



Board of Management meeting
Tuesday, 22 March 2022

Report to the School Community

(This report is an edited version of the minutes of the meeting. Sensitive, personal information or other items not deemed relevant to the wider school community are excluded)

Board of Management: Tony Joyce (Chairperson), Liz O’Gorman, Nicky Cashin, Kieran Boland, Catherine Peters, Michael Shields, Alison McCarthy, Chloe Bhreathnach, Colm Keher (Principal, ex officio).

1. Opening Prayer - an Ignatian prayer read by Tony Joyce.
2. Correspondence
 - a. Insurance Policy - premium €24,161.78. Tony outlined the details of the policy which was approved by the Board.
 - b. JMB Bulletins 59-65 were summarised.
 - i. The principal gave a brief overview of the Association of Patrons and Trustees of Catholic Schools (APTCS) presentation on Catholic Education.
 - ii. Department of Education announcement that the school year was being reduced to 166 days to accommodate the new February public holiday. It was noted that there had been no consultation with regards to this change.
 - iii. Oral and practical examinations to take place during the Easter break.
 - iv. Procedures to support Ukrainian refugees outlined.
3. Principal’s Report
 - a. A comprehensive report on school events and achievements since the last meeting was given, including the following:
 - The plan for the delivery of the Relationship and Sexuality Education programme was outlined.
 - Loreto’s historic first appearance in a senior basketball All Ireland ‘A’ final (defeated by Marcy Waterford). 700 supporters attended, with the half-time Loreto dance routine and mascot adding to the great atmosphere. Despite the loss, it was a day that added greatly to school spirit.
 - Silver medal in the Model EU council debates
 - International Women’s day - inspirational guests addressed all 4th, 5th and 6th years: Olympian and past pupil Clíodhna Manning, GP, past pupil and member of BOM Liz O’Gorman and Kildare footballer Mary Hulgraine
 - TY ‘Footloose’ production with CBS - 5 performances in the Watergate. It proved to be a fabulous production and very well received. A letter of thanks to the Board from the cast members was read as was a message from the Loreto staff

members who led the production team (Trish Johnson, Tara Gallagher and Michele Wise).

- Lily McDonnell, Siofra NiChasaide and Colm Keher were part of the Irish delegation on a webinar with fellow students and teachers from the Loreto schools in Australia and Ireland, discussing what Mary Ward and Frances Teresa Ball means to us now.
- Cross Country Senior team Leinster champions, won All Ireland Bronze medals in Belfast on Saturday 12th March - team made up of Hannah Kehoe, Maebh Richardson, Isabella Burke, Alexia Albertin, Eleanor Godden, Pia O'Grady
- Two golds for our swim team at the Irish Schools Relay gala. 200m Freestyle relay: Naomi Trait, Nessa Godden, Erin Morrissey, Caoimhe Daly. 200m medley relay: Erin Morrissey, Naomi Trait, Caoimhe Daly and Laura White.

4. Parents' Association report

- a. 14th March meeting
- b. €6,418 balance in account after the successful Christmas raffle.
- c. Next meeting (25th of April) will be the first in-person meeting since the start of the pandemic.

5. Anti-Bullying Policy Review

- a. Update from Chloe Bhreathnach given, including the feedback from the survey of students (over 400 responded).
- b. Code of Behaviour also being reviewed.

6. Covid response plan

- a. The removal of the facemask mandate (Feb 28th) has led to a noticeable difference in the general mood of the school community. It has enhanced social engagement and communication skills.
- b. Student absenteeism has increased significantly (March is the highest monthly average this year to date - 26% absent on 21st e.g.).
- c. Teacher absenteeism as a result of Covid protocols had become a significant problem again with a peak of 21 teachers absent in the early days after the St. Patrick's weekend.
- d. Early signs of improvement were evident.

7. Leadership and Management - Biennial Review

- a. The Board ratified the 'discussion document' and formally commenced the process.

8. Child Protection Report - given in line with legislation and nationally agreed procedures.

9. School Self-Evaluation

- a. The Board carried out a review of the LAOS domain: Leading Learning & Teaching.
Standard: *Manage the planning and implementation of the school curriculum*

Standard	Established/planned/identified need
The board of management and the principal provide a broad and balanced curriculum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recent introduction of new subjects: Graphics (DCG offered for 5th Year), Computer Science, P.E. (LC), Politics & Society ● Junior Cycle Review ● Almost 100% of junior cycle students and 98% of senior have received their top preferences
The principal and deputy principal efficiently manage curriculum-related planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responding to the needs of students ● Use of efficient software to sort student subject choice preferences ● Phased introduction of new subjects ● Challenge: with 21 LC options subjects, maintaining viable classes in all subjects might be a challenge ● Challenge of providing necessary physical facilities for newer subjects e.g DCG. ● Curriculum review carried out with all stakeholders each of the past four years
The principal and deputy principal are committed to ensuring that the school curriculum is implemented in a way that provides valuable learning experiences, and are working to that end.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction of the one-hour timetable ● Support of subject planning e.g AP positions and time allocation. ● Teaching and learning initiatives (e.g. Magenta Principles). ● Formation of an ICT in Teaching and Learning committee in 2020-21
For the most part, the principal ensures that the timetable allocation for each subject is in line with syllabus/subject specification guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In line with syllabus requirements. Wellbeing hours present a challenge, particularly since the reintroduction of History as a core subject. ● 166-day school year will present a further challenge.

- b. Curriculum review - recommendation presented and adopted by the Board.

- Committee: Elaine O'Dwyer, Kathleen Hearne, Annette Carr, Aoife Shiel, Niamh O'Sullivan, Margaret Dempsey, Ciara Clarke, Niamh Maye, Kay Phelan, Anthony Mulvihill, Jenny Dalton.

- Review commenced in December.
- Different options considered with wellbeing hours given particular attention.
- Committee felt core subjects needed to be protected.

10. Finance

- a. The report (including reconciled bank balances) from the finance committee was given and deemed satisfactory.

11. A.O.B. - the issue of the decline in the standard of the uniform was raised. Issues included girls in PE gear, incorrect shoes, coloured hair and facial piercings. While changes in procedures over the past two years had had an impact, it was agreed that the issue needed to be addressed as a priority.

12. The report was agreed and the meeting concluded.



Colm Keher,
Secretary.