

Board of Management of Gorey Educate Together NS, 24th November 2016: report to families and staff

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

Apologies: Sarah Anderson, Angie Dooley

1. Minutes from last two meetings adopted, (21/09/2016 Colin Webb, Louise Redmond. 17.10.2016 Olive Doherty, Allen Holman.)
Matters arising:

Reports to families and staff were agreed. Board Secretary to post on school website and Board mailbox.

2. **Treasurer's Report** *Reconciled 31st October 2016*

Current account:	€
School books account:	€
Savings account:	€
Credit Card:	(€)
PayPal A/C	€

Books for 2015-2016 now with accountant. (Further queries will be addressed as they arise.)

3. **Child Protection**

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

Chairperson completed the Annual Review Checklist. Principal to submit copy to the Patron.

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.

Chairperson completed the Annual Review Checklist. Principal to submit copy to the Patron.

The Board consented to the introduction of the *All Together Now!* anti-homophobic & -transphobic bullying programme into the school's regular SPHE (and RSE) curriculum for 5th and 6th classes. (The programme was piloted in this and other schools during 2015-2016. The programme is supported by *BelongTo* and the *Irish National Teachers' Organisation*.)

(Parents would be informed in advance of the teaching of the 4-lesson programme, under existing SPHE practices regarding 'sensitive topics.' Families could then opt out, if desired. During the pilot programme, one family per classroom did opt out.)

Further details on the programme: <http://www.belongto.org/campaign.aspx?contentid=13586>

5. **Special Pre-School Class for Children with Autism**

The Board consented to a re-designation of this class as a school-age special class for children with autism from September 2017, to help address demand for school age places for 2016-2017 (including amongst pupils already enrolled in this school's pre-school class.)

Principal to communicate to SENO that this re-designation should remain in place only for as long as is necessary based on local demand/demographics (& pending the opening of a new autism unit in the local area.) Class should then revert to pre-school provision.

The above is subject to the general support of school staff. Principal to raise matter at forthcoming staff meeting.

6. **Principal's Report**

Class DoJo: The Principal outlined new letter from parent to the Board. Staff recently discussed the general matter, and discussions will continue during December or January. (Staff availing of this App are positive about its use, but practices vary.)

Other matters.

7. **Parent Teacher Association link**

Another PTA AGM is expected during May/June 2017.

PTA Holiday Cards fundraiser is underway.

School Disco: Friday 25th November 2016.

8. **AOB:**

School has expressed an interest in the Department of Social Welfare's extended school meals programme (mini-breakfasts,) as announced in the recent Budget. Details to follow.

Probable hiring of school facilities to 'Star Camp' for one week in July.

Louise Redmond pointed out that a review of the Job Sharing Policy for SNAs is due by late January 2017: principal to invite submissions from staff in advance of January Board meeting.

Critical Incidents: Updated guidelines from NEPS are available at <https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/National-Educational-Psychological-Service-NEPS-/Responding%20to%20Critical%20Incidents.pdf>

Date of Next Board Meeting:

Wednesday 18th January 2016, 8pm, at the school