

Board of Management Agreed Report

29th September 2020

The meeting of the Board heard of the various appeals made to secure some funding support for the implementation of Coronavirus mitigation measures. Eventually a payment for the first term of cleaning, sanitiser and PPE costs was secured along with a minor works grant of €40,000 towards the almost €80,000 costs of works and purchases required to comply with the safety measures. No extra supervision costs or additional teaching to enable smaller distanced classes have been granted by the Department.

The Chairperson expressed the thanks of the Board to all the staff and management for the huge amount of work put in to get the school ready for safe reopening in August. She also praised the development works completed in relation to a new I.T. system server, renovations to the boys' residence and road resurfacing.

The Principal reported on the challenges the Leaving Certificate students of 2020 had undergone and analysed their results. Despite the negative impact of the exams body and Minister abandoning school results profiling the students achieved record results. Average points gained reached 456; 75% of students got over 400 points and 37% obtained over 500, including 2 maximum scores.

The Principal also reported on the return to school safety protocols used, the digital learning plan in place should the school need to close, communication imperatives and surveys of stakeholders on the new situation. He also referred to the high additional costs of the level of supervision, extra teachers and cleaning involved in safe operation.

The Board studied and adopted three policies – The School Covid 19 Policy Statement and Protocols, a new Admission Policy and a revised Acceptable User Policy (ICT).

The Board confirmed Mr I. Coombes as Designated Liaison Person for Child Protection and Mrs S. Macken as Deputy Designated Liaison Person.

Disciplinary matters were discussed and approved.

Enrolments: The enrolment at the date of the meeting was 692 including 126 new First Year pupils. A very high level of applications for 2021 is evident. Following discussion the Board set the numbers that may be enrolled for First Year in 2021 at up to 20 boarders and a total of 120 pupils in all. The Development Committee are examining the implications of that figure.

The Parents Association is arranging an AGM by video link. Both parents and teachers are preparing to elect nominees for the new Board.

Staff appointments, leave applications and substitutions were reported and approved.

A.O.B. : Mr Bradfield was thanked for completion of the excellent lights on the second hockey pitch. Some retirements and a staff wedding will be marked shortly. The Chairperson and Principal thanked the Board members for their steadfast work done over an arduous 3 year term on the Board.

Report on Special Meeting of the Board of Management

13th October 2020

This meeting was called to accept the resignation of Mr Stephen McLaughlin on his appointment as Principal of St Mary's School, Macroom. The Chairperson and Board joined in congratulating Mr McLaughlin and in wishing him success and happiness.

The Board nominated an interview panel for the appointment of an Assistant Principal 1 to replace Mr McLaughlin. It approved the advertisement, set the date for it and for interviews. A reserve panel was also nominated. A substitute teacher of Mathematics was also to be sought.

The meeting adjourned.