

GET NS BOARD OF MANAGEMENT Agreed MINUTES

Meeting Date:	March/ April/May 2015	Time:	8.00pm-10.00pm	Location:	GET NS
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DECISIONS

No	Decision	Notes
1.	7 Laptops to be purchased	On-going
2.	Budget of €20,000 approved for Playgrounds	On-going
3.	Some minor changes approved to application/consent form and info pack for new children in the school	Approved
4.	Assessment Policy delayed to next meeting	Approved
5	Permission granted for use of school for Craft Fair on 11.11.2015	
6	Permission given by Board for Catherine to address the press in relation to McDonalds	
7	Swimming to be offered to 1 st Class-4 th Class from September	
8	Board to lodge an appeal to An Bord Pleanala.	

NEW ACTIONS:

	Action to be taken	Responsible	Due Date
5	Liase with Principals of Gaelscoil and Templecarrig in recommending that Adey is appointed Mobility Manager for the campus.	Catherine	April 2015
6	Follow up with Wicklow Co Co after their budget meeting to see if bollards will be installed	Adey	April 2015

Principal's Report... April/May 2015

- Thanks to Chairperson, Liam, for attending the first meeting with Pdraig Smith, in relation to the extension, on our half-day, Friday 27th March. This lasted about 2 hours. Liam also had a second meeting with Pdraig in the school on another afternoon. Thank you also to Board member, John, for attending the school on Friday the 24th April to meet with the Principal, Aideen and teacher, Laura, regarding computer and I.T. budget. This also involved a few hours. Big Thank you to Board Member, Suzanne, who typed out all the E.T. AGM motions, so that they could be included in this month's minutes. Also, thanks to the Board members who took time to attend school on 12th May for an evening meeting regarding the extension. Thank You to Emmett who returned to school yesterday for an extension meeting
- Rachel is delighted with the Board's response to her request for leave. She is off to Rome this week to participate in the European championships.
- Yvonne was mentoring our Diploma teachers on 18th May and 22nd May with sub Sarah O Tierney subbing for her. Jacqui has applied for maternity leave beginning 15th June.
- Emmet's Soccer team will travel to Bunclody on Thursday, the 23rd for another FAI league match with 16 children from 4th upwards. They will be leaving the school at 8.00 a.m. Also on that day the two 2nd classes will travel to the beach for a further workshop on the Percent For Art project. Mum Mona is also assisting with a 'marine biology' fieldtrip for 5th class on that day. The children will travel by bus to Bray and then to Sandycove beach by dart.
- Most of the Special Class children are joining mainstream at both play breaks so we set up the Magic Yard again for Infants to use at first break!

- *Teacher Grace and Mum Aisling and Dad Adey have been very busy organizing the Autism Week. There are many events planned.....see schedule...and about 30 people invited to the Official Opening on Friday the 1st May (Paul Rowe, Simon Harris and a lot of local Principals). Please see invitations for Board members.
- Staff approved the Assessment policy at yesterday's staff meeting. We have almost completed the School Music Plan. This should be ready for the P.A. and student council next week.
- Helen will attend the Deputy Principal's conference in Citywest on 28th and 29th May
- Principal will attend a conference in BEC on 20th May. She also attended the Saturday seminar in Drumcondra on Data Protection. It was excellent.
- Former intern, Darina, is delighted with her contract to continue the current hours that he does.
- One class will be celebrating Earth Day on Wednesday. Gearoid's 5th class are almost finished their Discovery Science and will be forwarding their application. We hope to get another wall plaque!
- We will have another Active School Week in May.
- The MIST results from the 3 Sen Infant classes were excellent with only approx. 6 children requiring the Forward Together Programme. This is co-ordinated by teacher, Claire, who invites those parents to a one hour session in school for 8 weeks to tutor them on how to assist their children
- Some classrooms had significant marks and damage made to the linoleum flooring by chairs that don't not have the protective plastic ends. A box of these was ordered and we texted some classes for a few parents to come in to fit them. One family responded and they fixed over 60 chairs on Sunday 10th April!
- Amy Mulvihill hosted the meeting in the school on Thursday, 12th March re the new school in Charlesland.
- Mum Vicki and myself met with the Newry company that are offering best value on the Playground equipment. While we are still in negotiations, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. The treasurer has established our budget, also!
- We need to advertise the Bus escort positions and the secretary's so that we can interview in June (this gives us a 3 months panel to September when we will be clearer about who is actually available and how many escorts will actually be required.
- The Wellbeing Day will proceed on Sunday the 26th April, with the co-operation of Ben, between 11 and 4.00 p.m. The Autism week will follow.

Policy Motions for AGM and our Board's vote

Enrolment and New Schools

2015/01
NO This AGM asks ET to enter into discussions with the DES to replace the concept of a geographical catchment area in the admissions policy of ET second level schools with criteria which give priority to ET primary feeder schools until such time as there are sufficient ET second level schools to cater for ET primary schools, and thus ensure that children from ET primary schools have access to second level schools under the continued patronage of ET and in line with parental choice.

