

# Agreed Report of Board of Management Meeting

Held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

The meeting was held via Zoom.

**PRESENT:** Mrs I. Dennis, Mr G. Bradfield, Mr I. Coombes, Mrs H. Jennings, Mrs C. Kelly, Mr T. Collins, Dr A. Caird, Mrs A. Cullinane, Mr D. Sutton. **APOLOGY:** Mr O'Diomasaigh.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> January were approved and signed.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A letter from Minister Foley to school management following the cancellation of plans to reopen schools for Leaving Certificate students in early January had been circulated. JMB bulletins had also been circulated.

**CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS:** The Chairperson thanked management and staff for the work done with online learning, appreciating the difficulties of coping with an unknown situation. She reported from the Board of Directors that the fee increase for the year has had to go ahead to keep the school within budget.

The Development Committee reported that a new firewall for our computer system has to be purchased and installed due to much increased usage. The cost will absorb 90% of our ICT grant for this year. The ICT department have been extremely busy supporting teachers and students with new online facilities and getting connectivity. Work to install new wardrobes and provide isolation facilities at Roundhill is complete. Some preparatory work on changing rooms in the Cottage Block is also going ahead. The Environment/Sustainability Committee has continued to work and had a virtual meeting with the parent run company 'Change by Degrees' for very useful advice. Communicating the many successes in our Green Schools campaign so far should be prioritised. We need to aim to be a leader in teaching and learning in the biodiversity and environmental field and to prepare our students for green awareness as they leave.

The next steps are to measure our energy use and build in a 'Green' page on our redeveloped website this summer. The Board agreed to prioritise meeting the Green Committee and Student Council again at the earliest opportunity. The excellent work being led by Mrs Redmond is to be tabulated meanwhile.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:** The Principal referred to continued messages of congratulations for the school and Gregory Tarr on winning the BT Young Scientist Technologist competition. Congratulations were extended to Gavin Coombes on being called into the Ireland Rugby Senior Six Nations training camp. The Principal had circulated a presentation of survey results from students about experiences of online learning since Christmas by year group. He, Mrs Kelly and Mr Collins spoke on the methods of online delivery, high engagement levels, the blended approach using both live and screen-castify platforms. Board members who are current parents described the experience for their children. Overall, the methodologies and execution of online learning backed up by communication for Tutors, Year Heads, Resource department, Pastoral Care Team and Management has made huge progress. Using the scheduling system and balancing the amount of schoolwork set are emerging as current challenges. Concerns raised by some parents to the Parents Representative Association were communicated to the Principal and relayed to the meeting. The organisation and technical knowledge can be very challenging for junior pupils. They can also get overwhelmed by the amount of instructions and work set. Parents and pupils can have quite different perspectives. Getting exercise and breaks from the screen are important. Mr Collins gave a resumé of the training videos and resources being used. There was still no clarity on school reopening to report nor anything definite on how state examinations are to be conducted.

**CRITICAL INCIDENT POLICY** – The Chairperson, Mr Warren and the Principal attended a webinar offered by Mason, Hayes & Curran advising on procedures for dealing with crises. Although reviewed in November, it was agreed to check our policy and procedures against the new advice. **CHILD**

**PROTECTION REPORT:** The Principal reported on a 'NIL' return on all headings for the period since the previous meeting.

**DISCIPLINARY MATTERS:** A small number of incidents have occurred with live online lessons. New security measures to help teachers prevent that will be communicated to all immediately after half-term.

**ENROLMENT 2021:** The enrolment report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The final applicants not offered places in First Year are now been contacted. For more senior years the Principal is interviewing boarder applicants with a parent via zoom in each case and places are being offered. The projected enrolment remains at 700 for September.

**PARENTS REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION REPORT:** The PRA has received some feedback from parents regarding online learning and that, along with the information from the Principal, was the main topic of discussion at the January meeting. The PRA also published detailed advice for parents on assisting with learning from home. The PRA would like to progress the Bandon Cookbook concept both as a unifying project and fundraiser. That was warmly endorsed by the H.E. teacher and Board following the previous meeting. Mr Collins has also got experience in planning for producing such a book and will assist. The NUIG Sexual Consent training module is also endorsed by the Guidance Counsellor and Board but advice from the Department and JMB is not to proceed with such projects until students are back in school so that pastoral support is readily at hand.

**STAFF:**

Ms P. O'Connor has been appointed as substitute during the maternity leave of a member of the English department.

Applications for Job Shares for 2021-22 were considered. Six existing job share approvals were renewed and three new applications were approved. Three outgoing job share agreements are ending. Career break applications for two teachers were approved and two teachers are returning from career breaks.

Messages of condolence were extended to a number of families in the school community who had been bereaved since the previous meeting.

The next meeting is arranged for Tuesday 23 March at 7:00p.m.