

## **Board of Management Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

In attendance were: Jerry Cronin – Chairperson, Michael Cregan – Secretary, Liam Lenihan  
Andrew O'Regan, Anne O'Sullivan, Vincent Murphy, Diana Bogan-Carey, Pat O'Riordan  
Apologies from Eukaria O'Grady

Before the meeting began Eddie Duffy presented the accounts for 2015/2016 to the Board. Eddy went through the accounts in detail explaining where various costs were incurred and what the current financial position is. Various questions were raised by members of the Board which Eddy answered. After approximately one hour the Chairperson thanked Eddie for the comprehensive report he had given and for the set of accounts which he had presented and said that the school seemed to be in a safe and healthy financial position.

The Chairperson welcomed all the members and opened the meeting with a prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting had already been distributed. They were proposed by Pat O'Riordan and seconded by Liam Lenihan.

### **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

### **Correspondence:**

In relation to Junior Certificate examination in CSPE, Circular 31/16 was presented.

Minutes of the Parent's Council meeting in October were also distributed.

There was a request from two teachers to run school tours for next year. One was regarding the existing tour which goes to Paris for 1<sup>st</sup> years but had been suspended this year because of the safety of students in light of terrorist attacks. The Board felt that it is important for students to go on tours and felt that at this stage they would monitor all tours in relation to terrorism. The tour to Paris by James Kelly organised was proposed by Diana Bogan-Carey and seconded by Liam Lenihan. The Board unanimously agreed to the tour but said that the situation would be monitored closely at each Board meeting. There was also a second tour proposed by Andrew O'Regan. It would be a science tour based in Geneva in Switzerland and the trip will include a visit to CERN the home of the large Hadron Collider and various museums in Geneva. The Board felt this was a very worthwhile tour and felt that it should go ahead as there wouldn't be the same risk as going to Paris. The trip to Geneva was proposed by Diana Bogan-Carey and seconded by Vincent Murphy.

Correspondence was read to the Board in relation to a project that four teachers who are doing a Middle Management course are proposing an awards system. Based on Second Years as a pilot project, this awards system would not be based on academic or sporting achievements but good deeds which would be done, similar perhaps to the Companionship Award. If students get a certain amount of stickers for leadership, understanding, responsibility, engagement then Le Cheile Trust would judge the teams, then a card would be sent home to parents telling them that students had a positive attitude in the school which was being recognised. The Chairman thanked this group of four teachers, Diarmuid Byrnes,

Noreen McKeogh, Eveanne O'Reilly and Andrew O'Regan who have undertaken this Middle Management course by LeCheile and other Trusts acknowledged them for giving up their time and commitment to it.

Correspondence was presented to the Chairperson for signing from LeCheile Trust in relation to the Licence Agreement.

Several letters were received for 2016/2017 in relation to the State Examinations.

A Circular letter regarding Junior Cert coursework from 2016 onwards was presented.

There was also a letter from FSSU in relation to the accounts for 2015/2016

There was a letter distributed to the Board in relation to Faith formation in the school which had been prepared by John in the LeCheile office.

The Code of Professional conduct for teachers was also presented to the Board.

Also brought to the Board's attention was an e-mail which was received regarding Early Learning School project. Eight schools are participating at present.

A letter was read to the Board in relation to Ailesbury Services. They have an increase of 3.5% which they are passing on to schools from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. This was agreed by the unions and the Department Of Enterprise and Innovation.

There was a request from the Girl Guides of the mid-west region about hiring the hall. The secretary said that he would investigate further, re: how many nights etc they would need it and he would bring to the Board at the next meeting.

Also presented to the Board by the Secretary, which had been sent to him before the meeting, was a document relating to ethos and Living the Ethos in a Voluntary Catholic School. The Chairperson thanked the Secretary for giving a copy of this pack to all members of the Board and the Board felt that it deserved to be on the agenda for the next meeting which will give members time to read it.

Circular 2000/16 in relation to Junior Cert chemistry was also presented to the Board.

Also there was a request from Basketball Ireland to use the gym for weekend 17<sup>th</sup> December to train under 16 Irish team. The Board felt that once they had insurance and the relevant documents there would be no difficulty with this. This was proposed by Pat O'Riordan and seconded by Vincent Murphy. The Board unanimously agreed to allow Basketball Ireland the use of the gym for that weekend.

There was also a letter from Laurel Hill Colaiste regarding the building project in relation to the gym and the fields which are proposed within the school grounds. The Colaiste Board had asked if it would be possible to set up a sub-committee with two members of our Board and the secretary and also members of the Colaiste Board and they would together drive this project forward. The Board discussed this and Liam Lenihan and Pat O'Riordan were proposed by Vincent Murphy and seconded by Andrew O'Regan. They will be on the Development committee and report back on the progress at the next meeting. The Board unanimously agreed to the establishment of this sub-committee.

