

St. Mary's Parish Primary School



Bryanstown, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

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Príomhoide – John Weir | Leas Phríomhoide – Órla Briscoe | Roll No.: 20205G

Agreed Report of Board of Management Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Management of St Mary's Parish School was held in the school on **23rd September 2024 at 7pm.**

Present: Anne Phillips, John Weir, Gerry Smith, Elaine Brady, Agata Leszczynska, Fr. John Conlon, Niall Malone

Apologies: Claire Murphy,

Opening Prayer: was led by Fr. John

Minutes: the minutes of the previous meetings were read and accepted.

Matters Arising:

- Masonry damage - John reported that he had arranged a visit from a structural engineer to discuss the cracking in masonry / external render.
- Shed - a new steel shed has been installed. This will allow for additional storage (chairs / stage etc)

Correspondence:

- A number of applications for Parental / Parents Leave were considered.
- Yvonne Ní Mhurchú will be school inspector for 2024/25 [replaced by Ms Heidi Collins from January 2025]
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Financial Matters:

- The treasurer presented a financial report.
- The Board approved expenditure on the cleaning of the front of the school (treating algae) and refinishing the wood cladding.

Staffing: The Board ratified a number of staffing changes to teaching and non-teaching staff.

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Teaching and Learning:

- A Policy update schedule for 24-25 was approved
- Curricular Policies for review in 2024/25. SPHE, Music English, Maths
- The new maths curriculum is being implemented. Teachers will begin engagement with this in 24/25. The school will close for a staff training day on April 4th.
- Review of standardised tests 2024. Maths results were noted as being very high. It was agreed that while the English results were marginally ahead of standardised curve there was scope for further

improvement. It was agreed that the staff would look at the percentile ranks in each grade level. The Board recognised and applauded the work done by all staff in maintaining such high standards.

- Looking At Our School (LAOS) priorities to be actioned: 3 priorities should be identified and then BOM can work on these.
- SSE/SIP - Wellbeing. John outlined work in this area. Evidence of work in this area will be put on website / shared with parents

Organisational Issues:

- School Video / Photography policy. *Ratified*
- Admission Statement for enrolment 2025/26. *Approved*. This will be published on school website
- Social media: A number of issues in relation to the schools profile on social media were raised. The board decided that the school should not have a social media presence but rather that all attention should be focused on the school website. The existing website arrangements were outlined and it was felt that it would be better to have a website which was cloud-based. This will be investigated further for the next meeting.

School Plan:

There was some discussion around a whole school vision. This would need to be a comprehensive body of work and would have to involve all stakeholders. More detail will be presented for the next meeting.

Principal's Report

- A very smooth start to the school year. Infants have settled well. 114 Junior Infants were enrolled and they settled very well.
- Our Nurture room has begun taking students. We have named it 'The Nest'. It is being staffed by one of our SET team and one of our co-teachers. At present we are doing a 'soft' start with pupils who are at risk of school refusal.
- Next phase of developing outdoor space - yard paintings were completed the previous week
- Outdoor play space - a committee has been formed to gather ideas on how to proceed with this.
- After-school clubs will begin in the week beginning Oct 1st.
- Erasmus: SMPPS is now an accredited organisation - we will be doing a number of activities during the year. We have sought expressions of interest from among our 6th class students for an exchange with Erasmus partner schools in Spain and Germany.
- We began French language lessons with our 4th classes in the week beginning Oct 1st as part of the Post Primary Languages Initiative (PPLI).
- Wellbeing week will be held in early October. This will include a Jersey day - the 6 nations trophy will be in the school.
- We have registered an expression of interest for rolling out hot lunches from next year.
- We will be participating in the Christmas Shoebox appeal again this year. This will be coordinated by 6th class students.
- PA will coordinate another clothing drive in early November. Funds raised will go towards provision of Christmas gifts for students (usually books infants - 2nd and board games for 3rd - 6th classes).

Health and Safety: Allianz visited the school in June and offered a number of pointers in relation to Health and Safety. This will form an action plan for issues in the school.

Child Safeguarding / Anti-Bullying: As per DE Procedures, the principal delivered an oversight report in both areas.

Student Council Report: Student council elections for the coming year will be held shortly.

Parents Association Report -

- AGM was held the previous week. As no chair was elected. The PA propose to rotate the position at each meeting.
- A presentation by the National Parents Council will be held on October 9th. The theme for the evening will be the role of the parents Council.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 19th November @6pm

Anne Phillips

Chairperson, B.O.M.