

**Knocknacarra Educate Together NS**  
**Board of Management Meeting**  
**24<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 19.00**

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

**Apolosies:** Ali Donald, Catherine Emerson  
Paul chaired the meeting.

**February Minutes**

The minutes from the February meeting were approved.

**Principal's Report**

**Enrolment**

- There are currently 205 pupils enrolled in eight classes, with no changes since last month.
- A revised Admissions Policy has been approved by Educate Together. We can now ratify this and begin the process of enrolling children for the autism classes.
- The admissions window remains open for older classes.

**Attendance**

- The attendance percentage year-to-date is 92.2%.

**Staffing**

- Interviews were held last weekend for the ISA position, and the recruitment panel is recommending Adriana Murillo Barriga for the 0.50 FTE position.

**Curriculum Development**

- The staff participated in a very valuable mathematics session related to the new curriculum.
- The Working Groups are meeting his week to continue the process of making changes related to maths and literacy teaching in the school.

**Policies**

- The revised Admissions Policy is ready for ratification.
- The Equality of Access and Student Teaching and Work Placement Policies are ready for review by the Board with minimal changes recommended.

**Building**

- A major surveying project related to the modular build has been completed. The next step is for the final designs to be presented.

**Misc. Events/Information**

- We had a fantastic and well-attended Talent Show.
- The PTA met today in person and will meet online later this week.
- I will be attending the Educate Together Principal's Conference.
- One of our quiz teams came in first place at the local level and then runner-up at the chapter level after a very close tie-breaker round. They have now qualified for the national quiz that will take place in April in Dublin. This is our third year in a row to achieve this.
- A yard-time soccer league is in full swing.
- Two boys' and two girls' teams represented the school in the FAI 5-a-side tournament. All teams played very well, and for the first one team made it to the play-off section of the tournament.
- The school recently participated in the three chess tournaments: the Terry Claffey cup against other Educate Together schools at Claregalway Educate Together NS, who retained the trophy; the Galway Chess Finals where one of our teams came first in the shield section and won gold medals; and the Galway Girls' Chess competition where they placed second and received trophies.
- Swimming has commenced at Kingfisher for all classes from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. Six sessions for each class will be completed by the start of Spring Break.
- The STEM Committee hosted a construction activity as part of Engineer's Week, and we had a couple visits from parents and lots of design activities in the different classes.
- Seachtain na Gaeilge was a busy week with PE lessons in Irish with Matt and Fionnuala, a fantastic assembly, a table quiz, the end of our reading competition, a great table quiz, a fun yard disco and lots of Irish at the gate in the morning and at the doors at hometime.
- Three children from 6<sup>th</sup> Class participated in a debating competition today. They did so much excellent preparation and spoke so well, but unfortunately they didn't qualify to compete further this year.

- 4<sup>th</sup> Class put on a fantastic performance of Alice in Wonderland written and directed by children from the class. It was an amazing show, and well done to all the performers.
- Elías Castillo Pérez is a Spanish student teacher who started a placement today and will be in the school for the next two months.
- An application for our third Green Flag, with a focus on Travel, has been submitted. Well done to Sarah, Nora and the committee for their efforts.
- The Gaelbhreach Committee has received a grant of €500 to support Irish programmes in the school.
- Through Music Generation, ukulele lessons for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class and violin lessons with children from various classes continue this term.
- The staff has agreed a calendar for the 2025-2026 academic year.
- The Spring Fair takes place in May, and prizes are being gathered by the PTA for the raffle.

### **Financial Report**

- Generally, the budget targets are being met. We have spent more than expected on school maintenance, mainly due to the repair of the leak in the heating system.

### **Policies Review**

The Work Placement and Student Teaching Policy was reviewed and ratified with no significant changes. The Equality of Access Policy was ratified with minor changes.

### **Revised Admissions Policy**

Educate Together has approved the revised Admissions Policy with some minor changes. The Board ratified the policy, and the process of enrolment for the autism classes can now commence.