

## Collon National School : Report from Board of Management Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> October 2019

### 1. Staff appointments:

- Mrs Moran accepted the offer from the Board of Management to fill a Fixed Term vacancy for the year 2019/2020. Mrs Moran was taken from the Supplementary panel.
- Interviews were held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019. The interview panel recommended Miss Campbell for the fixed Term position for the year 2019/2020. The Board accepted this recommendation.
- Application for Maternity leave for Ms Clerkin received.
- Application for 2 weeks Paternity leave and 2 weeks Parental leave for Mr Murphy received and granted.

### Matters arising from Previous May Meeting

2. Sixth Class Hoodies: It was suggested that the Parents Association and the Student Council would be involved in deciding on the 6<sup>th</sup> class hoodies. The Board felt it was a matter for the Principal and class teacher in deciding when the hoody can be worn.
3. The schools Anti Bullying Policy has been read and discussed in class by all pupils in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class in September 2019.
4. Collon National School has received our Flag in recognition of our GAA 5 Star Centre. We are one of only 4 schools in Louth to have received this recognition. Well done to all staff and pupils.

### Board approval granted for After School clubs in Collon NS.

- Lego & Construction Club
- Arts & Crafts club
- Science & Technology club
- Music Lessons

5. Accounts for 2016/17 and 2017/18 have been reviewed by the Board. Accounts for year 2018/19 presented to the Board. The account has been running at a loss for the previous two years. The Board needs to look at how to cut expenses or raise more income.
6. 221 pupils enrolled in Collon NS on 30/9/2019, we need good enrolment numbers next year in order to keep Principal + 8 mainstream class teachers.
7. Curriculum : SSE : Gaeilge : Improvements can be seen / heard on our Gaeilge go neamhfhoirmuil I rith an lae by staff and pupils. This work will continue this year.
8. Primary language Curriculum Planning Day on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December: School will be closed on that day. We will be changing our English scheme in 2020.
9. Digital Learning Framework: We received extra funding from the Department due to our compliance and evidence submitted on our Digital Learning Framework. Wi Fi has been extended to all classrooms.
10. New Oral Language Programme introduced in Junior & Senior Infants this year.
11. New SESE Junior Explorers Programme introduced in Junior and Senior Infants this year.
12. We must be careful on “interactive overload” on pupils.
13. Principal attended Religious Education Policy Seminar: The new plan is suggesting that there will be an “RE link person on every Board of Management”. School visits this year will be to Sacrament classes only.
14. Parents Association AGM was held and attended by Principal and Deputy Principal. New committee elected.
15. Book Fair was very successful, over 200 euros worth of books received for every class.
16. Parent Teacher Meetings being planned for and organised for 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November. ( dates sent home on September newsletter)
17. Repairs: two classrooms fitted with new carpets and painted over the Summer holidays. Both lovely and bright classrooms now.

18. Concern expressed to the Board over communication from a minority of parents to the school and how the correct procedure, as per school policy is not being followed. The Board agreed that parents would be reminded of policy/ procedure through a newsletter. The Board will also write to any specific parents if the issue continues to be a problem.
19. It was proposed to the Board that by June 2020 there would be on line payments for all families for all transactions between home & school. This would be a massive time saver to teaching time in school and would mean there would be no dealings with cash on school premises. It can be set up through the School Management system.

The Board agreed that this would be an excellent move forward.

### Special Items

- School received 5 Star Centre Award. School will hold a special event to raise the flag.
- Mattock Rangers Intermediate Championship winning team visited the school with the cup and they received a wonderful reception from all staff and pupils.
- Shane Lennon continues to do GAA Coaching in Collon NS, even though he has a new appointment within Louth Coaching & Games.
- Swimming lessons continue this Term for all pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class.
- Collon church celebrates 150 years on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October with a special Mass led by Arch Bishop Eamon Martin at 7pm. The school choir (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class) will participate in this Mass.
- Sacrament dates: Confirmation will be celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 and First Holy Communion will be celebrated on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
- 5<sup>th</sup> class won a trip to Finnegan's Farm, Balrath. They went on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and had a great day out. Many thanks to the English family who entered the class into the competition.

### Child Protection

- Child Protection Oversight Report was presented to the Board.

### Any Other Business

- The current term of office for this Board of Management ends on 30/11/2019.
- An election of a new Board must take place before then. Chairperson, Seamus Roe has been nominated by the Patron to continue as Chairperson.
- Seamus will call a meeting for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 for all parents of pupils enrolled in Collon NS to attend in order to elect Parent nominees to the Board.

The meeting concluded that this was the last meeting of this Board of Management unless any emergencies arise before 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Seamus thanked everyone for their participation and work on the board for the last four years. Mrs Martin seconded this.