

St. Corban's Boys National School.

Fairgreen, Naas, Co. Kildare

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Board of Management Meeting 21

Tues 08th February 2022

Agreed Report

Board of Management

The twenty-first meeting of the current Board of Management was held on Tues 08th February 2022. 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 14th December 2021 were reviewed, adopted and signed.

Covid 19 Distance Learning Plan

The COVID 19 Return to School Plan was updated with amendments.

We received a DES email from gov.ie on Jan 11 2022, stating that schools can now use non-classroom teachers and student teachers to cover absences and also allows for the banking of SET hours from January to the February Mid-term.

We received a DES email from gov.ie on Jan 11 2022 advising schools to utilise Covid 19 capitation funding to provide PPE for staff – surgical masks (EN14683) and respirator masks (FFP2). We have purchased a supply of respirator masks and staff are offered a choice of surgical or respirator masks for use in the school.

We received a letter from the DES with new guidance on antigen test use in schools and special schools/classes.

We have received two new Information Notes from the DES on changes to leave for covid for Teachers & SNAs.

HEPA Filters in Classrooms have been installed in all classrooms, the Computer Room and the Staffroom.

A new batch of hand sanitiser has been purchased.

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.

CPOR Report to be discussed and signed by the Chairperson and the Principal.

Anti-bullying Report

Principal Drewett advised the Board that there had been no issue relating to bullying reported to him, since the last meeting on Tues 14 December 2021.

Admissions

The Admissions Notice was published on Jan 6th 2022 and the Application Process began on Jan 13th 2022. We have had 89 applications for 56 Junior Infant places. We have operated our selection criteria and offered places to the first qualifying 56 children. The remainder are put on our waiting list.

School Calendar

We are off on March 17th for St Patrick's Day and we have already taken Fri March 18th as one of our floating days. The government has now given workers this day as a bank holiday. So we can take our floating day another day. The four Catholic school Principals met and decided to take the floating day on March 21st 2022.

We need to take a half-day for our fourth PLC Training/In-service webinar. It would make sense to take this half day on Weds 16th March. This was the option proposed by the four local principals.

ICT Developments

We have purchased and paid for a new set of Beebots for our Junior Classes at a cost of €664:68.

ICT Grants:

- Digital Strategy ICT Grant €22,015:70
- Digital Divide Grant €13,360:00

Photocopiers: It was agreed to purchase a new photocopier for the Main Office and we need to update our service agreement with RBS to maintain the photocopiers. It was agreed to sign a long-term agreement to secure prices. (3-5 yrs)

PDST Advisor: Eoin Stakelum will support us in the school on Fri 11th March, Fri 25th March and Fri 6th May 2022 in developing ICT in Special Education.

Parent Teacher Meetings

The Parent-Teacher Meetings for Junior Infants & Senior Infants took place in January 2022.

PTA Update

The PTA are holding their next meeting online on Weds 9th February 2022. They are proposing to run an Easter Raffle to raise funds for the school.

ISLM Team

The ISLM Team continues to work on the embedding of School Improvement Plans and in supporting projects around the Student Council and Covid Plan implementation.

Croke Park Hours

Staff Meeting on 10/01/2022 from 14:30 to 15:30

We continue to use our Croke Park hours for morning supervision (5 mins each morning for 183 day), CPD using Education Centre webinars, Staff Meetings, Parent-Teacher Meetings and Class-level meetings. We used 3 hours for our Parent Teacher Meetings last month and one hour for decorating the school this month.

Maintenance

Alpine Alarms were called on a number of occasions to deal with issues around the intruder alarm. Alpine Alarms have completed the service check on the alarms.

Moon Pest Control completed a quarterly inspection of the school grounds.

The sewers at the field side of the school were blocked again in December.

Abbey Electrical were called in to address some electrical issues in classrooms.

Trundles Plumbing was called in to mend a leaking waste pipe at the back of the prefab 21.

We have requested copies of Service Agreements from service providers that we use.

SSE & 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 – in progress

SIP 5: Gaeilge – to be initiated, ground work being done.

