

Knocknacarra Educate Together NS
Board of Management Meeting
16th November 2022, 19.00

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

Apologies: Vivienne Kelly (teacher nominee), Liz Daly (female parent nominee)

Paul chaired the meeting.

October Minutes

The minutes from the October meeting were approved.

Principal's Report

Enrolment

- There are currently 214 pupils enrolled in eight classes. The enrolment period for new pupils is open.
- There will be an Open Evening for prospective families on 7th December from 18.30-20.00.

Staffing

- Eileen Duffy and Padraic Hickey were selected as the APII postholders.

Attendance

- The attendance percentage to date is 92%, with a slight improvement over last month and significant improvement over last year at this time. Two children have more than 20 absences as they were abroad in their home countries and returned to school late. A few children have more than 15 absences, all of whom spent time abroad in their home countries bar one family. The attendance is being monitored closely for this family. 42 of children currently have perfect attendance.

Curriculum Development

- The School Self-Evaluation Follow-up Report concerning maths is now completed. The staff have reviewed it. There is much to celebrate, though a few areas have been highlighted for further improvement.
- The school will engage in a self-evaluation process this year regarding the ethos by following the Ethos Quality Framework created by Educate Together. We are one of ten schools who is receiving regular support from the national office for the process. Staff have begun engaging in an examination of the school's lived ethos. A small focus group comprised of staff, Board members, parents and pupils will direct the process.

Policies

- It is time for the annual review of the Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy. Data has been gathered from parents and pupils. Modest changes are proposed for the policy.
- A policy on Pupil Committees should be ready for the next Board meeting.
- Other policies to be reviewed in the near future are Continuing Professional Development, Critical Incidents, Staff Induction and Substance Use.
- Consultation with pupils regarding the school plan will be starting next week. Consultation with parents will also hopefully start before the end of the calendar year.

Building

- The payment for the roof works was received, and we have paid the contractor. Some ongoing concerns related to velux windows have been addressed, and we will monitor to see if this is resolved.
- Work took place on the heating system over the break. The system was changed and is suddenly highly efficient. So far it appears that it is not requiring additional heating oil, but this will be monitored. Essentially, the hot water is being pumped more regularly throughout the school and under greater pressure. Some additional electricity costs may be involved, which we will monitor. We still hope to get thermostatic rad valves added and a new set of thermostats that can be monitored remotely.

Misc. Events/Information

- School committees continue to meet. We are looking at inviting interested parents to join the committees.
- Trish Darcy, a former parent of children who attended our school, will complete work experience in the school to become an SNA.
- Orla Ní Chonghaile is completing a teaching practice experience in 3rd Class.
- The school choir attending a rehearsal at University of Limerick as part of the Peace Proms.
- Ciara visited Iceland during the mid-term as part of a delegation looking at Child Rights Schools.

Signature

Date

- Mayor Clodagh Higgins will be visiting the school on Monday to mark Child Rights Day. The following day there will be a one-hour radio programme on Flirt FM produced by the school with song selections tied to rights and an overview of the work we are beginning to become a Child Rights School.
- Science Week activities are taking place in the classrooms.
- We will return to having in-person assemblies and potlucks at the end of the term in December. These will take place over four different days.
- Children from 6th Class completed applications and interviews were held to select School Ambassadors. They will receive training in advance of the Open Evening in December.
- Parent-teacher meetings will take place on 29th November and 1st December. Parents will have a choice of having a face-to-face meeting or receiving a phone call from their children's teacher.

Financial Report

Financial targets are being met. The Emergency Works Grant was received and the payments were made to the roofer.

Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy

The Policy was reviewed, including considering the consultation with pupils and parents. It was ratified, with minor changes.

School Self-Evaluation Follow-Up Report

The Board discussed the report and approved it for sharing with the school community.

Ethos Evaluation – initial Consultation

The Board discussed the Ethos Quality Framework that is being used for the ethos school self-evaluation process. Rather than provide individual opinions, the Board opted to make a collective viewpoint on which domain should be prioritized for review work. It decided that, in response to teachers' perspectives, that the Ethical Education domain should be considered. It also discussed the need to look at Participation, particularly efforts to revitalise parent participation post-pandemic. Finally, it also recommended looking at Sustainable Practices in the school community.

Signature

Date