

Knocknacarra Educate Together NS
Board of Management Meeting
20th December 2018, 20.00

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

Louise chaired the meeting.

November Minutes

The minutes from November were agreed.

Principal's Report

Enrolment

- There are currently 133 pupils enrolled.

Staffing

- Caoimhe Geraghty has been appointed to the maternity leave substitute position.
- The additional support teaching hours will be used in one block, the equivalent of 44 days, starting in the last week of the second term at the beginning of April.

Attendance

- Attendance remains generally good. 24 children have perfect attendance. No child has reached the threshold of 15 absences requiring a letter from the school or 20 requiring us to report to Túsla. The average to date is 94.8%.

Curriculum Development

- The PE curriculum plan has been drafted and approved by the staff. It is ready for ratification by the Board. The Learn Together and SESE (History, Science and Geography) plans will be developed next term.
- A curriculum planning day related to implementation of the new Primary Language Curriculum will take place in the second term.

Building

- The radiators in the school were checked again. We are hoping to have a new person come to service the boiler.
- We have been given informal commitment that we will be given a devolved grant for the replacement of all exit doors including the front doors.

Policies

- Policies that are being drafted are Induction of New Staff and Staff Meetings/CPD. There wasn't sufficient time to get staff feedback, but they should be ready to present to the Board at the January meeting.

Misc. Events/Information

- Our museum of objects that showcases all the work the children did with Aoife, our artist in residence, was officially opened today. It is a fantastic and fascinating exhibit. It will remain open for a couple of weeks. A catalogue of all the objects will be the final step of the process.
- The children presented a fantastic end-of-term assembly today with music and poems. Many thanks to the teachers for the hard work in putting it together.
- Parent-teacher meetings took place at the end of November and December.
- New afterschool clubs will commence in the new term: a musical, arts and crafts, football and superhero training for infants and basketball, arts and crafts, Gaelic football, superhero training and coding for the other classes.
- We bid farewell to Solveig who has returned to Minnesota to finish her teacher training course.
- A Spanish student, Lucía, will complete a placement in the school in the new year.
- We will be purchasing lots of equipment for the yard in the new year to promote activity as part of our Active Flag programme.
- Vivienne and Eileen attended an RSE workshop.

- Many thanks to Nathan who went and got reusable cutlery and plates, and many thanks to all the parents who washed it. This is one step towards achieving our Green Flag. We also received a grant from the Litterless Programme, which we will use to support our first Action Day in the Spring.

Financial Report

The amount of spending has stabilised. The cost of the first electricity bill was very high. Efforts will need to take place to split the metering and reduce the capacity.

PTA Report

- The raffle prizes will be gathered from now until the beginning of February for the Spring Fair Raffle.
- The Spring Fair is scheduled for Saturday, 6th April.
- The PTA is organizing a potluck to follow the end-of-term assembly.

Buildings

- The first full two-month electricity bill came. About 40% was standing charges as the Maximum Import Capacity is set at 60 kVA. We could look at reducing this, but the best option would be to split the connections and then reduce ours to 29 kVA. We'll work with the Steiner School to complete this in January. The Department said it would pay for the cost of these works.
- The Department has asked us to apply for a devolved grant to replace all the exterior doors. This has been submitted, but no reply has been received.
- The Department is aware that the four pre-fabs await removal. They are owned by various landlords who will have the responsibility for removing them and making right the ground beneath them.
- A different section of the Department will be responsible for the devolved grant for signage and fencing for the two schools.
- The Department confirmed they received the required three quotes for the moving grant, but they have not replied yet.

PE Curriculum Plan

The PE plan was ratified.

Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy

The Board reviewed the Code of Behaviour and the Anti-Bullying Policy using the checklist. A survey of children was part of the process. Surveying of other classes will follow. It was agreed that an annual overview at the Code and Anti-Bullying Policy will take place for parents, with the next overview to take place at the January PTA meeting.