



Board of Management Meeting

Thursday, 6th October, 2011

Report to the School Community

1. **Opening prayer** – The Chairperson led the opening prayer. After the prayer he acknowledged the contribution of Michelle Quigley and Sr Brigid Tunney who were retiring from the Board and welcomed Sr Jennie O’Connell as the new Trustees’ nominee.

Department circulars

The following circulars were summarised for the Board: 40/2011, 41/2011, 45/2011, 46/2011, 50/2011, 53/2011, 57/2011, 58/2011, 62/2011, 63/2011, 65/2011 – revised child protection procedures (copy for each board member enclosed).

2. **Principal’s report**

The principal outlined the achievements of our Leaving Certificate class of 2011 in terms of C.A.O. points achieved. The fact that 17% of the class achieved more than 500 points was noted as being particularly impressive.

Junior Certificate Results

Report: Our 2011 Junior Certificate class brought in a huge haul of ‘A’ grades. Two of our students were awarded ten ‘A’ grades each, while our top ten performers were awarded 85 ‘A’ grades between them. Given the national debate regarding standards in Mathematics, we were delighted that 24 of our students were awarded an ‘A’ grade at higher level and 80 students were awarded an ‘Honour’ in higher level papers. Both these figures represent double the national average. No student failed Maths. 67% took Maths at Higher Level (Nat. Average 47%) and only half the national average took foundation level maths.

The Board commended the teaching staff for the professionalism and dedication necessary to achieve these exceptional results. The high rates of students who took Higher Level papers and the fantastic work done by the mainstream teachers and the learning support teachers were highly commended.

The principal outlined **school events** for the year to date. Highlights were the annual Mission Walk, the trip to Strasbourg by 25 students and our first ever Active Schools Week.

Our first ever Open Night was also deemed to be a big success and the appreciation of the contribution of our teaching staff was conveyed. The Board noted the professional manner in which the night was organised and the positive impression of the school that was generated.

Suspension report – no suspensions since our previous meeting

Sports Report – a comprehensive sports report was presented. The highlight was the All Ireland Handball title won by Ciara Mahon representing the school.

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3. The Board used the D.E.S. 'Looking at Our Schools' document to reflect on the role of the Patrons (Loreto Education Trust) in the governance of our school. It was agreed that there was excellent support for our from the Loreto Education office. It was noted that a report to the Trustees was made on an annual basis and that the visits of the Education officer to the Board was particularly useful. It was agreed that the Board would reflect on the 'role, composition and functioning of the Board' at the next meeting.
4. **Parents' Association Report** – the recent activities plus the upcoming events (A.G.M. with Luke Monahan as guest speaker and the fashion show, 16th November) were reported.
5. **Health & Safety** – no matters of major concern were reported.
6. **Building Programme**
 - a. The Board ratified the appointment of the Clerk of Works for the duration of the building programme.
 - b. It was agreed that progress would be notified to the school community via the school website and a notice board. Information is currently available in the 'school' section of www.loretokk.ie
7. **School Development Planning**

It was reported that in-service on I.T. and on differentiated learning had taken place.
8. **Finance** – attached

Having reviewed previously circulated copies of the final accounts for 2010/2011, the Board approved the accounts.

9. **Items for Next meeting** – it was agreed that the Department of Education's revised Child Protection guidelines would be on the agenda for the next meeting. The dates for the next two meetings were agreed as following: 10th November and 15 December 2011.

There being no other business, the report to the school community was agreed and the meeting was adjourned.