

RETNS Board of Management Meeting, 21st May 2018 - Report to the School Community

New Principal: The Chairperson briefed the BoM on the ongoing recruitment process. Interviews have taken place and it is hoped that an appointment will be made soon.

Firhouse Visit: BoM noted a successful return visit by children from Firhouse ET primary school. The RETNS Student Council visited Firhouse last year to assist them in setting up their own student council. The BoM congratulated the children on the hospitality shown to their visitors and their interest and pride in RETNS. The BoM is keen to foster relationships with other ET schools and thanked the children for leading the way.

School Finances: The BoM expressed its gratitude to all parents and guardians, both past and present, and members of the school community who helped with the recent fundraising bag pack in SuperValu, Churchtown. A fantastic sum of over €2,000 was raised. While the school's finances are creeping slowly towards a more positive and possible break-even position, RETNS is still in significant financial difficulty. Higher insurance costs and other necessary expenditure have added to the pressure. The BoM is anxious that upcoming and ongoing fundraising activities, such as the women's mini-marathon in June, are supported by all members of the school community. Parents and guardians are encouraged to get involved in whatever capacity they can to help our school.

Enrolment: The junior infant class for September 2018 is now full. RETNS held a successful open day for the new pupils and we look forward to welcoming the children in September. Parents and guardians, particularly those new to the school, are reminded to ensure that their contact details are up to date and to be aware of the provisions of the enrolment policy, particularly the details in relation to how the sibling preference is applied.

Educate Together AGM: The BoM received a report on the Educate Together AGM and the motions discussed, some of which related to enrolment policies. The issue was referred back to the ET Board pending new Department of Education and Skills legislation on admission policies, which is presently being developed.

Development Committee: The BoM was updated following a recent meeting of the Development Committee and discussed the drafting of the Development Plan. This will be subject to consultation with the school community then finalised in the new school year.

Policies and Plans: The BoM approved new Art and Science plans and discussed an initial information document on a communications policy. It is intended that a draft policy will be completed shortly and that parents and guardians will then be invited to make submissions.

Health and Safety: The BoM discussed the annual accidents report and risk assessment. The latter will be approved before the end of term.

The BoM also considered some routine matters, which for reasons of confidentiality are not included in this report.

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