

St. Corban's Boys National School.

Fairgreen, Naas, Co. Kildare

Roll No.: 17254C

e-mail: stcorbans@eircom.net

Phone: 045 875508

Website: www.stcorbans.com

Board of Management Meeting 17

Tues 5th October 2021

Agreed Report

Board of Management

The seventeenth meeting of the current Board of Management was held on Tues 5th October 2021. It was held in Room 3 in the school.

Current Officers of the Board:

Chairperson: Johnny McMahon

Secretary: John Drewett

Treasurer: Marjorie Quinn

Health & Safety Officer: Jan O'Donoghue

Members: Robert Kennedy

Carrie-Ann Devitt

Deacon Fergal O'Neill

Yvette Delaney

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting of Tues 31st August 2021 were reviewed, adopted and signed.

Covid 19 Distance Learning Plan

The COVID 19 RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN was updated with amendments.

Child Protection

The Child Protection Oversight Report was shared by the Principal with the Board of Management. It was discussed, accepted and signed by the Chairperson.

Ms. Bonner is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person.

Mr Drewett is the Designated Liaison Person.

Child Protection Training has been completed by all Staff members and all of the Board of Management. We have a register of the personnel and the training they have undergone.

Special Education

Miriam O'Donoghue has replaced Elizabeth de Forge as our NEPS Psychologist for the coming year. Principal and Deputy Principal had a conference call with her on Tues 28th September. She will visit the school on Fri 8th Oct 2021.

We have a number of pupils who have reports with recommendations for Assistive Technology. We are applying to the SENO for approval to purchase the technology and this is re-funded by the DES. We also need to access training for our teachers in using Assistive Technology in the classroom.

The DES has introduced additional Covid-targeted teaching hours to each school under a scheme called the Covid Learning and Support Scheme. We have been allocated 625 hours which equates to 25 weeks of support. We might use these hours combined with our extra Learning Support Hours of 108 hrs to employ our substitute teachers (MOS, NB) as subs for the remainder of the year (625+108), if this is permitted. We are seeking clarity on this issue and whether the hours can be offered as specific purposes contracts.

Enrolments & Appointments

The overall enrolment on September 30th 2021 is 483 pupils in the school.

We currently have 19 classroom teachers based on our pupil enrolment of 489 in September 2020.

The DES has approved 8 SNA posts to our school for the coming year.

The DES has approved 178.5 hours of Special Education Provision for this year. This is approval for 7 Special Education Teachers. We gave half an hour to a cluster with Ballymore NS and we have 3 extra hours each week that we will bundle into days and use them as needed.

Cleaning Staff

We continue to have 3 cleaners this year who work from 14:30 to 17:00 each day. As part of our Covid 19 cleaning plan, one cleaner, Anna, also comes in each morning from 10:00 to 13:00 to clean toilet areas and all common contact points around the school. We are paying for the extra cleaning – Beata in the evening and Anna in the morning, from our Covid Cleaning Grants.

ICT Developments

We are seeking prices on new iPads or new Chromebooks with touchscreens. We have surveyed the staff and a small minority expressed a preference for using iPads in the classroom. We will wait and see the price difference before buying one or the other.

We have applied to the PDST for sustained support in ICT covering the areas of ICT in Special Education and Assessment using ICT.

PTA Update

The PTA helped to review our Covid 19 Return to School Plan. They are proposing a number of fundraising events for the coming year. The first event will be a Christmas Card fundraiser.

ISLM Team

The ISLM Team have reviewed the updated Covid 19 Return to School Plan.

Maintenance

Pat Corcoran, a local tradesman replaced a door on the prefabs in classrooms 19 and repaired holes in the plaster in the ceilings in Room 4, Room 12 and on the corridor at the Main Office.

The electrician was called in to deal with an electrical problem with the intruder alarm.

Alpine Alarms were called on a number of occasions to deal with issues around the intruder alarm. Our Intruder Alarm and Fire Alarm went off on the morning of Weds 29th October. We have requested a contract from John O'Shea and a logbook to record services and visits to do repairs.

