

**Knocknacarra Educate Together NS**  
**Board of Management Meeting**  
**18<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 19.00**

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

**September Minutes**

The minutes from the September meeting were approved.

**Principal's Report**

**Enrolment**

- There are currently 207 pupils enrolled in eight classes.

**Attendance**

- The attendance percentage year-to-date is 94%. This signals a return to attendance levels last seen in 2019.

**Health and Safety**

- A fire drill was conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and went smoothly.

**Curriculum Development**

- On Friday last week a draft of the English curriculum evaluation was received, and a draft response is ready for the Board to consider. We will begin to explore how to address the recommendations, with a plan in place soon.
- Surveys will be sent out soon to parents and teachers as part of our School Self-Evaluation Process. Discussions with the children in each class will follow.
- Work has begun on exploring the Learn Together Curriculum.
- Working groups made up of teachers are researching and then will make recommendations to the rest of the staff on teaching spelling, handwriting and non-fiction reading, as planned for in our English Curriculum Plan.

**Policies**

- The Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy is ready for review. The Student Council, as part of their work to guide the school in becoming a Child Rights School, has participated in reviewing of the policy.

**Building**

- Concerns about leaks in the prefab prompted a request to provide an update regarding our application for Additional School Accommodation. It was confirmed that the application is received and will be considered. Even so, they recommended an emergency works application, and this process has been started.
- While it appears there has been some improvement regarding the roof in the main building, there does still appear to be some leakage. The consultant has been asked to return to investigate.
- Already several ceiling tiles in the hall have been dislodged. They will be fixed by the end of the month.
- A planning application for a sign on the building will be started before the end of the month.
- Initial discussions are underway to explore how to develop the courtyards. Work will take place soon to improve the garden areas adjacent to the purple doors.
- The shelters for the bike racks were installed.
- Graffiti was removed from the boundary wall.
- Quotes, as discussed, will be sourced for perimeter fencing before the next meeting.

**Misc. Events/Information**

- Kendra Rabbitte has begun working with junior and senior infant classes as part of the Teacher-Artist Partnership through Galway Education Centre.
- The schools programme with Salthill-Knocknacarra GAA Club has begun led by Mark Rohan. With the help of Clodagh Higgins, we have been able to access the Knocknacarra Community Centre for activities.
- We participated in our first Cumann na mBunscol event, the boys Gaelic football mini-7s blitz. We look forward to more participation in the future.
- Twelve children represented the school at the Galway Cross Country Semi-finals. Isaac qualified for the finals and others narrowly missed the cut to progress, with everyone finishing their races well.

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Signature

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Date

- Mayor Eddie Hoare visited 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class last week as part of the whole school's efforts to select the children who are representing the different classes on the school committees.
- The first committee meetings were held last week. There are now seven committees including a new Learn Together Curriculum Committee.
- The various classes are working on the Digital Arts Flag with Branar this month.
- Three of the classes will be attending Baboró performances this week.
- Padraic has been working with the NCCA on a project to introduce lessons on Traveller culture, and these lessons will be videoed and shared as models when lessons are published for all schools.

### **Financial Report**

- Budget targets are being met.
- It appears we will receive extra capitation funding though less than last year.
- A grant was received to support attendance.

### **Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy**

- The Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy was reviewed including recommended changes by the Student Council.
- The Board completed the annual checklist regarding the Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Matt will remind staff to give frequent, regular messages to children regarding what bullying is and what to do when they witness or experience it.

### **Response to Curriculum Evaluation**

- The Board discussed the draft report and agreed a written response.

### **Thank you to the Outgoing Board Members**

Matt and Paul thanked all the members for their contributions to the school over the past four years. They also expressed special gratitude to Louise, Maggie and Elaine who have served two terms. The stability and effective engagement over the years has helped shape our school, and we are grateful for the voluntary work of all the Board members as we come to the end of the current term.

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Signature

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Date