

Report of the Board of Management meeting of 24th May 2017

Present: Sr. Mary Corr, Ms. Lil Bruen, Mr. Tony Madden, Ms. Madeline O'Connell (Chairperson), Ms. Amanda Soares, Ms. Eileen Ryan, Ms. Yvonne Ryan, Ms. Bernadette Gormally.

Mr. Jarlath Burke was welcomed to this meeting and future meetings to act as recording secretary.

Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 26th April were adopted on the proposal of Sr. Mary Corr, seconded by Amanda Soares.

Matters arising.

Parents Council - Nomination forms for a new Parents Council have been received and a meeting will be scheduled before the end of the term.

Sexting - The Code of Behaviour has been amended to include the agreed text regarding Sexting, as dictated by ACCS.

Cleaning hours - The DES has agreed on the cleaning hours to remain unchanged for this year.

Harmac request - This request has been forwarded to the DES but as of yet, no reply has been received.

Online payments - Training to take place in June on the Business On-line system. Once set up, it is envisaged that all payments will be made through this system.

Correspondence:

Croke Park Hours - ACCS have advised management not to schedule Croke Park hours for the return of staff in August.

Maths Inspection - The Board complimented the Maths Department on a very favourable inspection report.

Cycle Against Suicide - The school has been successful in receiving Ambassador School status. A presentation will take place in September in Dublin.

Summer Works Scheme - The Principal informed the Board that the school has been successful in securing funding for the upgrade of toilet facilities under the Summer Works Scheme. A sub-committee consisting of the Board was set up, with an expert from teaching staff to be co-opted onto this committee.

Finance Report:

Bernie Gormally reported on the Finance Committee meeting which took place prior to the Board meeting.

Online Payments for parents - After considering the cost of various service providers, the Finance Committee recommended Way2Pay to the Board as the most cost effective and preferred option. After discussion and consideration of all options, Way2Pay was agreed by the Board.

School Levy - The finance committee considered the present structure of the school levy and proposed that a tiered system be introduced as follows: €50 - family of one student in CCS, €65 - family of two students in CCS, €80 - family of three or more students in CCS. The online payment system will facilitate payments by instalments. This new structure was agreed by the Board.

Practical Materials cost - After considering the very significant cost to the school in supplying materials for Junior and Leaving Cert projects which the students take home after the exams, the Board agreed that a nominal fee of €20 be collected by the teachers from the students in those subjects where the school supplies the materials. This will be collected at the time of ordering. The Committee reported an examination of the April Accounts took place and everything is satisfactory. The April income and expenditure accounts were adopted by the Board. Evening Study - Yvonne Ryan reported that Evening Study is self-financing for the first time this year and has been a huge success and proven very popular with students.

Principal's Report:

Eileen Ryan presented the Principal's Report to those present. She explained that the Liam Campbell Cup, a 1st year Boys championship between three schools - Castlerea Cs, Ballyhaunis CS and Roscommon CC, was held in memory of a past teacher and father of Board member Amanda Soares. Congratulations was expressed to Pauline Connaughton and her husband on the birth of their baby daughter recently. Congratulations was extended to Mr. Joe Henry and the U15 girls basketball team on winning the Basketball Ireland U15 Schools C Final in Tallaght on 8th May 2017. Condolences were expressed to the O'Toole family, Ballintubber, on the death of Fintan, past pupil of CCS and staff members who were recently bereaved.

School timetable:

A discussion was held regarding Core Subjects in the Junior Cycle going forward. It was agreed that consideration should be given to the possibility of changing the current structure.

The previous Board had begun to consider 60 minute periods, but in light of current Industrial Relations the uncertainty surrounding Croke Park hours and the addition of 40 minute professional time to teachers timetables, it was agreed that now was not the correct time to introduce this. Instead, a timetable of 40 minute periods was agreed by the Board.

The daily timetable was outlined as follows: Monday - Thursday: 9.00am - 4.05pm (including 10 minute tutor time). Friday: 9.00am - 1.15pm (not including tutor time). This was agreed by those present.

Transition Year Policy:

Eileen Ryan outlined further changes which were made to the draft policy sent to Board members by email earlier in the week. A discussion ensued regarding the selection process and appeals procedure. After considering the changes, the Board was satisfied with its contents and it was ratified following the proposal and seconding.

Child Protection Issues:

The Board were informed of the number of Child Protection reports made to TUSLA since the last meeting.

Anti-Bullying report:

The Board were informed of any current investigations. The student council have constructed a friendship Board and further projects will be considered by the new Student Council in September.

This concluded the business of the meeting. Madeline thanked all for their attendance and contributions made.

The date of the next Board meeting was set for: 21st June 2017