

Board of Management of Gorey Educate Together NS, 30th January 2012: Report to families and staff

Attendees: Karen Loughran (Chairperson,) Sarah Anderson, Raymond Swan (Secretary,) Aideen O'Donnell, Allen Holman, Tracy Smith, Colin Webb

Apologies: n/a

Chairperson welcomed new Board to first formal meeting

Thanks expressed to Colin Webb on joining Board as Community Representative

Chairperson to approach another potential Community Representative in advance of next meeting

1. Minutes from previous handover meeting adopted, (Sarah Anderson, Allen Holman)
Matters arising: majority of Board members attending Patron's training sessions
Report to families and staff was agreed. Secretary to post on school website and Board mailbox
2. **Treasurer's Report** (Presented by Secretary)
Current account
Savings account (school books saving scheme)
Savings account (higher interest reserve account)

Capitation Grant 2011-2012: first instalment due from DES within days

3. **Enrolment**
First round of offers of school places for September 2012 now being processed
Offers made to pre-enrolled Junior Infants, 1st class and 2nd class only. Others classes are full
4. **Staffing**
Teacher contracts
Probation of Special Needs Assistants
Bus Escorts Scheme: the Board agreed to resist any expansion of existing service, save in exceptional circumstances (family hardship, etc.) New families to be advised to apply for Grant Aid Scheme. The bus escort scheme has the potential to place serious organisational/administrative pressure on the school
5. **Principal's report**
See school newsletters
Introduction of the SALT programme (conflict resolution skills)
Special Educational Needs
Preparations underway for Musical Theatre performance at the school, with composer Vincent Kennedy (March 8th and 9th)
Community link: Gorey Hockey Club may begin using school grounds on Saturdays; St Patrick's Day parade; Gorey Credit Union quiz.
6. **Facilities**
The Board agreed a budget for development of Outdoor Classroom
Children on School Council to shape final design and elements
Parental help to be sought in final preparation of the area, (and possible provision of additional elements, such as raised beds)
7. **Child Protection**
The Board ratified the school's revised Child Protection Policy
Secretary to disseminate policy, along with associated procedures to staff and Board members
Parents' Nominees to disseminate same to Parent-Teacher Association Committee

The Principal reported to the Board in accordance with Department of Education and Skills Child Protection Circular 0065/2011.

Principal due to attend evening training session next week. Training for staff to be considered

8. Board members signed Declaration of Acceptance of Membership of this Board, (on file)
Brief discussion on possible roles of individual Board members, (treasurer; making facilities available to the community; etc.) Teacher nominee agreed to be the liaison person for Educate Together National Office (information regarding national events, etc.) Board to return to this matter in February

9. **PTA link**

Parent Nominee detailed PTA activities including: school calendars, planned fundraisers/social events

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 29th February 2012, 8pm at the school