

Knocknacarra Educate Together NS
Board of Management Meeting
21st October 2024, 19.00

Present: Paul Adams (chairperson), Jennifer Noonan, Ali Donald, Emily King, Catherine Emerson, Sarah Gundy, Ciara Jordan and Matt Wallen (secretary)
Paul chaired the meeting.

September Minutes

The minutes from the September meeting were approved.

Principal's Report

Enrolment

- There are currently 205 pupils enrolled in eight classes. Since the last meeting two children left the school and two enrolled. 205 is our official enrolment for the school year and will determine the funding we receive for the year.
- The window has opened for the submission of admissions applications for the 2025-2026 school year. An open evening will take place in the school at the end of November, led by 6th Class School Ambassadors.

Attendance

- The attendance percentage year-to-date is 93.2%. This is a marked improvement compared to last year, and the percentage for October is close to 95%. Three children have missed 15 days, all of whom were abroad at the beginning of the school year and have been reminded of the requirement to report absences of 20 days or more to TÚSLA. 36% of children have perfect attendance to date.

Staffing

- Olga Lynch, who has been heating and delivering the hot meals, is away at present and Carine Barcovshi is taking on this responsibility.
- The in-school management team has completed reports on the work they have completed since October 2022. A process has begun of reviewing the roles and responsibilities for a new two-year period.

Curriculum Development

- Next month new working groups will be established related to maths and English topics.

Policies

- The Data Management and Data Protection Policy is ready for review by the Board.
- A review of the Child Safeguarding Statement is in progress and will be ready for the November meeting.
- While there are new anti-bullying guidelines called Bí Cineálta, schools are recommended to review the current policy and don't require the new guidelines be implemented until the next academic year. Training opportunities regarding the new guidelines will be pursued.
- Other policies that will be reviewed in the near future include Healthy Eating, Extra Personal Vacation (EPV) Days, Garda Vetting, Continuing Professional Development and Staff Induction.

Building

- We hope to have the sign on the school installed during the mid-term break next week.
- The PV panels installation is now complete. We will submit a request for the rest of the grant.
- Work on the gardens continues thanks to the efforts of volunteer parents.
- A committee is being formed to look at how to develop the courtyard spaces.

Misc. Events/Information

- Parent-teacher meetings are taking place this week. Greater flexibility for teachers has been provided though all teachers will have meetings on Tuesday afternoon to facilitate families with siblings.
- Our school hosted the Terri Claffey 2024 Cup, a table quiz for Educate Together schools in Connacht. Our team placed third. Special thanks to two children who led the quiz so capably including asking the questions, marking the answers and tallying the points.
- We will have a basketball match with Scoil Fhursa at our school on Tuesday.
- A football league is taking place in the senior yard with 6th Class children acting as referees.
- Five classes attended a Baboró event this past week.
- The seven pupil committees met for the first time this past week. The Green School Committee also welcomed a visitor from the Council.

Signature

Date

- The nasal flu vaccine will be administered in the school on Tuesday.
- County Photos was in the school to take class and individual photos.
- Classes completed maths trails in mixed-aged pairs this past week to mark Maths Week.

In-School Management Report

The Board were given the in-school management reports from the five post-holders. The ISM team are now reviewing their roles and will draft new two-year work plans in November.

Financial Report

- We are awaiting the receipt of additional grants related to the hot meals, the solar panels and assistive technology applications.
- It was noted that the amount received for school expenses is much lower than anticipated. Matt will look into this.

PTA Report

The PTA held its AGM. A new chairperson and vice chairperson were chosen. A survey to parents will take place regarding meeting times including the possibility of having morning and evening meetings to accommodate as many parents as possible.

Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy Review

The Board reviewed the Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy. This included a report on results from an annual survey with the pupils, with all indicators showing an improvement. It was noted that towards the end of this academic year we will have to comprehensively review the Anti-Bullying Policy in accordance with Department guidelines. The name of the revised policy will be Bí Cineálta. The review checklist will need to be completed at the next Board meeting.

Signature

Date