

Knocknacarra Educate Together NS
Board of Management Meeting
10th February 2025, 19.00

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

Apologies: Catherine Emerson
Paul chaired the meeting.

January Minutes

The minutes from the January meeting were approved.

Principal's Report

Enrolment

- There are currently 205 pupils enrolled in eight classes, with no changes since last month.
- We have sent out offer letters to all who applied within the admissions window for a place in Junior Infants. We will continue to follow up any future applications.
- Separately, we have had enquiries regarding 7 children for a place in the new autism classes.
- The admissions window remains open for older classes. It is difficult to predict enrolment for 2025-2026, with likely 12 children in the autism classes and approximately 195 in mainstream classes for a total of 207.

Attendance

- The attendance percentage year-to-date is 92%, with a noticeable improvement over the last few weeks. Twelve children have now crossed the 20-day threshold, and this will be notified to Túsla. In contrast, about 20% of children have missed one day or less of school since the end of August.

Staffing

- A review of our SNA allocation has been successful and we have been granted an additional 0.50 FTE position. As soon as it is officially sanctioned, we will commence a recruitment process.
- We will be having a half-in half-out staff meeting to accommodate specialised training for staff related to managing behaviours of concern.

Curriculum Development

- The Working Groups have met and are in the process of researching and seeking feedback from other staff members regarding English and maths programmes in the school.

Policies

- A revised Admissions Policy has been drafted and needs to be shared with staff, parents and the patron. After this consultation, we can ratify it at our next staff meeting to begin the admissions process for the new autism classes.
- The Garda Vetting and Retention Policy are ready for review by the Board with minimal changes recommended.

Building

- I have spoken with the contractor for the repair of the prefab roof, but no firm date has been set for the commencement of the work. We hope to have this confirmed this week.
- A roofer is coming to inspect the main roof this week.
- A few roof tiles were damaged and a branch of one tree came down, but the school was largely unaffected by the recent storm.
- The first payment to the project manager has been made for the modular build. I have spoken to the project manager today who has scheduled a meeting to finalise design details and the project timeline.

Misc. Events/Information

- The school was closed during the recent storm for one day due to a red weather warning.
- The talent show scheduled for the evening of the storm has been rescheduled to the last Friday in February.
- The PTA will meet again this week, both in person and online.
- The Creative Schools Committee is supporting the Creative February Programme.
- The School Choir participated in the Peace Proms at University of Limerick this past Sunday.
- Two teams are participating in the Credit Union Quiz tonight.

Signature

Date

- A yard-time basketball league has concluded. Special recognition goes to the group of 6th Class referees who organised the league. A soccer league will follow.
- 2nd Class attended a day-long event called Healthy Heroes at the University of Galway.
- Dee Deegan, the Teacher-Artist Partnership programme, will be working with 3rd Class on a visual arts project.
- The school has been given a large donation of Irish Socksociety and plans are underway to use it to promote gender equality awareness programmes in the school.
- In the near future, we are going to be working with CÚRAM to create a science-themed mural.
- The staff is looking at calendar options for the coming academic year.

Financial Report

- The budget targets are being met.
- The 2023-2024 accounts have been certified and submitted to the FSSU.

Policies Review

Three policies were reviewed and ratified by the Board: Critical Incidents, Garda Vetting and Retention Policy.

Revised Admissions Policy

The revision of the Admissions Policy to include the process for the new autism classes has been agreed by the Board. We will now seek feedback and approval from Educate Together for the revised policy.

Garda Vetting and Retention Policies

The Garda Vetting and Retention Policies were reviewed. No substantial changes were required, and they were ratified by the Board.

In-School Management Team Long-Term Plans

The Board reviewed the proposed long-term plans.

Signature

Date