Ballinteer ETNS

2015/02
YES This AGM directs the officer board of Educate Together to vigorously pursue the provision of a second level Educate Together school for the Northside of Dublin to serve Dublin 11, 9 and 7.
North Dublin National School Project

2015/03 This AGM calls on Educate Together to take a leading role in the national discussion about enrolment. As Minister

YES for Education, Jan O'Sullivan examines acceptable criteria for enrolment policies we ask that Educate Together are recognised for their inclusiveness and that future government funding favours schools with inclusive policies. Excluding children on the basis of ethnicity, religion or socio-economic status has no place in 21st century Ireland. Claregalway Educate Together.

2015/04 This AGM calls on the Board of Directors to consider that if a newly recognised school is opened in a divested building, that students are enrolled on a first come first served basis on a set date before the school opens as an Educate Together School. This will address difficulties that arise where a school opens in an area different to the anticipated location, resulting in no places for local children to join the school which challenges our inclusive ethos.

2015/05 Canal way ETNS
CLARIFICATION This AGM decides that a common enrolment policy should exist between schools in a shared catchment area.
NEEDED This will promote fairness and equality and promote the authentic ethos of Educate Together as enunciated by the four pillars of its foundation. The situation as it currently stands is undermining the Ethos and the viability of our schools.

Thornieigh ETNS

School Accommodation and Leases

2015/06 This AGM proposes that all Educate Together schools housed in DES owned buildings be furnished with a tenancy lease by the DES with immediate effect.

This lease must include, in plain language, roles and responsibilities pertaining to the 'Landlord' (the DES) and the 'Tenant' (the individual Educate Together School or the Educate Together plc).

The role and responsibilities of the Landlord/DES with regards to the following issues must be specified in plain language: The maintenance and service of the campus on which the school is located, the maintenance and service of the school building especially in its major aspects, the governance of shared spaces with other DES-sanctioned tenants, the insurance of the buildings, the management of contracts signed between DES and the builders and builders' agents prior to the school being handed over, the governance of the integrity of the DES owned site especially with regards to the demands of the Local Authority.

The agreement should also specify clearly the responsibilities of the individual school's Board of Management with regard to the insuring of the buildings and public-liability, the service and maintenance of the minor aspects of the buildings, the uses to which the building may be allowed, any role expected from the individual Board of Management in the collective governance of the building, site or campus in situations where this is shared.

Following on the satisfactory draft and signing of any such lease, the DES should fund a personnel role within the Educate Together set-up to 'manage' the school buildings in keeping with the roles and responsibilities of both the 'Landlord' and the 'Tenant' as set out in this agreement. **YES**

Balbriggan ETNS

2015/07 This AGM calls on the Board of Directors of Educate Together to seek the immediate implementation of the lease agreement for specified schools drawn up and agreed between ET and the DES in 2008/2009
Clarification Needed ii. to see the immediate refund of community contributions to schools who are due to be covered by the lease agreement as advised to schools by Educate Together in 2008
 iii. to seek clarification from the Department of Education & Skills on the operation of the Department's state indemnity scheme and on the issue of building insurance for affected schools as outlined in DES correspondence in 2010.

Lucan ETNS

Board of Management

2015/08 This AGM calls on the Board of Directors to where possible, assign newly divested school buildings to schools with permanent recognition, so that the large financial cost incurred in taking over an existing school building is not borne by newly recognised schools with temporary recognition as having temporary recognition renders new schools ineligible to apply for funding for maintenance works on old divested buildings.

2015/09 This AGM calls on the Board of Directors to only sign leases for divested buildings where the school is the sole party on the lease, enabling the Board of Management to manage other usages of the building using DES
YES

Canal Way ETNS

circular 16/05.

2015/15 This AGM deplores the totally inadequate provision of suitable education for children with an ASD in mainstream schools at second level. Affirms its strong commitment, at primary school level, to the inclusion of children with an ASD in schools that are under its patronage.

And also affirms its commitment to the inclusion of children with an ASD in all second-level schools that are currently, or that will in the future be, under its patronage.

will negotiate with the DES to seek to replicate the successful model of "ASD units", currently in place in primary schools, in all of its second-level schools, so that it will be in a position to comprehensively cater for all children with an ASD." **YES**

Dublin 7 ETNS

Canal way ETNS

School Management / Posts of Responsibility

2015/10 **YES** This AGM calls on Educate Together to pursue the significant issues (including taking legal action as appropriate) arising due to schools having to operate with limited management positions (circular 04/14), and the arbitrary expectation that the Principal teacher of a school of more than 400 pupils and more than 20 staff should be required to meet all the demands relevant to a school of that size, while other schools with a similar enrolment figure have been approved the appointment of Assistant Principals and posts of responsibility because they achieved this enrolment figure within the first four years of the school's life.

Greystones Educate Together NS

2015/11 **Clarification needed** This AGM calls for:

- i. the immediate introduction of open competition for vacant posts of Deputy Principal of National Schools,
- ii. a review and full restitution of all posts of responsibility in National Schools with revised terms and conditions for these posts.
- iii. the introduction of funding for full-time school administrators for all schools with support for training and formal qualifications for these posts.
- iv. a doubling of administrative time for teaching principals.

