

Knocknacarra Educate Together NS
Board of Management Meeting
5th December 2023, 19.00

Present: Paul Adams (chairperson and patron nominee), Jennifer Noonan (patron nominee), Ali Donald (male parent nominee), Emily King (female parent nominee), Margaret Wright (teacher nominee) and Matt Wallen (principal and secretary)

Paul chaired the meeting.

Principal's Report

Enrolment

- There are currently 210 pupils enrolled in eight classes. Two new children enrolled this week.
- The window for enrolment for the 2024-2025 school year is still open and will close in January. Application numbers are similar to last year.
- An Open Evening was held in November. Well done to the School Ambassadors (members of 6th Class) who represented the school so effectively.

Attendance

- The attendance percentage year-to-date is 93.1%. This week has seen the arrival of illness in several classes. Several children have missed more than 20 days, which we are obligated to report to Túsla.

Curriculum Development

- Surveys of children, staff and parents have been completed related to wellbeing. The staff reviewed the results, drawing some conclusions. A wellbeing subcommittee has been organised who will draft a school self-evaluation report based on the data as well as lead the process of developing a school improvement plan.

Policies

- A draft Sustainable Environment Policy/Statement has been written. While the Board can give feedback, it will be important to seek the perspectives of the Green School Committee as well as the wider community.

Building

- We are awaiting the consultant's report regarding the Emergency Works Grant for the prefab. A follow-up phone call was made, and we expect the report to arrive soon.
- The consultant for the roof works is meeting with the roofer. They will plan for the replacement of the whole valley substrate for the two valleys that continue to have problems.
- After a problem with the original planning application for the sign on the school, a new application will be submitted next week.
- We have registered to participate in the solar panels for schools project. We will need to seek three quotes and submit them as part of our application.

Misc. Events/Information

- Our school featured on Galway Bay FM as well as RTÉ news and the children's news programme News2Day related to our marking of World Children's Day and our work to become a Child Rights School. The Student Council organised a great day. Over the last couple of weeks children have taught lessons, and many have had the chance to be principal for an hour.
- We have received confirmation that our school will receive free hot school meals starting as early as April. We will begin a process of examining options before making an arrangement with a supplier.
- Our two teams came in 2nd and 3rd out of 42 teams at a Science Quiz as part of the Science and Technology Festival.
- The family table quiz was a great success with over 20 teams and about 100 people in attendance.
- Two classes visited Brigit's Garden for science workshops, and educators from Brigit's Garden delivered three workshops to three other classes at the school.
- Creative Schools Committee has organised a classroom decorating event.
- We continue to have GAA sessions with Salthill-Knocknacarra GAA Club at the community centre. It is now 2nd and 3rd Class who are having these sessions. Children in 3rd class and up are also having GAA sessions led by teachers.
- 5th and 6th Class attended the musical Back to the 80s at Galway Educate Together Secondary School.
- We received another donation of some refurbished computers from Medtronic.

Signature

Date

- Parent-teacher meetings were held last week. Many thanks to the teachers for all their hard work and preparation. Thanks to the parents for attending.
- We will have end-of-year assemblies and potlucks starting next week.
- We will have a woolly winter jumper day to raise money for Galway Simon Community.

Financial Report

- Budget targets are being met.
- The balance is decreasing as we await grants from the Department that will arrive in January.
- The accounts will be delivered to the school accountant for certification.

Environmental Sustainability Policy

The draft policy was reviewed, with some minor recommendations made. The policy will be reviewed by the Green School Committee and will be brought to the Board for ratification at a future meeting.

Co-opting Community Nominees and Scheduling Meetings

- Sarah Gundy who is a science educator based at CÚRAM at University of Galway has agreed to join the Board as a community nominee.
- The Board agreed to meet on Mondays going forward. Once the full Board is in place, the remainder of the meetings for the academic year will be confirmed.

Signature

Date