## **Principal's Report:**

The Principal's report which had been distributed prior to the meeting was read. A few points which the secretary highlighted were the appointments.

- School closed for the first two days after Halloween
- Tracking for all 1st years nearly complete
- School open for study each Saturday and will be open over the Christmas period
- Attended Marshal House re Learning Schools Project 8
- Attended Mentoring training
- Ran two masses for whole school for 8th of December
- School Musical a great success
- Car safety course on-going
- Trip to Germany a great success
- Aware talk in school
- Students in TY entered competition on the Foynes Harbour
- 6 students successful in Young Scientist competition
- In Munster semi-final in Gael Linn debating
- 6th years saw Hamlet in Dublin
- Success in camogie, basketball, football, hockey and chess
- Finished Christmas newsletter and gone to print
- Geography trip complete
- Finished 3rd and 6th parent teacher meetings
- Life saving on-going
- UCC debating
- Career in-service at UL
- School for of the Deaf attending each week in the school
- Had several meetings re pitch and gym development
- Will finish the building project
- Met Jan O Sullivan TD
- Attended Le Cheile meeting with Chairperson
- Training for Deputy Principal cancelled
- Ran interviews for teacher going on maternity leave
- Need a new photocopier
- Fixed leak in basement
- Enquiry re renting of hockey pitch for local club
- TY going to Galway on the 20th of December
- Two students got University scholarship
- Students had a great trip to Munich

## **Staff matters**

Also the issue of Parent/Teacher meetings were raised by the Secretary as three Parent/Teacher meetings should take place before Christmas on a basis of half in/half out because of the industrial action taking place. A result of the vote by ASTI is not expected until around 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017. In the meantime we have already scheduled Parent/Teacher meetings. It was proposed that the school would close for one day prior to the Pre Leaving Cert/Pre Junior Cert exams to facilitate the running of the Parent/Teacher meetings for Second and Fifth Years. This was proposed by Vincent Murphy and seconded by Pat O'Riordan. The Board unanimously agreed to this.

Diana Bogan Carey said she would be very interested in going on the Camino trip this year if there were no other members interested in going. The Chairperson thanked Diana for coming forward and felt that it is important that the Board is represented on a trip like this and that she would be an asset to any school travelling abroad. This was proposed by Vincent Murphy and seconded by Andrew O'Regan. The Board unanimously agreed to Diana travelling on the Camino trip in 2017.

## **Musical**

The Chairperson thanked all those involved in the musical. Members of the Board who had been at the show said that it had been an incredible event, the professionalism and the behaviour of our students was exemplary, it was the talk of Limerick and something of which we should be really proud. The Chairperson thanked all the teachers involved but especially Anne and Suzanne for the enormous amount of work they put into the show and certainly the outcome was superb.

## **Junior Cert Results:**

Junior Cert results were presented to the Board. The Secretary was asked to outline the main features. The secretary explained that in Irish nationally 58% take the higher level paper and here in the school the number was 86%. In Maths, the national average at higher level is also 58% and we had 79% and boys normally achieve higher results in Maths than in any other subject. 21% above the national average was hugely significant. The Secretary also outlined that in Geography 117 out of 120 students sat higher level Geography, 117 out of 119 had taken higher level French and the trend continued in Business, Music and other smaller subjects which had a higher percentage than the national average. In relation to English, 95% of students in Laurel Hill Secondary School FCJ sat higher level English compared to the national average of 77% and only 6 students took ordinary level English at Junior Certificate. The Chairperson thanked the secretary for the comprehensive report he had given and for the great results and said that it was so wonderful that so many students in the school are doing the higher level subjects at Junior Cycle. The Board did raise the issue of the six students doing ordinary level in an honours class. The Secretary explained that it was impossible to have such small numbers in classes as otherwise there would be very large numbers in the ordinary level classes and that he had to balance the curriculum. The Chairperson asked the Secretary to thank the teachers for their work and also drew attention to the recent publication in the Irish Independent of 6<sup>th</sup> December regarding feeder schools for universities. The Chairperson said that to see Laurel Hill Secondary School FCJ as the first name out of 29 schools in the city and county was significant and something the school should celebrate and be extremely proud of and he asked the Secretary to pass on huge congratulations from the Board to all members of staff.

## **Accounts:**

The accounts for 2015/2016 were presented to the Board by Eddie Duffy. The accounts were discussed and proposed by Diana Bogan Carey and seconded by Pat O'Riordan. The Board unanimously agreed to the accounts for 2015/2016. The accounts for November were also distributed to the Board

## **A.O.B.**

Condolences were passed to the FCJ sisters on the passing of Sr. Leila Manning.