Board of Directors

2015/12 **NO** The Board of Directors calls upon All Educate Together schools to recognise the need for a strong National Office to support them in their operations. The ET National Office is supporting ever more schools with less funding. A strong Educate Together National Office is critical to the development, expansion and success of all Educate Together schools. To this end, this AGM sets the annual subscription at €15 per pupil per year, The Board fully understands the difficulties of fund-raising for all schools but also recognises a properly funded National Office is vital for many schools that would struggle to exist without the in-depth back up it provides.

Board of Directors

2015/13 **YES** This AGM decides that the Patron fee of €13 per child be increased to €15 for all established ET schools (3 years + in permanent buildings) and €13 for all ET schools in temporary premises. Further, we propose the fee is based on the enrolment of pupils from the prior year, in line with the DES Capitation grant. Midleton ETNS

2015/14 This AGM calls on the Board of Directors of Educate Together to negotiate a reduction in the amount of membership fee for schools with their own patron bodies. **ABSTAIN**

Lucan Educate Together N.S. Executive Committee

Educate Together Charter, Learn Together & Publicity

2015/18 This AGM recognises that the use of the term "Multi-denominational" as a description of the Educate Together model is causing increasing confusion and shall be replaced by the term "Equality-based" in all official

company documentation subject to all statutory compliance requirements being met. The AGM approves the use of the descriptive terms "Equality-based" and "Equality and Human-rights-based" in all company public statements. **ABSTAIN**
Board of Directors.

2015/19 This AGM calls on Educate Together to take the necessary steps to change the key principle which defines us as multi denominational and following consultation, to find a more representative alternative in its place. **YES**
Mullingar ETNS

Social Media

2015/23 This AGM calls on Educate Together to urgently write, ratify and publish a Social Media Communications policy for Educate Together stating the strategic goals of its presence on all Social Media platforms on which it is present and its policy for interacting with persons or institutions through such platforms including, but not limited to, interactions between such persons and institutions and Educate Together through both public and private messaging services and notice boards, and in particular, but not limited to, interactions which refer to matters concerning individual Boards of Management of schools under its patronage. **YES**

Rush and Lusk ETNS

2015/16 This AGM directs the officer board of Educate Together to pressure the DES by whatever means available to allow Resource and Learning Support hours to be combined and supplied by the same teacher rather than teachers travelling between schools to provide these hours for children. **YES**

North Dublin National School Project

2015/17 This AGM calls on Educate Together to lobby for the abolition of supplementary panels as they directly impact developing schools by hindering open employment and preventing the employment of experienced teachers. In addition they prevent the ability to employ teachers with a range of complementary skills. This has a considerable impact on new and developing schools. **YES**

Kicolgan ETNS

2015/20 This AGM proposes that Educate Together National Office delivers a national publicity campaign in order to have clarity on what an Educate Together school is and what makes it the same and different to other types of schools in Ireland. **YES**

Carlow ETNS

2015/21 This AGM calls on Educate Together to convene a one day forum in the autumn to consider The future development of the Learn Together Programme to allow in depth discussion on the various options being considered for its future development and that Educate Together will circulate a rationale for each option being considered to all interested parties prior to this meeting to help to stimulate this debate. **YES**

Mullingar ETNS

Child-protection and anti-bullying procedures.

2015/22 This AGM recognises that Educate Together as patron of schools must ensure that all Educate Together schools have statutorily compliant and robust child-protection and anti-bullying policies in place at all times. To this end and to encourage the most positive school culture in this regard, the AGM requires all Educate Together schools to complete their annual review of their Child Protection and Anti-bullying policies in the first three months of the school year and return completed copies of their reports to the National Office before the 1st December each year. **Abstain**

Board of Directors

Education for Sustainable Development.

2015/24 This AGM congratulates the National Office and Dublin City University in the creation of the first UN Regional

Centre of Excellence in Education for Sustainable Development in Ireland and approves that "Education for Sustainable Development" is compatible with the aims and objectives of the Learn Together ethical education curriculum

YES

Board of Directors

Establishing a centre for ethical education.

2015/25 This AGM recognises the long-term importance of ensuring that all student teachers have the opportunity to learn about and explore the Educate Together model in colleges of teacher education and approves the objective to create a centre for ethical education in Dublin City University's Institute of Education located in Drumcondra. This centre to have both a teaching and research component. **YES**

Board of Directors

School clusters and regional support structures.

2015/26 This AGM strongly encourages Educate Together schools to participate in regional and area based clusters and asks all member schools to allocate staff and management time to this work. **NO**

Board of Directors

AGM Voting Rights

2015/27 This AGM applauds those Educate Together school communities which have voluntarily decided not to use one of their two votes at AGMs on all matters which do not relate directly to patronage issues and encourages all Educate Together school communities in this category to follow this lead. **ABSTAIN**

Mullingar ETNS

End of Order Paper - 27 motions