

RETNS Board of Management Meeting, 13th May, 2019 – Report to the School Community

School Development: John Brosnan, Chairperson of the Development Committee, gave the BoM a presentation on possibilities for undertaking a major fundraising event in early 2020. Given ongoing challenges with school finances and our desire to move ahead with the newly adopted RETNS Development Plan, it was agreed to support a larger event in addition to the regular, now established seasonal events. Further information will be circulated at the start of the new school year. We encourage everyone to get involved, as a successful event will make a real difference to the environment and opportunities that we offer our children.

School Improvement: The BoM ratified the Self-Evaluation and Improvement Plan, which describes plans to improve the teaching and learning of Gaeilge. The plan incorporates the recommendations of the recent Curriculum Evaluation.

Student Council Charity: The BoM approved the Student Council's choice of the Make a Wish Foundation as its chosen charity to receive the proceeds of the 6th Class Bake Sale.

School Finances: The BoM noted a small improvement in the school's immediate financial situation relative to previous years, but there remains very little scope for expenditure for development. The BoM also approved a new school credit card.

Summer Works Application: The BoM agreed to undertake background research ahead of a potential application for a 2020 Summer Works Grant to fund much needed improvements to the boiler and heating system.

Policies: The BoM approved a minor change to the enrolment policy, details of which will be notified in a separate email. A decision on whether to cease pre-enrolment for 2023, in advance of the enactment of the 2018 Education (Admissions to Schools) Act, was deferred until a new BoM is formed at the end of this calendar year. Progress was also made on an updated Employment Policy, which it is hoped to approve at the June meeting.

ET ethos: The BoM discussed a draft of Educate Together's Quality Framework for the Evaluation of Ethos in ET schools and agreed feedback to be sent to ET's national office.

Health and Safety: The BoM was updated on the annual Health and Safety assessment and minor works that subsequently need to be carried out.

Staff days and training: The BoM approved additional days for a substitute teacher and SNA to cover two forthcoming events/trips, and to fund a session for staff on restorative practice.

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

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