

Board of Management Meeting 25th October 2016

In attendance were Jerry Cronin, Chairperson, Michael Cregan, Secretary, Vincent Murphy, Diana Bogan-Carey, Liam Lenihan, Pat O'Riordan, Eukaria O'Grady, Andrew O'Regan.

Apologies were received from Anne O'Sullivan.

The Secretary opened meeting with reflection and a prayer and the Chairperson thanked Board members for attending and thanked the Secretary for the lovely reflection which was presented.

The minutes of the meeting of 20th August 2016 were distributed and read and were proposed by Pat O'Riordan and seconded by Liam Lenihan.

Matters Arising:

The imminent industrial action was outlined to the Board by the Secretary. He explained that more than likely schools would not open on Monday, 7th November, the first day back after the mid-term break. As this was on the agenda for the meeting the rest of the discussion on this matter was deferred.

Vincent Murphy raised the issue of games coaches in the school. He said there had been a remarkable improvement since hiring the hockey coach and was wondering how this was perceived.

The Secretary also explained that he had been talking to Dave Passmore, a former Irish hockey coach who is actually drawing up a plan for the school at present and is working with the school and the coaches in developing an overall plan for the next 3 to 5 years. The Board felt this was an important development and that this needs to continue. The salaries were proposed by Pat O'Riordan and seconded by Liam Lenihan.

The Secretary also explained that he had hired a new basketball coach, Tommy Walsh, who had played his sport in America for years and that he has made a huge contribution.

Correspondence:

The following correspondence was read by the secretary.

Information was presented to the Board in a newsletter regarding the Junior Cycle for teachers.

There was also a letter presented to the Board about the school tour to Germany in the next 2 weeks and the itinerary.

A circular letter was presented to the Board from Inspectorate regarding self-evaluation from 1st September 2016

There was a letter to the Board of Management from Eilis Humphreys in relation to training for new members of Board of Managements. This was presented to Andrew O'Regan as he is the only new member.

The minutes of the AGM and of the funding which has been raised by the Parent's Council was presented to the Board. Also, at the AGM of the Parent's Council, Mr. Pat Murphy spoke to parents about parental support and the Secretary explained that over 200 people had attended and this was one of the biggest attendances to date.

There was information regarding four teachers who are doing a Middle Management course in Waterford. The Board complimented the four teachers on the time they have given and were conscious of how this will benefit the school.

A newsletter was presented from Le Cheile giving updates on the Le Cheile Trust.

Correspondence was also received on the Learning Schools Project 8 which the school has decided to undertake. The first hub meeting will be held in November and Dr. Carmel O'Doherty, who is Director of the Education Centre in Marshall House, is involved in co-ordinating. The Board complimented the Secretary and his staff for constantly encouraging teachers to participate in these courses which are hugely important.

Correspondence was presented to the Board from the Chaplain which reported on prayer week which was held with Sr. Geraldine. The Board complimented Sr. Geraldine and the chaplain on such a comprehensive report and thanked them for the work they carried out.

Also presented to the Board was a breakdown from University of Limerick of our students and the courses they are taking. Twenty six students from Laurel Hill Secondary School attend University of Limerick (class of 2016).

There was also a letter from the Diocesan Office about various meetings.

Circular letter 56/2016, international strategy of Literacy and Numeracy was presented to the Board.

There was also information presented to the Board about strategies for Literature and Learning for Music for second level schools.

Also there was a letter from Mairtin O'Brien, past teacher of the school, who is involved with Ancor Chamber Choir. Mairtin was requesting use of facilities in the school. The Choir does a huge amount of work here, they have their own insurance and the Board felt it was important that they would behave a home in the chapel in the school. This was proposed by Liam Lenihan and seconded by Eukaria O'Grady. The Board unanimously agreed to allow Ancor Chamber Choir the use of our school chapel for the next year.

Parents Council

Information was presented to the Board from Parents Council about to the Fashion Show. The Board had received Euro 12,000 from the Parent's Council and the Board thanked the them for all the hard work, especially Pat O'Riordan who has worked tirelessly over the last 20 years with the Golf Classic and various other activities and Diana Bogan-Carey who has worked tirelessly with the Fashion Show and with the organisation on the days of the golf classic. The Board has asked the Secretary to make a small presentation at the next meeting to Pat O' Riordan for the enormous work he has done over the years.

Principal's Report:

Principals Report 25th October 2016

- Open night a great success
- Junior Certificate results excellent
- TY attended outdoor pursuits week in Mayo
- Got two new coaches in hockey and basketball (3 past students will help)
- Met Sr. Brid Liston re school development
- Met with Jan O Sullivan TD re school development
- Finished the new Web Site
- New gas boiler required and replaced at a cost of 5.000 euro
- Fire panel giving trouble
- Did painting around school for open night
- Several projects presented for Young Scientist competition
- Playing various matches in sport
- History trip going to Munich in November
- Have started academic tracking with students setting targets
- School musical ready to start teachers taking students for 2 nights from 4 to 8 pm
- Several teachers on personal days
- Over 200 parents attended parents AGM
- Took all 1st years to the Burren with Deputy Principal, Principal, Year Head, Chaplin and Guidance Counsellor
- 6th Year geography Field Trip completed
- Presented Learning school Project 7 in Charleville and proceeding with Project 8
- Classes in first year have 23 students in them max
- Did a landscaping job in the garden
- Chairperson and Secretary attended AMCSS meeting in Adare, Year Head interview training and Le Cheile Cluster meeting in Mallow
- Two students on Munster hockey Team
- Retreats were held for 5th and 6th year students
- Attended meeting with diocesan representatives re-funding Chaplin for 2017/18
- Climbed Keeper Hill with 120 TY students all got to the top

- 4 teachers attending middle management training run by ‘Le Cheile’
- Debating ready to start
- Meeting parents re intake
- 625 students enrolled for 2016/17
- No staff meeting at present
- 3rd, 5th and 1st year parent teacher meetings to be run before Christmas
- Attended ESHA conference
- Need to replace fire alarm panel at 5,000 euro
- Investigated at putting a pitch into grounds for camogie
- Deputy attended RACE meeting
- Attended NAPD conference
- Deputy attended Special Needs forum
- Won camogie blitz
- Teachers attended middle management training
- Strike days issued
- Parent teacher meetings to go ahead, 3 before Christmas

The Junior Certificate results were presented to the Board. Because of the time constraints they were deferred until the next meeting.

Accounts:

The accounts were presented to the Board.

Ethos:

Initially, it was hoped that this meeting would discuss the ethos but because there were so many issues, the ethos discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

