

Knocknacarra Educate Together NS
Board of Management Meeting
15th February 2023, 19.00

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

Apologies: Liz Daly (female parent nominee)
Paul chaired the meeting.

December Minutes

The minutes from the December meeting were approved.

Principal's Report

Enrolment

- There are currently 212 pupils enrolled in eight classes.

Attendance

- The attendance percentage to date is 91.4%, unchanged since last month.

Curriculum Development

- A School Improvement Plan for this year related to responding to the effects of the pandemic is completed.
- We will have two closures to professional development for staff related to the Primary Language Curriculum. A full-day closure will take place on Thursday, 16th March. A half-day closure will take place on Friday, 28th April. We will also review the English Curriculum Plan.

Policies

- A rough draft of the proposed 2023-2027 school plan is ready for consideration.
- The following policies have been reviewed and are ready to be ratified by the Board: Co-Location, Communication (including Complaints Procedure) and Financial Procedures and Protocols.

Building

- We are scheduled to have further work on the heating system completed during the Spring Break.

Misc. Events/Information

- New afterschool clubs are up and running since mid-January including soccer, lego, latchhook rug-making, choir, music and drama, superhero training and arts and crafts.
- The Junior Infants attended the Teddy Bear's Hospital at the University, and one of our pupils appeared on RTE news.
- Two teams represented the school at the Credit Union Quiz. One team won their age category and qualified for the regional tournament which will take place at the beginning of March.
- The new school choir made their debut at the Peace Proms at UL Arena at the end of January. It was an exciting event that was enjoyed by choir members and parents alike.
- The six committees are meeting regularly and sharing information with the school at our assemblies.
- 5th and 6th Class attended a performance of "The Table" by Branar at the Town Hall Theatre today. 5th Class took an historical walking tour and 6th Class had a guided tour of St Nicholas Collegiate Church.
- The website has been updated, particularly for the Green School, Active School and Creative School pages. Staff have learned how to add their own posts. All Board agreed reports are also online. More work on the website will follow in the coming weeks.

Financial Report

- Financial targets are being met.
- The 2021-2022 accounts have been certified and uploaded to the FSSU website as required.
- We will send out the annual request for the voluntary contributions before the end of February.
- It is anticipated that the funding for school books provided by the Department next academic year will mean the amount of school expenses requested from parents will be greatly reduced.

Website

Signature

Date

The Board recommended creating a PTA page on our website listing the officers and class representatives as well as information about their work.

School Improvement Plan

The Board reviewed and agreed the School Improvement Plan related to addressing challenges due to the extended school closures during the pandemic.

Communication, Financial Procedures and Protocols and Co-location Policies

The Communication Policy was discussed. Matt will return to sending the newsletter to Board members. Matt will also investigate if parents can view contact details via Aladdin Connect or if we need to return to sending out paper lists. The revised Financial Procedures and Co-location Policies were ratified.

Ethos Review Survey

Board Members are asked to complete a survey as a part of our Ethos Review.

Draft School Plan – Next Steps

The Board were presented with a draft School Plan that included a summary of all the consultation, including the discussions at the Community Meeting. Board members are asked to prepare feedback to the draft before the next meeting. The Board will then agree a draft before it is circulated to the wider school community for feedback.

Signature

Date