an astounding achievement. We couldn't be more proud! They were awarded individual prizes but also a prize of €1250 for the school. Most importantly, the regular feedback was on the polite and kind nature that complemented their fantastic successes.
- The school was represented at the first-ever Connaught Educate Together table quiz. The team representing the school won, and we brought back the Terri Claffey Perpetual Trophy to the school, named for the recently retired principal of Claregalway Educate Together NS. This is the first of what will be a number of gatherings among the Educate Together national schools in Connaught.

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Signature

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Date

- A renewal application for the Active Flag will be submitted soon, and an application for our second Green Flag has been approved.
- We have decided to defer our participation in the Digital Creative Flag, a project organised by Branar, to the new academic year.
- A team of girls and a team of boys participated in the FAI 5-a-side tournament at Mervue Football Club.
- We will participate in a hurling blitz organised by Ragoon-Newcastle GAA Club. We are delighted that the players will wear the new school kit for the first time that was kindly sponsored by Health Service Credit Union (HSCU) and Claddagh Credit Union.
- Swimming is underway for 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Class. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class will have sessions from late May onwards.
- Trials were held for the upcoming City Sports competition.
- Louise and Matt attended the Educate Together AGM this past weekend. Matt was re-elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors.
- We have several students on work placement in the school. Orla will finish a long placement in our school this week having taught in 5<sup>th</sup> Class and Senior Infants. Chloe is teaching in 4<sup>th</sup> Class. We also have two students from Spain on work placement, Erika and Hector.
- We celebrated Active School Week with many great activities including our last session of four with Laura from Genevieve Ryan Dance Academy, basketball lessons with Hector, parachute games, lots of running and walking, folk dance with Matt, swimming for four classes, “wake-up, shake-up” in the mornings and long- and short-distance running for all the school.
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class are working with artist Dee Deegan and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class are working with Criona Scannell also supported by the proceeds from last year’s fair.
- We were delighted to welcome back storyteller Clare Murphy who did a fantastic workshop with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class. We look forward to her return to Galway on the 31<sup>st</sup> May when the school will accompany her to Barna Woods for storytelling and sharing of songs and poems.
- We look forward to the annual Spring Fair this Saturday on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 12.00-16.00.
- A covering for our bike parking spaces will be provided, funded by the City Council, before we return to school in the autumn.
- Junior and Senior Infants went on their school tour to Wildlands today. Other school tours will take place over the coming weeks.

### **Financial Report**

- Financial targets are being met. Full accounts will be presented at the next meeting.
- The response to the voluntary contribution request has been very positive.
- It was agreed that we will purchase new cameras with full rewiring with Nightguard.
- We received a large grant from the Department for the purchase of the school books.

### **Ratification of School Plan 2023-2027**

The Board formally ratified the School Plan.

### **English Curriculum Plan and Handwriting Policy**

The Board approved the plan and policy.

### **Initial Report on English Curriculum Evaluation**

An English Curriculum Evaluation was completed over the last two days with three inspectors present. They provided initial feedback that was generally good, and specific recommendations will be made in a forthcoming written report that may not be publicly published until the autumn.

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Signature

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Date