



Board of Management meeting
Wednesday, 10 January 2018

Report to the School Community

1. Opening Prayer - Brenda read a 'prayer for a new beginning'
2. Kolkata Guidelines/Continuing the Journey:
 - a. Experience of Mary Ward values - the focus of the discussion was on the way in which the school engages with parents. It was agreed that the school reaches out to parents but it would be good to seek further ways to increase the percentage of parents who engage in school activities. It was agreed that reintroducing teas at the Parent-Teacher Meetings would be a good way of promoting the activities of the Parents Association
3. Correspondence:
 - a. JMB Bulletins 18 to 25 were summarised.
 - b. Dept. Circulars (relevant to post primary) - 0072/2017 to 0001/2018 - were summarised.
4. Principal's Report: the principal summarised school events that occurred since the last meeting, including the following highlights:
 - i. Beat FM disco organised by a TY group to promote socialising without alcohol.
 - ii. Internet safety workshops
 - iii. South East 'A' Soccer Champions
 - iv. Garda Internet Safety Talk
 - v. Loreto Swimming Gala Champions
 - vi. Positive Mental Health Week
 - vii. Christmas Market - Young Entrepreneurs.
 - viii. School Mass
 - ix. 1st Year Maths challenge
 - x. Choir and orchestra performed at a Christmas Mass in the Friary
 - xi. 100 hampers collected for SVP Christmas appeal.
 - xii. Christmas Assembly:
 1. Guest speaker Marion Acreman
 2. Awards presented to top Junior and Leaving Certs.

- 3. Raising of the Health Promoting Schools flag.
 - xiii. Annual Christmas Concert
- 5. Parents' Association Report:
 - a. It was reported that Jim Gogarty was elected Chairperson
 - b. Christmas raffle raised profit of c€1,100 - it was agreed that prizes with wine/alcohol would not be given to students but parents would have to collect.
 - c. Health Promoting Schools representative elected.
- 6. Student Council
 - a. Plans made for the Student Council representatives to meet with the Board at the next meeting.
- 7. Health and Safety:
 - a. Unplanned fire drill carried out yesterday. Generally satisfactory. Post-holder, Maria Murphy, is gathering feedback and drawing up list of actions arising out of the experience.
 - b. Infectious diseases - it was agreed to review the guidelines with the Health and Safety staff representative.
 - c. Agreed to assess the number of students with flu-like symptoms
- 8. Child Protection
 - a. New legislation:
 - i. Board of Management required to draw up a 'Safeguarding Statement' - detailed template provided. (To be in place by the 11th March)
 - ii. Risk assessment to be completed - sub-committee formed.
 - iii. Staff training:
 - 1. 90-minute online course TUSLA
 - 2. Training provided by PDST - online course for teachers and other school personnel (available February) and face-to-face in-service for DLPs
 - 3. Schools permitted to close two half-days to facilitate the above.
 - iv. Retrospective Vetting: due to be completed by the Dept. deadline.
 - v. BoM report:
 - 1. See attached JMB Bulletin
- 9. School Development Planning
 - a. Curriculum review
 - i. I have extended the deadline for the curriculum committee which will now aim to have its final report for BoM ratification in April (having followed steps outlined in previous meeting).

- b. Junior Cycle:
 - i. 'Cluster' training day taking place on Monday (15th January - school closure) with teachers receiving training in their own subject areas.
 - c. SSE committees continuing their work in the specified areas.
10. 1868 – 2018 Committee
- a. A full committee meeting had taken place before Christmas with various tasks delegated to sub-committees.
11. Finance:
- a. Bank balances (reconciled figures presented) and Income and Expenditure account indicate a performance in line with expectation.
 - b. Capital spending committee due to meet. Finance committee wishes to finalise figures in relation to building programme etc. before convening a meeting.
 - c. Sports rental facilities performing well.
12. Building programme:
- a. After considering all options, it was agreed to name the new multi-purpose space the Hughes Hall and the special needs unit, Ionad Saoirse to reflect the Mary Ward value of Freedom.
13. The next two meeting to take place on 20th Feb and 20th March
14. A.O.B.
- a. That the issue of the cracked wall near the Freshford Road entrance would be examined in terms of ownership, responsibility and safety.
15. The report was agreed and the meeting concluded.

Colm Keher,
Secretary.