The main sewer at the field side of the school had to be cleared by the Caretaker as it was blocked again.

The sewer line from Room 19 & 20 was blocked on Weds 29th October and Excel Drains had to be called to clear it..

Moone Pest Control completed a quarterly check up on our pest control measures.

Control Tech completed the update of the heating control system.

The lawnmower is broken again and needs to be repaired. We are awaiting the repairman.

Emergency Works - Update

The Emergency Works on the flat roofs is finished and the contractor reports that he has now completed the snag list. There are still elements of the snag-list left undone or poorly finished. We got the local plasterer to repair one section of plaster on the ceiling in the corridor outside the Main Office.

School Improvement Plans

SIP 1: Teacher Planning - ongoing

SIP 2: ICT Development - ongoing

SIP 3: Covid 19 Return to School Plan – being implemented and evolving as needed.

SIP 4: Wellbeing Policy & Practices – to be initiated

SIP 5: Gaeilge – to be initiated

Living Our Ethos

Confirmation took place on Friday 24th September 2021 at 11:30 am & 1 pm in The Church of Our Lady & St David.

The Communion is arranged for Saturday 16th October 2021 at 10 am & 11:30 am in the Church of Our Lady & St David. Parents have been informed and teachers from last year will prepare the boys for the ceremony.

Staff CPD

PLC Webinars for one half-day each term next year. We need to choose a date and to coordinate with the Convent school. The agreed date between the four Catholic Primary Schools is Weds 24th Nov 2021. We will close at 11:45 to 12 with staggered collection. Teachers will have lunch from 12-12:20 and the CPD starts at 12:30 and finishes at 2:30.

Policy Ratification

Covid 19 Return to School Plan has been ratified.

Draft of Admissions Policy with appropriate changes must be sent to Diocesan Office before end of October. All changes to be shown in red font. The draft Admissions Policy was approved by the Board and is ready to be sent to the Patron for approval.

School Admissions Policy: Proposed: Robert Kennedy. Seconded: Yvette Delaney.

The Privacy Statement which is to be given to new employees with their contract was ratified and signed. Proposed: Marjorie Quinn. Seconded: Fergal O'Neill.

School Building Project - Update

The DES is still waiting for a letter from the Patron and The Board of Management to confirm that sufficient parking will be provided for in the new school building plans and that the school will not be using the DES owned lands for car parking once the new school has been finished. A draft of this letter was agreed at the meeting and will be sent to Lynn Kelly in the DES over the coming days.

The Patron's representative is preparing a letter to address the lease arrangements for the DES owned land with the DES. We are waiting for him to get back to us.

The Principal will visit a newly-built 16 teacher school in Kilcock with the same size hall as on our plans.

Health & Safety

First Aid Courses for teachers who are trained Occupational First Responders need to be completed when Covid 19 restrictions allow.

A Manual Handling Course for all staff is due in the Autumn.

We need to send our Caretakers on a Caretaker Training Course.

The school At-Risk list has been updated and circulated to Staff.

CO2 monitors have been distributed in classrooms throughout the school to monitor CO2 levels and give us information on ventilation levels around the school. We are currently undertaking a project to determine where they should be best deployed.

Teaching Practice applications

We have three applications for Teaching Practice for this year and 3 teachers who are willing to take them.

SESE Developments

Orla Ahern has agreed to take on the role of Coordinator for Science to support teachers in delivering the SESE curriculum in Science.

She organised and submitted the school's application and log of evidence for an SFI Discover Science and Maths Award. We received confirmation on September 23rd that St Corbans had achieved the award. We can use a special logo on our website and the award should arrive in October.

Visual Arts

We have applied for a Blast Arts in Education grant to access a professional artist to who comes to the school to do workshops with the pupils in selected classes. Trish Ryan is coordinating this project.

Next Meeting

Date: Tues 09 November 2021

Venue: School Room 3

Time: 7pm

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Chairperson

On behalf of the Board of Management