

Knocknacarra Educate Together NS
Board of Management Meeting
19th April 2018, 20.00

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

Apologies: Elaine Keane (community nominee) and Waqas Khawaja (male parent nominee)

Louise chaired the meeting.

November Minutes

The minutes from March were agreed.

Principal's Report

Enrolment

- There are currently 102 pupils enrolled. A new vacancy has opened in junior infants, and we continue to work down the waiting list. Due to additional enrolments in other classes, we are on target for a projected enrolment of 132 this autumn.

Staffing

- Our application for a developing post for the 2017-2018 school year has been approved.
- Recruitment for this post (initially temporary) will begin once the panels are cleared, most likely by late May.

Child Protection

- The staff completed the second half-day training on the new guidelines. As a group, the staff completed an online training seminar from the Professional Development Service for Teachers. All staff have been given a hard copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement.

Attendance

- Illness continues to affect negatively attendance. Eight children have been absent for more than 20 days. 4 children have perfect attendance so far this year. The attendance year-to-date is at 93.2%.

Building Concerns

- We have received written confirmation from the Department that the former Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh building will be our permanent accommodation.
- Educate Together have been told that the minimum amount of fire safety work as well as any restorative work due to extensive vandalism has been sent out to tender. The building is now being monitored by a security guard 24 hours a day.

Curriculum Development

- The Digital Learning Plan has been circulated to staff and is ready for consideration by the Board. It will be considered by the staff and then presented to the Board before the next meeting.
- The Learn Together and PE curriculum plans have been started.

Policies

- A new draft Assessment Policy is ready for consideration by the Board.

Misc. Events/Information

- Matt will attend the rescheduled Educate Together Principals' Conference next week.
- The Active Flag activities have been going well. Active School Week takes place next week, with lots of activities planned.
- The school has registered for the Green School programme. The formation of a Committee is underway, and we will begin an initial review/assessment before the end of the school year.
- Irish classes have started, and the number participating is very good.
- The new term of afterschool activities has started.
- The Spring Fair will take place on Saturday.
- Bricí Spraoi (the Imagination Playground) will be a part of the Spring Fair, and they will be in the school for the following week, thanks to the support of the PTA.
- Several staff members have attended professional development experiences from the SESS and PDST.
- The school will be closed on the 27th April to facilitate in-service training related to the New Primary Language Curriculum.

- The infant classes will be going to the City Museum and Westside Library on Friday.
- A student teacher from Mary Immaculate College of Education, Sarah, will be working in Senior Infants starting at the end of April.
- Many thanks to everyone who made a voluntary contribution to the school.

Financial Report

Budget targets are being met. The response to the voluntary contribution appeal has been very good.

PTA Report

The Spring Fair preparations are going well, and it will take place on Saturday.

Building Report

We await an official response from the Department regarding our long-term accommodation. Department officials have not made any reply to regular phone calls and emails, but some contact has been established with Educate Together. A short email confirmed that the former Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh would become our permanent home, but no timeframe for relocation has been provided nor responses received to further queries.

Assessment Policy

A new policy, which had been reviewed by the staff, was ratified by the Board.

Digital Learning Plan

The Board reviewed and ratified the Digital Learning Plan that was agreed by the staff.