

**Knocknacarra Educate Together NS**  
**Board of Management Meeting**  
**24<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 19.00 (Google Meet)**

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

**March Minutes**

The minutes from the two meetings in March were approved.

**Principal's Report**

**Enrolment**

- There are currently 190 pupils enrolled in seven classes.
- We continue to make offers to fill the Junior Infants class. We currently have 26 places filled. We are awaiting a response from two families who have both indicated they will accept the places. Once this happens, we will send out letters to all remaining applicants indicating where they are on a waiting list. All available vacancies that we know of at present have been offered and accepted for older classes. Waiting lists exist for all classes. We will write out to families waiting for places. Predicted enrolment for the 2021-2022 academic year is approximately 220-224.

**Attendance**

- Since the re-opening of the school building, attendance has been very good, 95.8%. Year to date, excluding the building closure, attendance has been 93.1%, on par with previous years. Forty-three children have perfect attendance. Eight children have missed 20 days or more, with the majority absent for long periods when they were abroad or for serious illness unrelated to COVID-19.

**Health and Safety**

- A fire drill will be held on Friday. The general Health and Safety Policy is due for review.

**Curriculum Development**

- Teachers are working on the revision of the Gaelge Curriculum Plan. A draft Learn Together Curriculum Plan is ready for discussion in the final term of the year. They should both be ready for presentation to the Board and ratification before the end of this academic year.

**Policies**

- The PTA reviewed the Healthy Eating Policy, making modest changes.
- A subcommittee of parents and teachers will work on drafting a Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) policy for the school, meeting virtually later this week.
- A revised Equality of Access and Participation Policy is ready for the Board to consider based on the discussion at the last meeting.

**Building**

- Replacement of the gutters and downpipes in the courtyards has been completed. A misunderstanding has led to a delay related to addressing some leaks from the gutters on the exterior of the building. We will address these as soon as possible.
- There appears to be less evidence of leaks, but it will be important to monitor this.
- We are close to having three quotations for the replacement of the taps. Also, the mixer that prevents very hot water from coming out the taps needs to be replaced. We are pricing this repair now.
- A new sign to discourage trespassing has been put up on the gate to the car park. Also, the Gardaí have been patrolling and issued cautions to a number of teenagers who were on the grounds outside of school hours. The situation seems to have improved somewhat judging by the amount of litter we are finding.
- Some parents have put together suggestions to address traffic management. These will be considered and then brought to the Board's attention.

**Misc. Events/Information**

- All classes have returned to the building. Books, materials and loaned computers have been returned. The COVID-19 Response Plan is in operation.
- Afterschool @ KETNS continues to offer a childcare service for parents for essential workers. This will be expanded to all families again pending public health guidelines after the break. A camp will take place during the break.

- The Creative Schools Project has begun. It involves work with three artists: Amélie Bal (circus skills), Kim Jenkinson (visual arts) and Mark O'Callaghan (coding). The theme is exploring Barna Woods by defining pathways, creating creatures and using this work to create a virtual woodland.
- County Photos was at the school to take school photos today. Special measures were in place for this, with no class photos taken but pictures of pods will be used to create a composite photo.
- The school will choose a motto and logo for the Green School programme and will submit an application for the first flag very soon.
- While good work has begun towards the requirements for the Gaelbhratach (Irish language flag), due to the closure of the building it has been decided to begin formal application of our plan for September.
- Afterschool music lessons through Music Generation Galway will begin in the school after Easter. The lessons will maintain class bubbles. The maximum number in each group is 4 children. Children will be distanced. No wind instruments will be played. Some children from other schools may attend, but they will not be in mixed lessons with children from our school.

### **Financial Report**

- Budget targets are being met. There remain a large number of outstanding grants to come from the Department.
- We will try to organise an online raffle for late April as a fundraiser.
- Parents will be asked to make a voluntary contribution in the final term. We will only ask for the school expenses in September as we did last year.

### **Review of the Equality of Access and Participation Policy**

- The Board reviewed changes to the draft policy in the last meeting, and with minor changes, the policy was ratified.

### **Review of Healthy Eating Policy**

- The Board ratified the revised policy which had been discussed at a recent PTA meeting.