



Board of Management meeting
Tuesday, 19 September 2017

Report to the School Community

1. Election Process for a new member of the Board to replace Sheila Brennan - nominations to fill the vacancy to be sought from parents/guardians.
2. Opening Prayer for the new year from the Loreto prayer book.
3. Kolkata Guidelines/Continuing the Journey - A Loreto School in the Mary Ward tradition.
 - a. Suitability of the curriculum: L.C.A. class up-and-running and girls doing very well. Curriculum review underway and can address this issues in detail while being mindful of the traditions of the school.
4. Correspondence:
 - a. School trips: foreign school tours (one for junior and one for senior students) in October 2018 were approved by the Board.
 - b. JMB bulletins 61 (16/17) to 7 (17/18) were summarised.
 - i. The schedule of staff meetings was approved by the Board.
 - ii. It was noted that the additional school closures (two days JCT planning etc.) had not yet been scheduled. Parents will be given adequate notice prior to same.
 - iii. Dept. Circulars (relevant to voluntary post primary schools) nos. 47 to 62/2017 were summarised.
5. Recruitment 2017/2018 - all appointments to teaching positions for 2017/2018 were approved by the Board.
6. Building Programme
 - a. A report on progress with the Special Needs Unit and the Multi-purpose hall. The full updated cost of the hall was presented. As the multi-purpose hall is being funded by the school, the arrangements for the bank loan were finalised.
 - b. Fundraising suggestion - it was agreed that a financial fundraiser would be important to reduce the debt.
 - c. It was agreed that we needed to develop a 5-year plan in relation to further works and the plan to finance same. For example the Hockey pitch will need to be resurfaced in approximately three years and the improvement of the Gym as an auditorium was still on the agenda.

7. Principal's Report

- a. It was reported that the new timetable was up-and-running with the 8.45 start causing some difficulties for students from Thomastown using a private bus.
- b. Induction programme for 1st Years went very well.
- c. Information night for 1st Year parents well-attended and well-received.
- d. The principal attended the JMB conference: Faith in our Schools - keynote speaker Very Rev. Maria Janssan and two workshops - *creating sacred spaces and oratory* and *students leading ethos*.
- e. Compass student portal rolled out to 1st Years and 2nd and 3rd Years this week. The next step in this process is to get the parent portals open (timetables, attendance, school reports, communication system, payments, permission for trips).
- f. New website: www.loretokk.ie
- g. Opening of School Year Mass
- h. Enrolments for 2018 (Open Night on Monday) - the number of classes to be created for next year's first years was agreed.
- i. Data on our recent Junior and Leaving Certificate results were presented. The congratulations and thanks of the Board were to be conveyed to staff and students in the context of the excellent level of achievement and progression to further education.

8. Parents' Association Report:

- a. Fundraising discussion took place.
- b. Date and speaker for A.G.M. being arranged (confirmed post meeting to take place on the 19th of October at 7.30pm with an input on 'safer socialising'.)

9. Student Council

- a. It was agreed that ways of linking with the Student Council (such as a term report from the student council, a meeting with members of the council etc.) should be explored.

10. Health and Safety: procedures for stock-taking safety equipment and relevant staff-training were agreed.

11. School Development Planning

- a. Curriculum review: committee formed with group to have first meeting this week.
- b. Junior Cycle: in-service delivered by Mark Fennell - JMB/UCD
- c. Well-being
- d. School Self Evaluation committees formed

12. 1868 – 2018 Committee

- a. An advertisement had been placed in Kilkenny People looking for contributions for the memory book.
- b. Student Council links formed.
- c. Promotion on past pupils' Facebook page.

13. Finance

- a. Proposal re new member: Eamon Jackman - approved.
- b. Financial report
 - i. Bank balances as of 31 August were presented - the board is happy that the figures indicate that the final accounts will be in line with the budget.
- c. Final Accounts 2016/2017 - draft accounts expected next week.

14. Items and times for next meetings:

- a. Whole School Guidance Plan
- b. Dates agreed: 23 October, 23 November, 10 January - all to start at 7pm.

Colm Keher,
Secretary.