



Board of Management meeting

Report to the School Community

Thursday, 17th October, 2013

1. Tony Joyce was welcomed to the Board as appointed by the Loreto Education Trust to replace Sr Jennie O'Connell.
2. Opening Prayer – read by the chairman.
3. Matters Arising:
 - a. I.T. Post – Fiona McGrath's appointment, having been nominated by the selection committee, was approved by the Board.
4. Correspondence
 - a. D.E.S. circulars relevant to this sector:
 - i) 0049/2013 - Public Service Stability Agreement 2013 – 2016 (Haddington Road Agreement) and the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2013
 - ii) 0045/2013 Anti Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools Primary, Post Primary – for discussion below.
 - vi) 0042/2013 Timely submission of September and October Returns for 2013/14 Post Primary.
 - b. J.M.B. Bulletins (9-14 were presented with the following decisions arising from discussion):
 - i) Bulletin 14 – It was agreed that the 3rd and 6th Year Parent teacher meetings would be re-scheduled to within the school day as suggested by the bulletin. This would happen further to consultation with staff and parents.
 - c. The Chairman outlined the correspondence received from the Loreto Education Development Officer.
 - d. Details of J.M.B. training were conveyed. It was agreed that Tony Joyce would attend as a new member to the Board.

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5. Building Programme

- a. Practical completion expected to be granted early next week.
- b. Additional works
 - i) The cost of the refurbishment of the Home Economics rooms has been granted by the Department of Education.
 - ii) The principal informed the Board that he had decided to defer the installation of the parking barrier subject to further review.

6. Principal's Report

- School Events:
 - The Principal gave a report on events that had taken place in September and October.
 - Enrolment for 1st Year class of 2014:
 - Applications between the 7th and **21st of October.**
 - A report on the Open Night was given.
 - A report on the visit from Blathnaidh Colhoun, Loreto Education Development Officer
 - Meeting with Justice and Peace coordinator and some students involved
 - New teachers – Loreto ethos and identity
 - Leadership seminar with Year Heads and a separate session with other post-holders
 - Leaving Certificate Applied programme inspection had taken place and it was reported that the verbal feedback had been very positive.
 - Leaving Cert analysis – the breakdown of the C.A.O. points for the Leaving Certificate class of 2013 was presented and compared with the 2012 figures (comparable with Maths bonus points). The 2013 results showed a continued over-performance relative to national averages (for example, more than two times the national average achieved more than 500 points). The Board requested that its congratulations and thanks be conveyed to our teachers, students and parents on the achievement of this set of results.
7. Kolkata Guidelines – 'Percent Art' scheme – it was agreed that the committee would meet before the next Board meeting.
8. Parents' Association Report – it was noted that the A.G.M. had to be re-scheduled
9. Child Protection Guidelines – it was noted that the annual review of procedures would need to take place and this needed to be on a future agenda.

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10. School Development Planning

- a. Update on Anti-Bullying/Internet usage committee - Brenda Cooper would be meeting with the Deputy Principal this week and it was felt that the policy was compliant with the DES guidelines as this had been worked on previously.
- b. Irish subject inspection – Jenny Dalton relayed the response of the Irish department. The Board agreed that the report which had been circulated was a very positive testament to the quality of teaching and learning in Irish. It was agreed that the congratulations of the Board would be conveyed to the Irish Department.

11. Finance – copy of draft final accounts circulated at the meeting.

- a. The Board of Management wishes to convey to the school community that the school is running a deficit and that this is unsustainable in the long-term. Efforts would be made to also reduce costs in the coming year. It was also stressed that parents' contributions and payment of expenses are critical to the financial viability of the school. The significance of the contribution of teachers collecting expenses for trips etc. was also noted.
- b. A report on the performance of the sports facilities was relayed.
- c. The chairman presented a draft summary of the final accounts for 2012/2013 which showed a deficit.

12. Items for next meeting

- a. It was agreed that the principal would give a report on the International Loreto Education Conference in Sydney.

13. A.O.B

- a. Norah O'Connor informed the Board that a group called 'Pure of Heart' would be invited to address senior students. It was reported that other schools had very positive reports on the group.

14. Agreed report – the report was agreed and the meeting concluded at 6.15pm.