

Board of Management Meeting: 2019-20_7

Date: Wednesday 1st April 2020 at 19.30

Remote Meeting

In attendance: Jonathan, Derek, Mick, Pádraig, Ciara, Louise,

Chair: Derek

Minutes: Pádraig

Minutes

Board of Management Meeting: 2019-20

N.B.

As this meeting was held remotely only urgent matters relevant to the present situation and planning for next year were included on the Agenda.

Agenda:

1a. Apologies

Suzi, Conn, Emer,

1b. Minutes from last meeting to be confirmed/ amended.

The minutes of the meeting of 26th February were ratified.

2. Correspondence: No correspondence for this meeting.

Reports:

3. Building Report

The Planning and Building Unit will liaise with schools involved in both temporary and permanent projects. The Principal will update at the next meeting.

4. Principal's Report

This report is in a different format to usual due to Covid-19

- Online teaching and learning is continuing to the best of our ability. An on-line tracker is being used by year coordinators to monitor participation and engagement. Mick will talk us through the stats around work for each year group.
- Some teachers will now proceed to do on-line classes. I will circulate an app notification reminding students and parents that the Code of Positive Behaviour continues to apply in this context. A lot of Learning Support is already being done on Teams.
- Some households are finding it difficult to engage for a variety of reasons. We are looking at ways to support these children.
- The school has participated in all online surveys requested of it including the DES and Educate Together. The results of the AMCSS Region 2 survey were circulated amongst all member schools

and the information in the survey shows that we are doing well. I have asked coordinators to identify those students doing really well and I have emailed these students to commend them. VSWare points are now available for parents to see on VSWare.

- The Student Support Team met to identify students who may normally be on our 'watch' list. These students / parents have been receiving check-in phone calls.
- The Year Coordinators and I met to identify students and who need particular support.
- I also met with the ASN department to plan for next year but also to do a check in on those students receiving Learning Support. There is considerable confusion about the roll out of the new SNA model in September and the DES is likely to clarify this on Friday.
- SNAs are being redeployed into different areas to support the national drive against Covid-19. The school is required to forward a link to SNAs by this Friday which will attempt to match skill-sets with needs.
- I will hold a staff meeting about roles and responsibilities/ needs and priorities as required by the DES with the staff after Easter. I will also hold Teams meetings with Assistant Principals to review and reassign and to report to the BOM in its last meeting of the year.
- Meetings between Pádraig and I continue, particularly in relation to Ravenswell which Pádraig will report on.
- Please note that most offices in the DES are closed and many individuals are working from home.
- All required documentation required by DES regarding PORs, allocation, curricular concessions etc. was returned on time.
- The school is continuing to pay Paul McDermott who is taking some of Emer's classes and who coaches basketball. This is because his pay is a combination of OLCS and privately paid coaching. This is on foot of advice from JMB. Hilary who is our other coach is not being paid because he invoices the school and has his own tax clearance certificate.

Tasks requiring board action over the next six weeks.

- To sign off on new Admissions Policy and Procedure for students entering in 2021. This is supposed to be with Patron by April 30th and to have involved parental consultation.
- Principal Recruitment.
- Sign off on IT plan
- Hear about and engage with the identification of needs and priorities as a function of LAOS.
- Approve budget for 2020/ 2021.

Update on student online engagement

As mentioned in the Principal's report, Mick updated the Board on the student engagement in online learning. The level of engagement does vary across year groups due to a variety of factors many of which are beyond the control of the teaching and SNA staff. In particular family circumstances especially in terms of access to broadband and devices can differ significantly. The Board commended the staff and senior management on the efforts made so far to engage with students and parents/guardians.

5. Update on Principal recruitment

The process for recruitment of the new Principal has begun. The position has been advertised on the educationposts website.

6. Purchase of new IT equipment

Paul O'Neill and Neil Butler from the ICT Committee made a presentation to the Board members on the proposed ICT strategy for the school over the coming years. The document on which their proposals are based is available on the school website. The approach is careful and considered one which emphasises the importance of ICT as a blended component of the approach to learning and teaching.

In order to begin the implementation of the strategy it is proposed to introduce Microsoft surface devices to all 5th Year students in both established and LC and Leaving Certificate Applied. The Educational software company Wriggle will be the school partners in this project. An information webinar will be provided for all the parents/guardians involved. The timeline is set out in the supporting documentation. A thorough review will take place in the course of the following year. A full discussion took place and it was agreed by the Board to proceed with the process of consultation with parents/guardians.

Additional:

7. Confirm Actions & Agreed Report of this meeting.

. Confirm dates for next meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 13th May @ 7:30pm