

Knocknacarra Educate Together NS
Board of Management Meeting
18th November 2024, 19.00

Present: Paul Adams (chairperson), Jennifer Noonan, Emily King, Catherine Emerson, Sarah Gundy, Ciara Jordan and Matt Wallen (secretary)

Apologies: Ali Donald

Paul chaired the meeting.

October Minutes

The minutes from the October meeting were approved.

Principal's Report

Enrolment

- There are currently 205 pupils enrolled in eight classes, with no changes since last month.
- The window for the submission of admissions applications for the 2025-2026 school year remains open. The number of applications is lower than at this time last year. An open evening will take place in the school next week.

Attendance

- The attendance percentage year-to-date is 93%. Eight children have missed 15 days, all who were abroad or had an extended illness, and have been reminded of the requirement to report absences of 20 days or more to TÚSLA. 51 children have perfect attendance to date, and 40% have perfect attendance or have been absent only once since the beginning of the year.

Staffing

- The in-school management team is meeting next week to finalise a revision of responsibilities for the next two-year period.

Curriculum Development

- The Working Groups met for the first time related to maths and language topics.
- The SESE (History, Geography and Science) school plan will be revised this academic year.

Policies

- A review of the Child Safeguarding Statement is ready.
- The checklist for the review of the Anti-Bullying Policy needs to be completed.
- The Healthy Eating Policy has been revised and shared with parents for feedback. It is ready for ratification by the Board.
- Other policies that will be reviewed next month include Extra Personal Vacation (EPV) Days, Garda Vetting, Continuing Professional Development and Staff Induction.

Building

- The new signage is installed and looks great.
- The final documentation regarding the PV panels has been received and submitted, and we anticipate the payout of the grant balance soon.

Misc. Events/Information

- We had an enjoyable assembly before the mid-term with lots of great costumes. A small collection was made for Educate Together's One Day Together fundraising event.
- The final match for the yard football league is taking place in the senior yard as soon as weather permits.
- All the classes marked Science Week by completing lots of science investigations. Mark, a parent who works at Medtronic, visited 3rd Class. Tom Cuffe visited 4th and 5th Class to do a STEAM workshop on origami. 3rd and 6th Class went to the University for a Build a Bridge project.
- Today Dee Deegan led the staff in a CPD experience with our staff and the staff of Cuan na Gaillimhe CNS. It is related to creativity across the primary curriculum. A second session will take place in the second term.
- Eight children participated in the Galway Science Quiz at Coláiste Muire Máthair. One team tied for 4th and the other team tied for 13th, with 42 teams participating.
- A family table quiz will be held at the school on Friday, hosted by the Parent-Teacher Association.
- The school ambassadors are undergoing training to prepare for the Open Evening taking place next week.
- The KETNS Kindness Collection is taking place again this month.

Signature

Date

- The School Choir attended a workshop to prepare for the Peace Proms Concert in February that will take place in Limerick. They will sing outside Tesco on the afternoon of Monday, 9th December.

Financial Report

- We are still awaiting the receipt of additional grants related to the hot meals, the solar panels and assistive technology applications. We have been told they are several weeks behind in processing the grants for the hot meals.
- Following up on last meeting's inquiry regarding the school expenses income being lower than budgeted, approximately 45% had not paid. Reminders have been sent to address this.

Building

- It was agreed that we need to confirm that we have or don't require a smart meter in order to sell electricity back to the grid, particularly before the summer months.

Child Safeguarding Statement Checklist

The review checklist was completed.

Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy Review

The review checklist was completed and the revised policy was ratified with minor changes.

Healthy Eating Policy

The Board discussed a revised draft of the Healthy Eating Policy that takes into account the hot meals programme. It was ratified.

Signature

Date