

Board of Management of Gorey Educate Together NS, 14th March 2016: report to families and staff

Attendees: Karen Loughran (Chairperson,) Raymond Swan (Secretary,) Louise Redmond, Colin Webb (Treasurer,) Sarah Anderson, Olive Doherty, Allen Holman

Apologies: Angie Dooley

1. Minutes from February meeting adopted, (Sarah Anderson, Olive Doherty.)

Matters arising:

Enrolments.

July Programme for Children with Autism: The school is offering an 11-day programme (July 1st – 15th 2016), based on availability of GETNS staff.

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

2. **Treasurer's Report** *Reconciled 29th February 2016*

Current account:	€
School books account:	€
Savings account:	€
Credit Card:	(€)

Principal to include usual biannual Voluntary Contributions Appeal in an April newsletter.

3. **Child Protection**

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

4. **Anti-Bullying Summary Report**

The Principal reported to the Board in accordance with Department of Education and Skills Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools, 2013.

5. **Staffing**

The Board approved Career Break and Job-Sharing Applications for the 2016-2017 school year.

6. **Parent Teacher Association:**

A small number of parents attended the Board's recent Coffee Morning.

Chairperson reported that there was a useful discussion of practicalities. However, whereas a number of parents were happy to 'help out' in some way, a new PTA Committee was not established.

Board to attempt to garner further interest in this matter during next month's 'Blow Bubbles for Autism' event (date to be confirmed,) when a high number of parents & guardians are again expected to visit the school.

Other points of discussion: 'Events can't run if there is no Committee,' misunderstandings of the role of the PTA, establishing an 'interim Committee,' Board could approach parents with particular skills, 'What can the PTA do for you?' online communication ('online voluntary group,') collection of parents' email addresses, coffee-type events/dialogues for parents.

7. **Policy Development:**

School Self-Evaluation Report and School Improvement Plan for Social, Personal and Health Education: Both documents were ratified as School Policy.

'Green Schools Walkability Report:' The Board is happy to support and promote 'park and stride'-type initiatives. However, any encouragement of these initiatives should not promote illegal parking in the cycle lanes by Woodbury Estate/Creagh College, nor promote unsafe road crossing by young/unaccompanied children along the busy Woodbury roadway. Principal also to write to Wexford County Council, highlighting the unfenced bog-land and stream bordering the pedestrian walkway by Gaelscoil Moshíológ.

Dignity at Work Policy: A number of policy positions were discussed.

8. **AOB:**

Enrolments September 2016.

School Calendar 2016-2017 was ratified by the Board. Principal to include in school newsletter and school website.

School Bus behaviour: Board confirmed that bus companies and Bus Éireann need to fulfil their responsibilities. School will continue to take a supporting role in promoting good behaviour on school buses. The Board noted that a Bus Éireann Code of Behaviour is already in place, and that this is circulated to families.

Whole School Evaluation report: Chairperson and Principal completed 'Factual Verification Form.' Board continues to await final report. (The school will have the opportunity to reply to the final report.)

Date of Next Board Meeting: Monday 11th April, 8pm at the school.