



Board of Management meeting
Monday, 17 September 2018 @ 7.00p.m.

Report to the School Community

1. Opening Prayer - read by Brenda.
2. Marking the end of its three-year term, the Board conducted a review with the following outcomes-

What have been the significant developments and initiatives taken during the three-year term of office of this Board?

- Review of various policies
- Major review of the junior curriculum
- Introduction of new timetable (all 40-minute periods)
- Recruitment of two additional Deputy Principals
- Buildings: Special Needs Unit (Dept. funded), Multi-purpose hall (school funded), Hockey pitch resurfaced (school funded)
- Compass - introduction of new admin system with student and parent portals.
- Leadership and Management Review and recruitment of new post-holders
- Continued excellent academic performance
- Enrolments - increased by around 70 students in the lifetime of the Board
- Special Class Unit formed to cater for the needs of students with Moderate General Learning Disabilities
- Uniform review - introduction of standardised shoes and new school jacket
- Reintroduction of the Leaving Certificate Applied programme
- Commencing as a pilot school for the Droichead programme (induction of new teachers)
- Introduction of a careers evening for senior students.

Please list the major priorities to be considered by the incoming Board:

- Continued review of policies
 - Risk assessment review and Child Protection training for new Board members.

- Dignity in the Workplace
 - Whole-School Guidance Plan
 - Growing the involvement of parents in the Parents' Association
 - Fundraising to build up school's resources and continued prudent management of financial resources
 - Past Pupils - forming an active union of past pupils
 - Reviewing curricular change and working towards the introduction of technical subjects
 - Timetabling review - assessing the impacts of the new timetable
3. Correspondence:
- a. Dept. Circulars - the circulars which had been issued since the last meeting were summarised (available at www.education.ie). Particular note was taken of circular 0043/2018 - **Best practice guidance for post primary schools in the use of programmes and/or external facilitators in promoting wellbeing consistent with the Department of Education and Skills' Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice**
 - b. JMB Bulletins published since the last meeting were summarised.
4. Principal's Report
- a. Normal report on school events omitted due to the long agenda.
 - b. The principal reported a very successful set of Leaving and Junior Certificate results. It was reported that 27% of our students had achieved 500 or more CAO points and that the overall performance was excellent.
5. Recruitment (teachers) 2018/2019 - the Board approved three further appointments that were made in August, subsequent to the appointments approved in June.
6. Review of structure of office - it was reported that the new office structure was in place and that Michele Wise had been appointed as the additional secretary/receptionist.
7. Parents' Association Report:
- a. Notice was given that the National Parents Council post primary (NPCpp) is holding its' Annual Conference 2018 at the Clayton Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin on Saturday 13th October.
 - b. Update on the careers evening was given. The list of volunteers was reported to be very impressive and the theme for the night was: 'women can do much'.
 - c. The date for the next P.A. meeting was not yet confirmed.
 - d. It was suggested that a poll could be taken at the AGM regarding suitable times for meetings.
8. Student Council - it was reported that the elections were taking place this week.

9. Health and Safety:

- a. Security firm options being looked into.

10. Child Protection

- a. The Board carried out its annual review of its Child Protection procedures.
- b. The Board was presented with the Child Protection report in line with the national template.

11. School Development Planning:

- a. Staff in-service at the beginning of the year focused on assessment and the use of I.T. in teaching and learning
- b. School Self Evaluation committees to meet on Friday (21 Sept.)
- c. Extra committee to review assessment and feedback being formed.
- d. A summary of the progress made and required actions in relation to the GDPR Policy was given (included in report). This was approved by the Board.

12. 1868 – 2018 Committee -

- a. It was reported that a whole-school photo was taken and that this had generated good school spirit and an awareness of the 150th anniversary celebrations.
- b. The Mass on the 13th of September to mark the anniversary of the first Mass held in the Loreto convent in 1868 and to open the 150th anniversary celebrations had taken place and proved to be a very special and prayerful occasion.
- c. This was followed by the party afternoon for the students (disco, obstacle courses, bouncy castles, ice cream and a cupcake for each student, made by the Home Ec dept.)
- d. Board notes its huge thanks and congratulations to the committee and staff for the huge work put into the preparations for the celebrations and for the manner in which the students have engaged in the celebrations.
- e. It was noted that the Gala Concert was set to take place on the 3rd of October -
- f. 4th of October - Sports tournament: Hockey, Camogie and Basketball.

13. Building programme:

- a. Hockey pitch:
 - i. In use but works not complete. It was reported that final works were due to be completed during the mid-term.
 - ii. New layer of tarmac was required which increased costs.
 - iii. The idea of installing a viewing stand for games was suggested.

14. Finance:

- a. Budget for 2018/19 - the budget for 2018/2019 was proposed by Martin Crotty, seconded by Brenda Cooper and adopted by the Board.
 - b. Financial control - Finance Committee review taking place in accordance with JMB template.
15. Items and times for next meetings:
- a. It was agreed that a lunchtime meeting to approve the final accounts would be arranged.
 - b. Tony Joyce expressed his gratitude to the outgoing Board members for their immense contribution to the school through their service to the Board.
16. The report was agreed and the meeting concluded.

Colm Keher,
Secretary.