

Board of Management of Gorey Educate Together NS, 23rd January 2013: report to families and staff

Attendees: Karen Loughran (Chairperson,) Raymond Swan (Secretary,) Colin Webb (Treasurer,) Sarah Anderson, Tracy Smith, Deirdre Flynn, Angie Dooley

Apologies: -

1. Minutes from December meeting adopted, (Sarah Anderson, Tracy Smith)

Matters arising:

- o *Colin Webb expressed thanks to the school community re: the TwoCans Food Appeal*
- o *Sarah Anderson noted the generosity of families as regards the school's Toy Appeal*

Report to families and staff was agreed. Secretary to post on school website and Board mailbox.

2. **Treasurer's Report**

Current account €

Deposit account €

Book savings account €

Voluntary contributions: Direct Debits: € Recent cash/cheque contributions: €

[Principal noted quotations for school insurance: €]

3. **Enrolment/pre-enrolment**

Current: 345 pupils

Projected enrolment September 2013 was outlined.

4. **Staffing**

Maternity leave

Probation

New part-time resource teacher to be appointed.

5. **Principal's Report**

Attendance data (School figures 2011-2012 vs. national figures 2009-2010)

Days lost through absence: School (7%) National (7.5%, 'for primary schools with mainstream and special classes')

50% of our pupils have attendance rates of 94%-100%

Deputy Principal to continue to communicate with families of pupils who miss 20 days or more, (along with other families – see school's Attendance Strategy.)

Good Attendance rates to be highlighted in school newsletter from time to time.

Stay Safe: lessons from this programme are currently being taught in all classes.

Rainbows: staff volunteers now offering this peer-support programme to interested families.

Healthy Eating Programme: the *Food Dudes* fruit & vegetable programme will soon be implemented in the school.

Library/ICT: new library books now in circulation (funded by PTA,) 17 additional refurbished laptop/tablet computers now in use in the classrooms (part-funded by PTA.)

6. **School Management Software**

Board reviewed features of *Aladdin Schools* software package. Company's Data Protection statement was also reviewed.

[Principal noted that product by --- was also reviewed and priced.]

Principal checked references re: *Aladdin Schools* ('good support and reliability.')

Board approved adoption of school management software by *Aladdin Schools*.

The use of this software to be noted in revised *School Guide for Parents and Guardians*.

7. **Child Protection**

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

8. **PTA link**

Tracy Smith provided an account of the main activities of the PTA committee, including recent Winter Raffle and forthcoming School Disco.

9. **AOB**

Board approved rental of school premises (summer camp, 2 weeks in July.)

Secretary to follow-up re: Grant Aid for road improvement, (following recent meeting: Angie Dooley, Raymond Swan and Barry Hammel, Co. Council Roads' Engineer.)

Date of next meeting: Monday 11th March 2013, 8pm at the school