

GET NS Board of Management Agreed Report, 10-01-2012

Chair: Michelle Thunder

Attending: John Callaghan (Parent Nominee)
Lynnea Connolly (Patron Nominee)
Paul Dillon (Community Representative)
Karen Flynn (Parent Nominee)
Emmett Hickey (Staff Nominee)
Catherine Sadlier (Principal, Secretary)
Steve Thomas (Community Representative)

Apologies: N/A

1) General

- The Chair welcomed Steve Thomas, our second Community Representative on the Board of Management. We are delighted to now have a full Board in place.
- The following appointments were made:
 - John Callaghan - Treasurer
 - Steve Thomas - Maintenance Officer
- Four Board members will be attending an ET training day on 14th January, and three will be attending an additional workshop on the Ethos Self Evaluation process (which we will be undertaking in our school this year).
- The Board gave approval for any teacher wishing to attend a First Aid course being run on 14th January by the Gaelscoil.
- A joint Board of Management/Parents' Association meeting will take place on 24th January, 2012.
- It was agreed to formalise our school's support and enthusiasm for the second level school campaign. The Board will contact the second level action group in this regard to see how best to do this.

2) Correspondence/Communications

Paul Dillon (Community Representative) presented a discussion document *Guidelines for School Communications Planning* that sets a framework for communications initiatives.

3) After School Activities

- The short- term plan to run After School/Extra-curricular activities has been progressed and it is hoped to have activities running later this term, including options for Junior and Senior infant classes.
- The position of ECA coordinator is to be advertised on school notice boards and on the school website later this month.

4) Policy

- The review of the Admissions Policy to comply with DES requirements to obtain permanent recognition status for the school is ongoing. It is hoped to ratify the amended policy before the end of January 2012.
- The Health and Safety policy is currently being drafted and it is hoped to ratify this policy at the next Board meeting.
- Most of our existing policies are now available on the redesigned school website, new and revised policies will be added as they are ratified.

5) New Building

- The Department of Education and Science (DES) has confirmed that we will be receiving a new building and advised that we were omitted from the recent announcement as our building had been announced previously.
- A new building news section has been included in school web site.

6) Ethos

- Our school will be undertaking an Ethos Self Evaluation this year. This is an exercise involving parents, staff, Board and pupils that has been developed by Educate Together for schools to evaluate both taught and lived ethos. While the process is promoted and facilitated by Educate Together, it is not a vehicle for monitoring or judging school ethos to compare schools, but rather a way for us to gain understanding of how the principles of Educate Together are implemented and experienced by all members of our school community at this time. Lynnea Connolly (Ethos and Policy Officer) will be coordinating this exercise and an Ethos Self Evaluation Committee will be formed this term.

7) School News

- The enrolment is now 215. The next round of 30 offers for Junior Infants 2013 is ready to go out.
- Senior Infants and 6th class will have vision and hearing tests on 18th January, 2012 and Infant vaccinations will take place on 9th and 10th February, 2012.
- New swimming term will start on 18th January, 2012.
- Green School inspection day will take place on 23rd January, 2012.
- Two new interactive whiteboards have been set up (with thanks to Garrett and Claire Phelan for their donation), along with two accompanying laptops. All class teachers are now equipped with both.
- Fiona McCarthy (PA Committee) has developed a new-look school website. Many thanks to Fiona for all her ongoing hard work on this.
- Principal Catherine has started work on planning a significant event to mark the anniversary of the Titanic and is looking forward to developing ideas in consultation with both staff and parents.

The next Board of Management meeting will take place on Tuesday, 7th February 2012.