

Knocknacarra Educate Together NS
Board of Management Meeting
7th November 2019, 20.00

Present: Louise Shields (chairperson and patron nominee), Maggie Hall (patron nominee), Paul Adams (community nominee), Elaine Keane (community nominee), Lynn Morgans (female parent nominee nominee) and Matt Wallen (principal and secretary)

Apologies: Waqas Khawaja (male parent nominee) and Áine Ní Chuinneagáin (teacher nominee)

Louise chaired the meeting.

October Minutes

The minutes from October were agreed.

Principal's Report

Enrolment

- There are currently 158 pupils enrolled in six classes.

Staffing

- Martin O'Connell is working in the school on a year-long work placement, primarily in junior infants.

Attendance

- Attendance for the year to date remains good, at 95.4% to date, though it is slightly down this month. Just under half of the children have perfect attendance so far this year. One child, who is abroad at present, has missed 20 days, and this will be reported to Túsla at the end of the quarter.

Curriculum Development

- The staff will meet to discuss the draft SESE curriculum plan in November.
- The staff has decided to focus School Self-Evaluation on maths, specifically vocabulary development related to maths problem solving. The staff, children and parent surveys are all complete, with an excellent participation rate.

Building

- The process of tendering for the doors has not yet been completed. The gathering of required documents is substantial and taking more time than expected. Hopefully next week tenders will go out. It is difficult to say when the doors can be replaced, either on a rotating basis of one door each day with a class at a time relocating or one of the weeks of Spring Break.
- A mechanical engineer consultant came to view the boiler and the leaking pipes. He has recommended replacing all the pipes that are underground with overhead pipes. We are awaiting his report in order to submit the minor works application.

Policies

- The Code of Behaviour including the Anti-Bullying Policy and the Child Safeguarding Statement were reviewed by parents and the staff. They are now ready for review by the Board.

Misc. Events/Information

- Our Active Flag assessment will take place on Monday.
- Our Green Flag application is being started.
- We were accepted as a Creative School for a second year. The Creative Schools Committee attended a celebration with other schools yesterday at Nun's Island Theatre and were interviewed for the radio.
- 12 children will represent the school in a football competition next week.
- The children had a great dress-up day and weekly assembly before the mid-term break.
- Children participated in special activities for Space Week and Maths Week including maths trails around the school.
- This next week we will have several activities and excursions as part of Science Week.

Financial Report

- All financial targets are being met, but it will be some time before we receive a grant from the Department, meaning the balance has decreased noticeably.

Signature

Date

Building Report including Emergency Works Applications

- The process for tendering for contractors for replacing the doors is in progress and hopefully will be finalized soon.
- A severe leak has been discovered during the servicing of the boiler. It was recommended that we excavate to see if patching is a possibility. At present there is no heat in the halla, two offices and support room as well as parts of the entrances. Therefore, we will need to begin the process of applying for another emergency works grant.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Code of Behaviour including Anti-Bullying Policy

After review including consultation of staff, parents and pupils, the annual review was completed and the revised policies were ratified.

Signature

Date