

St. Mary's Parish Primary School



Bryanstown, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

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

BOM MEETING - 27th May 2024 - AGREED REPORT

A meeting of the Board of Management of St Mary's Parish School was held in the school on **27th May 2024 at 7pm.**

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

Apologies: Agata Leszczynska.

Opening Prayer: was led by Fr. John

Minutes: the minutes of the previous 3 meetings (09/04/24, 07/05/24 and 13/05/24) were read and accepted.

Correspondence:

- A number of applications for various staff leaves were considered and the staffing implications that this will have in the coming academic year.

Financial Matters

- Treasurer's Report: As the treasurer was absent, John presented a summarised financial report and updated account summaries.
- Book Grant - John outlined that the school book grant has been cut by 17% this year. He outlined that the €20 collected from parents would be insufficient to cover photocopying / art & craft costs. It was agreed to increase the art and craft payment to €25 for the coming school year.

Teaching and Learning:

- School Plan - Anne gave an overview of the Plean Scoile, John will update the folder to present in September. As well as curriculum areas it should also include organisational policies and procedures, standardised test results etc. The development of a school vision will also be a key part of such a plan.

Organisational Issues:

- School Video / Photography policy. The ratification of this policy has been moved to September to allow further time for BOM to reflect on this.

Principal's Report

- Rainbows: 8 members of staff were trained in the rainbows program which deals with bereavement or separation. This was a very formalised training and quite intensive. We will now have to have a staff member trained as the Rainbows coordinator in the school. It is unlikely that the program will be rolled out until October in the school year 24/25.
- Our 6th class ran a bake sale earlier this month. On the day they raised over two and a half thousand euro, more than enough to cover their balance on school hoodies and the remainder will be donated to charity.
- Standardised testing was completed during the month of May. This year we utilised the Sigma-T test in Mathematics and the Drumcondra literacy test (online version). The scores from this testing will be added to the report cards which will be issued to parents on June 17th. The annual returns to the DE in numeracy and literacy for second, fourth and 6th classes will be submitted towards the end of June.

- This week is Active Schools Week. Mr B Kelly has organised a range of activities and guest coaches to attend the school over the course of the week. All of these activities will go towards our application for the active schools flag. We were visited by the Minister for Sport, Mr Thomas Byrne.
- The school was closed on Friday 24th of May to allow teachers to attend in-service training in the new mathematics curriculum. We will also be closed next Friday the 31st for a school holiday.
- Junior infant open day will be held on Thursday June 6th. On this day our current junior infants will not attend school to allow for next year's incoming infants to visit with their parents.
- In May, our sixth classes took part in a project called 'Make your Mark'. They worked with a class from Saint Mary's Diocesan School transition year to paint the fence that surrounds our junior infant yard. Thanks to Crown paints who sponsored the paint for this project.
- The school has expressed an interest in participating in the schools' hot meal initiative, funded by the Dept of Social Welfare.
- The Drogheda Chess Club will host their annual competition in the school this coming bank holiday weekend.
- The school will take part in the DE summer provision programme during the first two weeks of July. Currently there are 28 students enrolled.
- First Communion was held in the Church on Saturday 25th May. Thanks to Fr John for all his work with our students and to the sisters for bringing the music to the sacraments. Refreshments were served in the school after the ceremonies. Thanks to the PA and to those 1st class parents who came to help out.

Child Protection: John presented the mandated Principal's Oversight Report.

Health and Safety: Gerry and Mr Brian Kelly will meet with Sean Doolin, our Allianz representative, to carry out a school inspection on June 6th.

Student Council Report: the student council were active in the 'Make Your Mark project (see above). Also they received a request from class teachers to fund 'boomboxes' (mobile speakers) for PE / outdoor use. The students researched the best options and purchased these from their budget. A formal presentation was then made to class teachers.

Parents Association Report - John and Elaine reported on the most recent PA meeting.

- John summarised a discussion from the PA in relation to class rebalancing.
- The fundamental role of a PA in a school will have to be clarified at the next AGM. It was recommended that a speaker from NPC should be invited.
- The PA have also developed a Code of Conduct for the PA social media page (Facebook). John noted that he was exploring whether Instagram might be a more suitable platform.
- The PA raised over €22,000 in the monster draw which took place in April. The Board expressed its thanks to the PA for all their work in running a very successful fundraiser and their continued support of the school.

Anti-Bullying Report: John presented the mandated oversight report

A.O.B - school maintenance. Anne noted that some areas of the school have become somewhat run-down in appearance e.g wooden cladding on the front of school, algae on walls. John will seek quotations on both of these issues. A more comprehensive maintenance plan will also be required.

Date of next meeting: Monday 23rd September @7pm

Anne Phillips

Chairperson, B.O.M.