

## Knocknacarra Educate Together NS

### Board of Management Meeting

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, 19.00

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

**Apologies:** Aneil Rawat (male parent nominee)

Paul chaired the meeting.

### February Minutes

The minutes from the February meeting were approved.

### Principal's Report

#### **Enrolment**

- There are currently 212 pupils enrolled in eight classes.
- The process of offering places for junior infants is complete.
- Three places have been offered and accepted for older classes. As vacancies become available, we will fill them.

#### **Attendance**

- The attendance percentage to date is 90.7%. This month has seen good improvement with attendance, especially this week. **Curriculum Development**
- The teachers completed a professional development day related to the Primary Language Curriculum last week. Online modules on Gaeilge and Critical Literacy were completed. The teaching staff also worked on revising the English Curriculum Plan and the forthcoming Handwriting Policy. The support staff completed an online module on ADHD and discussed the school ethos. All staff members participate in a yoga and breath workshop.
- Another full-day closure has been sanctioned and set for 28<sup>th</sup> April. It will be to address the final online module for the Primary Language Curriculum as well as introduce the new Primary Curriculum Framework. The staff will also finalise the English Curriculum Plan and Handwriting Policy.
- The School Improvement Process related to school ethos is underway, and a report of the data will be ready soon as well as a school improvement plan.

#### **Policies**

- A rough draft of the proposed 2023-2027 school plan is ready for discussion before it is returned to the wider school community for feedback.
- A new policy on Pupil Committees is ready for consideration by the Board.

#### **Building**

- We are scheduled to have further work on the heating system completed during the Spring Break.
- The roofers will also return then to address the ongoing leakage related to the emergency works grant.
- The staff has agreed to host the Arabic language school for children on Sundays.

#### **Misc. Events/Information**

- Our quiz team won the next level of the Credit Union Quiz, an amazing achievement. They will now compete at the national level at the end of the month.
- A renewal application for the Active Flag and an application for our second Green Flag are nearly completed.
- We have been selected to participate in the Digital Creative Flag, a project organised by Branar.
- Fourteen children represented the school at an interschool chess tournament at the Ardilaun Hotel.
- I attended the Educate Together Principals' Conference. Our school is featured along with other Educate Together schools in a publication called One Moment in Time about innovative practices in our schools.
- An intraschool soccer league was established with children refereeing the matches during yard time. It has been a great success, and the final will take place as soon as the weather cooperates. Two teams (boys and girls) will represent the school at an upcoming FAI 5-a-side Soccer Blitz.
- New sports kits have been ordered. Thank you to the sponsors Evergreen, Health Services Credit Union and Claddagh Credit Union.

---

Signature

---

Date

- There were many great events organised for Seachtain na Gaeilge. Ger, our shared support teacher, taught PE lessons in Irish. We had a silent disco. We had a fantastic assembly. We had a quiz. Finally, we dressed up in our green and had a collection to support the local community.
- The Food Dudes week was completed.
- Matt has been teaching dancing lessons to the classes today. Also, we will have additional dance lessons from the Genevieve Ryan Dance School for 4 weeks using some of the funds from last year's Spring Fair. This all relates to the school's focus on dance.
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class will be working with artist Dee Deegan, also supported by the proceeds from last year's fair.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Class are going next week to the University of Galway next week for a Healthy Heroes Event.
- Spring Fair is the 13<sup>th</sup> May. The PTA is gathering prizes for the raffle.
- We are going to receive covers for our bicycle parking areas from the City Council in response to an application we submitted for the Safe Routes to School programme.

### **Financial Report**

- Financial targets are being met.
- While there has been a delay, we will send out the annual request for the voluntary contributions very soon.
- The Department of Education has announced funding for school books. As the school already purchases schoolbooks directly for parents, this will require no change other than allowing the school to greatly reduce the school expenses charged each year. The Board has decided to reduce this to €20 per child based on the amount of funding the government will provide. Between the Department's contribution and the modest school expenses, we will still be able to purchase all schoolbooks, all pupil stationery, arts and crafts materials and 24-hour personal pupil accident insurance.
- Some major spending regarding the building will take place in the coming months.

### **Pupil Committees Policy**

The Board ratified a new policy regarding the pupil committees in our school.

### **Calendar 2023-2024**

A proposed calendar has been presented to and agreed by the Board for the coming year.

### **Draft School Plan – Next Steps**

The Board made minor changes to the draft school plan. It was agreed that it would be returned to the wider school community for feedback before it is ratified at the next meeting.

---

Signature

---

Date