

RETNS Board of Management Meeting, 21 April, 2016 - Report to the School Community

Garda Vetting: The BoM was briefed on new, more stringent Garda vetting requirements for all persons employed by schools. These will be implemented.

Pre- and After-School Care: As mentioned previously, RETNS has been approached by a provider called Sherpa Kids who are interested in offering a pre- and after-school childcare service on site. Since this might require significant organisational changes, the BoM decided to undertake a survey of the school community to gauge demand for the service. This will be circulated shortly. Please find a few minutes to fill it in, as this will help us to decide how best to proceed.

25th Anniversary: Plans for the celebration marking 25 years of RETNS, which will be held on Friday 20 May, were discussed and agreed. The event will be self-financing, the organising committee has made good progress and together with the Parents Association are seeking volunteers to help run the event. Please get involved... and let's celebrate.

School Finances: After we've celebrated, we need to get back to the business of raising funds for our school. The 'brainstorming' session on fundraising referred to in last month's report will be held shortly after the 25th Anniversary celebrations. Please get involved, so that we can continue to maintain and improve our school.

Front of School: The BoM agreed further actions in relation to the area in front of the school. The signage will be improved and the BoM will engage with potential providers in relation to both a short- and long-term plan for improving the area.

School Security: Following the broken window in 2nd Class, the BoM discussed the school's security arrangements. Options for additional cameras will be costed and arrangements with the alarm monitoring service are being reviewed.

Enrolment: The revised enrolment policy was agreed. We would again like to thank everyone who contributed to the policy review and the survey. As previously communicated, the 'first come first served' (FCFS) policy, which has been in place since RETNS was established, is being replaced with a policy that gives preference to siblings of students already attending the school. The revised policy will apply to children enrolling for 2019 and thereafter. It is being sent to Educate Together for ratification and will appear on the website in due course. The BoM is acutely aware that the FCFS policy has resulted in a number of siblings of current students failing to obtain places this year. The upset that situations like this undoubtedly cause was the primary consideration in deciding to change the current policy. However, while recognising the disappointment some families face under the FCFS policy, the BoM agreed unanimously that it could not introduce the revised policy for intakes prior to 2019. To do so would require RETNS to alter its enrolment policy retrospectively, which would affect the many families who have already pre-enrolled under the current policy and have signed up to that policy in good faith. From an ethical standpoint, this is not a step that the BoM felt that it could take.

RETNS Board of Management (bom@retns.ie).