

Meeting of the Board of Management, October 24th 2016, 5pm
Minutes

Welcome

Mr Flood welcomed all to the meeting and asked for the minutes to be read.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on September 19th had been e-mailed to members and were read to the Board. These minutes were proposed by Yvonne Traynor and seconded by Mary T Gilmartin and adopted by the Board.

Matters Arising

Roof repair has now been completed.

Music equipment ordered and should arrive during the mid-term break. Part of this order will include a stage. This will facilitate having a musical again next year and we won't encounter the same production costs as we did for last years "Annie".

Francie Gilmartin to attend the BeLonG workshop on 26th October on behalf of the Board.

The Spanish students have settled in well and are a positive addition to the school.

Principal's Report

Since last meeting:

- HSE Vaccinations took place on 20th September
- SSE meeting took place on September 27th – Subject Planning & analysis of results
- Parents Association AGM took place on September 27th. Elizabeth Gunning elected to the Chair. Discussion took place on School Plan.
- Principal attended "Everyone can code" talk by Apple on Friday afternoon September 30th. Very useful app "swift" but can only run on Apple products. Hoping to have coding as part of the new Junior Cert. One teacher has already trained in this area – funded by the school.
- Sixth Year P/T Meeting took place on October 18th. Good turn-out.
- Junior Cycle Planning Day on October 19th. This was facilitated by three personnel from the JC support service.
- Presentation from HSE on the Health Promoting School" scheme on October 19th after the JC Planning. School has now signed up and Claire Gillard is the Co-ordinator. Colleen Fahy from the HSE gave an outline of the scheme – along the lines of the Green Flag scheme. Should work well with the whole area of "wellbeing" for the Junior Cycle.

- Winners of the BSTAI award : Rebecca Moran, Anna Corcoran, Elizabeth Earley and Claire McKeon (5th Year) received their awards at NUIG this week. They were accompanied by their parents and their teacher Ms Mary Tiernan.
- The extra-curricular activities programme for the year was outlined to the Board.

Upcoming events:

- Leaving Cert trip to the Careers Open Day in Galway to take place tomorrow.
- “Amazing Brains” workshop for exam students this Thursday. This is for all Third Years and 6th Years and will cost €10 per student
- Sunbeam Feng – JP McManus Scholarship winner. He is to be presented with his award on Saturday 19th November by Mr Paul O’Connell and the Principal intends to attend the ceremony. Sunbeam is now studying at Limerick University
- Sarah McCormack – Winner of DCG National award based on her results in Leaving Certificate 2016 exams
- Guidance Counsellor now taking names for evening study which is to re-commence shortly after mid-term break.
- Pro- 12 rugby Cup on display on Wednesday this week.

Health Promoting School

Following on this report all Board members welcomed and strongly commended the Health Promoting Schools initiative being co-ordinated by Claire Gillard. Some items were suggested as themes that might be prioritised: Healthy eating, smoking, mental health. Yvonne Traynor, who had attended the first meeting of the HPS Committee said many of the issues discussed by the Board were raised as issues and possible themes by the committee.. Members acknowledged that there is a good choice of healthy food available for lunch at reasonable prices in the town.

Child Protection Policy 2016/17 as amended was adopted by the Board.

The Designated Liaison Person is Martin Fallon and the deputy Designated Liaison Person is Sean Wynne. The Board is satisfied with these arrangements. The Chairperson and Principal signed the form as required.

School Planning

Analysis of Leaving Certificate Results 2016

The Principal presented the anonymised Leaving Cert results 2016 to the Board and also gave an overview of how the overall results compared to previous years

The Chairperson extended his congratulations, on behalf of the Board to all of graduates of 2016 and expressed gratitude to the teachers.

Review of School Pastoral Care Policy. The Principal reported that the Pastoral Care & Student Support Team had reviewed policy at their recent meeting and were satisfied that it was working effectively. The only change to be made was that of adding the TUSLA – Home Youth Liaison Officer to the team. The Principal and the team are very pleased with the provision of this service and the Liaison Officer currently working with us is Mr Adrian McGoldrick who is highly experienced.

After due consideration the policy was proposed by Enda McGloin, seconded by Cllr Paddy O'Rourke and adopted by the Board

School Plan 2016- 2020

Part 1 of the School Plan had been circulated to all Board members in advance of the meeting, as were lists of strengths and weaknesses and suggestions.. At the recent meeting of the Parents Association, all parents present were very positive about the school and in particular about the fact that First Years get to do a full range of subjects before making their choice for Junior Cert. Clarifications were sought and provided.

The main strengths and potential weaknesses of the school were articulated, discussed and agreed. Priorities were identified for development by 2020. These incorporated actions such as developments in ICT and evaluation and improvement of Assessment for Learning practices that are already being undertaken. Those items that could reasonably be expected to be completed in the current school year were discussed and agreed. The principal, on behalf of school management was in agreement with the proposals and noted that considerable time would be taken up this year in planning for the new Junior Cert Awards. He suggested actions to be taken in 2016/17 in order to achieve agreed targets and time-lines and these were further approved by the Board.

The School Plan was agreed and approved by the Board and this would be reviewed and amended as necessary a year from now. Proposed by Enda McNamara, seconded by Paschal Mooney and adopted by the Board.

The printed version would be circulated to all Board members and made available to parents through the Parents Council, the students through the Student Council and to the staff in the school. Consideration would be given at a later meeting whether or not to publish the full document on the school web-site.

That concluded the business of the meeting.