

St. Corban's Boys National School.

Fairgreen, Naas, Co. Kildare

Roll No.: 17254C

e-mail: saintcorbans@gmail.com

Phone: 045 875508

Website: www.stcorbans.com

Board of Management Meeting 25

Tues 30th August 2022

Agreed Report

Board of Management

The twenty-fifth meeting of the current Board of Management was held on Tues 30th August 2022. It was held in the Staffroom 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 21st June 2021 were reviewed, adopted and signed.

Covid 19 Distance Learning Plan

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

Most of the Covid restrictions have been lifted. We continue to limit adult access to appointments only, to lock gates from 09:15 to 14:25, to use hand sanitiser in classrooms, to allow pupils to wear non-uniform clothes on Wednesdays, to use Seesaw & Google Classroom for online work and learning, to have parents drop pupils at the gates in the morning & collect them from the yards in the afternoon.

In relation to cleaning, we are awaiting guidance from the DES on the grants available, before we finalise the cleaners' hours for this year. We deep cleaned the rooms and had the carpets cleaned or replaced in some rooms. Many of the carpets and furniture have been stained and damaged by the products used for Covid cleaning & sanitising. They are being replaced as necessary. We also purchased new chairs for the staffroom as the old chairs had been damaged from the repeated cleaning during Covid.

The cleaners returned on Thurs 25th August 2022.

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 21st June 2022.

Matters Arising

School uniform proposals will be addressed at the Board meeting in October.

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Admissions

We have quite a few new applications for pupils newly arrived into the new estates around Naas. We accommodate them in any classes where there are places. However there are class levels where we cannot offer places. We currently have no places available in First, Third, Fifth & Sixth classes. Our pupil numbers are currently 505 pupils. Given a new PTR of 25:1 we should have about 400 pupils in a 16 teacher school or 475 pupils in a 19 teacher school. Given a new PTR of 24:1 we should have about 384 pupils in a 16 teacher school or 456 pupils in a 19 teacher school. We may qualify for a Developing Schools Post if our numbers are high enough.

STAFFING

At the moment we have 505 pupils. We currently have 19 classroom teachers based on our pupil enrolment of 483 in September 2021. We may qualify for 1 Developing Schools Post if numbers are high enough.

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

The DES has approved 172.5 hours of Special Education Provision for this year. This is approval for 6 Special Education Teachers and one Shared Special Education teacher.

We had 1 permanent post and 4 fixed term posts to fill. (1 secondment & 3 career breaks)

School Calendar

The school re-opens for pupils on Weds 31 August 2022. Teachers returned to school on Monday 29th August for two preparation days of Croke Park Hours before the children return.

PTA Update

The PTA will elect a new committee in September.

ISLM Team

We have an Assistant Principal 1 post to advertise and fill in the coming months.

Policy Development

The ISLM Team have reviewed and updated our school long-term plans in Music, Visual Arts, PE, SPHE & Science. We hope to review our History & Geography Plans in September. These reviewed policies and the Child Safeguarding Statement and Anti-bullying Policy reviews will be ratified by the Board at our next meeting in October.

Croke Park Hours

We continue to use Croke Park Hours for CPD, Staff Meetings, Parent-Teacher Meetings and Class-level meetings. We used 12 hours of our 36 Croke Park Hours for two staff planning & preparation days on Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th August 2022, before the school opens for children on Wednesday 31st August. We will use our Croke Park Hours to familiarise teachers with the LAOS document over the coming months.

Maintenance

We had to call on Computer Solutions to address issues with our Broadband.
We purchased more furniture for classrooms – tables & chairs for extra students and to provide extra table and chairs for when we split classes again from ABAL.
The plumber was called to fix some leaks and replace a toilet bowl.
Carpets were cleaned in Rooms 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 & 17.
Carpet was replaced in Rooms 2, 4 & 18.
New chairs for the Staffroom were purchased.
Main sewer at side of the field had to be cleared out at the end of the school year.
Caretaker Brenden completed all of the summer jobs.

SSE & School Improvement Plans

This year we are focusing on 2 new areas for SSE & SIP as well as embedding our reviewed Digital Learning Plan.

SIP 1: Wellbeing Policy & Practices – in progress- surveys being completed.

SIP 2: Gaeilge – to be initiated, ground work being done.

SIP 3. Digital Learning Plan – reviewed and updated

Living our Ethos

The Sixth Class Graduation Mass was held on Thurs 23rd June 2022 at 7:30 pm the Church of the Irish Martyrs.

Staff CPD

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

We will seek PDST Sustained Support this year again.

ICT Development

Linda Donnelly has returned from maternity leave as has taken over responsibility for ICT Development again. Sincere thanks to Carina McCarville who performed this role along with her own post-holder duties for the last year. We have received notice of a broadband upgrade which is being provided to the school. It will upgrade our line to a fibre-optic line. We await the next steps. We also have some ICT grants to spend in the coming months so we will coordinate this spending with the upgrade to create a joined up plan.

Last year it was agreed to purchase the Twinkl Core Package giving 20 teachers access to Twinkl resources.(19 Classroom Teachers and 1 SET) This enabled teachers to access digital resources especially in SESE subjects where we have removed the Rental Books. It was agreed to purchase one license for each class band (JI&SI) and 1 for SET.

It was agreed to purchase Seesaw Premium for all Junior Classes next year for approximately 205 students.

Fibre Broadband: We received an email from John Gartlan informing us that his company Net1 has been selected to provide superfast Broadband to our school using fibre technology. We have sent them our mobile number and await contact from them once the school term.

The Schools Broadband Service Desk contacted us to inform us that Agile Networks have been contracted by the DES to change the Cisco router in the school to a Juniper router. They will contact us with a date for the changeover.

School Building Project Update

Ian Shek informs us that in relation to the new school project, they are progressing on several fronts, targeting the lodgement of the Planning FI in the next 2 weeks and also the lodgements for the Fire safety certificate and Disability Access certificate applications around the same time frame. There are actions required from the BoM in order for him to lodge the DAC & FSC applications. These have been done.

It was agreed that the Board would request a Zoom meeting with the architect Ian Shek before they submit the plans and additional information. The Principal will arrange this meeting.

Student Council

The new members of the Student Council will be elected in September. The Council will continue to run Corbans News Radio which is broadcast every Friday morning on the school intercom.

Health & Safety

The fire extinguishers have been checked and serviced during the summer.

Yards were swept by a yard-sweeper in preparation for the children's return.

Junior Infant Induction Plan 2022-2023

On Tues 30th August we organised a Familiarisation Visit for Junior Infants to see their classroom, meet the teacher and get a photo taken.

In September, we will hold a Parents Information Evening with Principal and then Teacher in classroom.

Teacher EPV Days

We continue to work our way through the backlog of EPV hours built up over Covid. There is no sub cover for EPV days anymore so classes will have to be split on these days. This process is regulated by our EPV Policy. Principal will inform the Board of the total number of EPV days which teachers are entitled to, at the next meeting.

Finances

The Treasurer presented the balances on the Board's accounts as at 29/08/2022.

The Board adopted the Treasurer's Report.

Next Meeting

Date: Tues 18th October 2022

Venue: School Staffroom

Time: 7pm