Living our Ethos

The agreed dates for sacraments this year are:

Confirmation: Fri 4th March 2022 at 11:30 & 13:00 in The Church of the Irish Martyrs.

First Communion: Sat 21st May 2022 at 10:00 & 11:30 in The Church of the Irish Martyrs.

Fr Robert Petrisor is our new School Chaplain and he will officiate at our sacramental events this year.

Due to Covid restrictions, each class had its own Christmas Mass/Service in the classroom.

Catholic Schools Week was held from Mon 24 Jan to Fri 28 Jan 2022.

The school held class prayer services and a minutes silence for Ashling Murphy RIP.

Charities Regulator

We have informed the Charities Regulator that Yvette Delaney has replaced Linda Donnelly as a Trustee for St Corban's BNS with the Charities Regulator.

Staff CPD

Teachers continue to engage with the Education Centres and to upskill on ICT and other courses.

The fourth PLC Webinar is organised for a half-day on Weds 16th March 2022. We will close between 11:30 and 11:50 with staggered collection. Teachers have their lunch from 12-12:20 and the CPD will start at 12:25 and finish at 14:30.

Two Occupational First Responders, John Drewett & Sharon O'Brien received training in First Aid in St Corban's on Thurs 25th Nov, Fri 26th Nov and Mon 29th Nov 2021. Claire Bonner was absent on sick leave and could not do the training. She will complete her training with the next group on Feb 10th & 11th 2022.

We had planned more CPD courses for our teachers in the Autumn which were to include ICT (Aladdin; Google Classroom; ICT in SET), Health & Safety (Manual Handling; Caretaker Training), Planning & Preparation Training. However some of these will have to be done later in the year.

Policy Ratification

The updated Covid 19 Return to School Plan was ratified.

Proposed: Marjorie Quinn. Seconded: John Drewett. Approved.

School Building Project – Update

The presentation of the New Building Plans was conducted Fri 12th Nov from 10:00 to 14:00.

We have received DES approval to move on to Stage 2(b).

Bryan O'Reilly is preparing the lease arrangements for the DES owned land. We are waiting for him to get back to us with this document.

We received an email from Van Dijk Architects seeking copies of deeds and/or letters of consent relating to two folios on strips of land on the intended site for the school building. We sent on the letters of consent that we received from the Patron and from the DES.

We received an email on Feb 2nd 2022 from Van Dijk Architects with the completion certificate for stage 2a1 which has to be signed and returned.

Ian Shek sent us an email on Feb 3rd 2022 from Van Dijk Architects informing us that the Planning Application for the New School Building had been lodged with Kildare County Council on Feb 1st 2022. An employee of Van Dijk Architects erected three site notice signs on the school fence and railings on Tues 1st February 2022.

Health & Safety

First Aid Courses for teachers who are trained Occupational First Responders were completed at the end of November. Three other First Responders will complete the refresher course in the school on Feb 10th & 11th 2022.

The Caretakers will complete a Caretaker Training Course on Monday 21st Feb 2022.

The CO2 monitors have been deployed in classrooms 9 to 18 and in the prefabs.

The HEPA filters have been installed in all classrooms, the Computer Room and the Staffroom.

DES Child Safeguarding Inspection Report

The Cigire sent us the Draft Report on the SSPS Inspection for factual verification. We are fully compliant so no need to reply.

Special Education

We have 109hrs 26mins of part-time Special education hours to use before the end of the year. We plan to add these to the CLASS hours that we have and appoint a teacher to deliver the hours before the end of the year. A teacher Emmet Doherty has agreed to teach the CLASS hours and Nicole Byrnes will cover the remainder of our Special Education hours.

Substitute Teacher Crisis

It is almost impossible to source substitute teachers at the moment. We have to use SETs to cover classroom teachers who are absent and we have no cover for SETs who are absent. We are relying on the availability of Student Teachers. It is a very serious situation.

Finances

The Treasurer presented the balances on the Board's accounts as at 07/02/2022.

The Board adopted the Treasurer's Report.

Next Meeting

Date: Tues 5th April 2022

Venue: School Room 3

Time: 7pm