

**Knocknacarra Educate Together NS**  
**Board of Management Meeting**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025, 19.00**

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

**Apologies:** Sarah Gundy  
Paul chaired the meeting.

**May Minutes**

The minutes from the May meeting were approved.

**Principal's Report**

**Enrolment**

- There are currently 205 pupils enrolled in eight classes, with no changes since last month.
- Our total enrolment will likely be around 208 next year.

**Attendance**

- The attendance percentage year-to-date is 92.1%. The usual June drop-off in attendance is taking place this month, mainly due to family holidays.

**Staffing**

- A total allocation of 6.99 ISA positions has been given to the school. This includes 2 x 1.0 FTE (permanent), 1 x 0.83 (fixed-term due to Arike Dab's career break) and 1 x 0.50 (permanent) in the mainstream classes. For the autism classes, we will have 2 x 1.0 FTE and 2 x 0.83 FTE (all permanent).
- The advertisements for the teaching and ISA positions are now live. Closing date is 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

**Health and Safety**

- The annual review of the Health and Safety Policy is due.

**Anti-bullying**

- The consultation process regarding our new Bí Cineálta Policy is now complete. In addition to the regular policy, the Student Council has drafted a child-friendly policy. It is ready for Board ratification.

**Curriculum Development**

- A number of changes have been agreed related to spellings and English programmes in the school. Decisions related to handwriting are being deferred to the autumn. We will revise the English curriculum plan further before presenting it to the Board in the autumn.
- A revised SESE (Geography/History/Science) Plan is partially completed but not ready for Board review until the autumn.

**Policies**

- The Bí Cineálta Policy is ready for consideration by the Board following the consultation process that included staff, parents and children.
- A revised Health and Safety Policy is ready for consideration by the Board.

**Building**

- Extensive excavation, including lots of rock breaking, took place to prepare the site for the modular build. Most pieces are now delivered, and the building will be assembled tomorrow. Additional groundwork, plumbing, electricals and the soft-play area will follow.
- We anticipate successfully drawing down the grant related to the prefab roof replacement, that is now complete, before the end of the month.

**Misc. Events/Information**

- Our hurling team participated in a Cumann na mBunscol blitz.
- Our athletics team participate in the City Sports competition.
- We met and then hosted a large group of French children from Nimes who have been penpals with our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes.
- For the past four weeks, we had bilingual yoga lessons with Ciarán from Óga Yóga.
- All classes took school tours to various locations including Wildlands, Brigit's Garden, Zipit in Lough Key Forest Park and West Lake Aqua Park.
- Due to bad weather, the school choir trip to the city centre to sing on shop street to raise money for a charity took place today instead of last month.
- Children brought home their portfolios to share with parents last month.

- We had another very successful Spring Fair. Sincere gratitude to all the parent volunteers and particularly the Parent-Teacher Association Committee.
- A very successful Bike Disco, with the participation of over 100 children and several staff members was held. We celebrated raising our third Green Flag.
- Senior Infants attended a meet-the-author event with Paddy Donnelly at Dubray Books.
- Sixth class gave an amazing and impressive performance of Much Ado About Nothing.
- Out school was awarded a Research Ireland Curious Minds Gold Award for our work in STEM.
- Declan and Catriona visited from Brigit's Garden to give workshops to all the classes supported by SEAI.
- Last Tuesday we had a follow-through inspection related to our English Curriculum Evaluation. It went extremely well, thanks to the hard work of the staff. The initial oral feedback was very positive. A draft report will be shared with the Board and then published online.
- Our annual sports day took place at the all-weather pitch at Cappagh Park. We were very lucky with the weather, and we're grateful to all the parent volunteers who made it such an enjoyable day.
- We had a well-attended and inspiring end-of-term assembly at Knocknacarra Community Centre.
- The third Tráth na gCeist of the year took place on Friday as part of our Gaelbhratach work.
- The school choir sang in the city centre and raised over €230 for Unicef today.
- Many families have opted to participate in a Keep Childhood Smartphone Free initiative organised by the Parent-Teacher Association.
- We have surveyed the parents of the school regarding the hot lunches programme. The results are mixed but more positive than expected. We will share the results with Carambola. It has been announced that Carambola will be changing to much more sustainable packaging and will now allow lunches to be taken home so that parents are aware of how much is eaten. A new menu is also forthcoming that will take into account additional government specifications.
- Our 6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation will take place on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June.
- A meitheal community work party has been scheduled for this Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> June. This is to work on various projects on the grounds of the school.

### **Financial Report**

- Generally, the budget targets are being met. We received the minor works grant.

### **In-School Management Team Reports**

The five members of the in-school management team wrote year-in-review reports, which were reviewed by the Board.

### **Standardised Test Results**

The Board reviewed the standardised test results.

### **Bí Cineálta Policy**

The new Bí Cineálta Policy to Address and Prevent Bullying Behaviour was ratified and will take effect immediately.

### **Health and Safety Policy Review**

The Health and Safety Review was completed. It was noted that the current issues related to the modular build and staff changes will be added, and we will move the review to earlier in the year going forward.