

# St. Mochtas National School



## Board of Management

### Agreed Report – December 2015

# **Board of Management**

## **Agreed Report**

The Board of Management hope that this finds all members of our school community well as we prepare for the festive season.

As you are aware, the Board of Management communicates with the school community through an Agreed Report each term.

Each Board of Management is in place for a four year term. Our current Board of Management began in December 2011 and has now finished in November 2015.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our work in St. Mochta's and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the last number of years.

This Agreed Report will be our final communication to you as a Board of Management.

### **1. Welcome**

We welcome all of our families to school for this academic year. We extend a very special welcome to our new Junior Infants and children who join us for the first time and have settled in well to our school. We also welcome new parents who are joining the school community for the first time. We currently have 883 children in our school and have 50 teachers and 8 SNAs.

### **2. Farewell and Thank You Fr. John**

Rev. John Daly has been an active member of our current Board of Management. He finished in St. Mochta's Parish in September. We would like to thank Fr. John for all of his work in St. Mochta's over the years. He has been a great support. We wish him every success in his new appointment as Parish Priest in Greystones/Delgany.

### **3. Parents' Association**

We are very lucky in St Mochta's to have such a wonderful, active and committed Parents Association. Every parent in our school is a member of the Parents Association and the PA Committee represents you all.

Our PA co-ordinate a variety of wonderful events in our school throughout the year and have an important part to play in ensuring we provide the best and safest learning environment for all of our Children.

They organise catering at sacraments and graduation, Santa's Visit, Text Book Ordering Service, Book Rental and the Christmas Fair.

Our Christmas Fair was another great success this year. The BOM would like to extend huge thanks to our PA for all of their hard work, energy and enthusiasm in making this event such an amazing success. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all members of our school community.

#### 4. **Whole School Evaluation**

The Department of Education and Skills conducted a Whole School Evaluation in our school in June 2015. The results of the evaluation are now available for viewing on the Department's website and you may also review the final report by following this link [WSE St. Mochta's National School](#). The Board of Managements observations on the content of the report can be read on page 6. Many thanks to our wonderful Management Team, Teachers, SNAs, Ancillary Staff and Parents' Association for their continued hard work in making St. Mochta's the great school we see each day.

#### 5. **Traffic/Parking**

This continues to be a serious issue for our school and as the school population has grown the issue has become even more serious for us and OUR CHILDREN. Mindful and respectful driving and parking practices lead to the safe arrival of our children to the school and their safety when leaving the school each day. To ensure that the children are safe, everyone must make an effort to help. There are still too many unsafe practices and dangerous incidents in and around the school each day.

**PLEASE, PLEASE BE SAFE AND RESPECTFUL BEFORE A CHILD GETS HURT.**

We ask all members of our school community to respect and have consideration for our neighbours when parking on the Porterstown Road and in the local estates. Please do not obstruct local residents' driveways. The Clonsilla Inn has given us the use of their rear car park during collection times, so please avail of it. Unfortunately this facility is no longer available at drop off time in the morning. Please note that parents are not permitted to park in the Staff Car Parks when dropping or collecting children. We thank you for your continued understanding and support.

In the New Year, the Parents' Association will be monitoring the situation and, in particular, the staff car park areas. If you would like to help, please feel free to contact the PA at [parentsassociation@stmochtas.ie](mailto:parentsassociation@stmochtas.ie).

#### 6. **School Building Update**

As you will be aware, St. Mochta's National School had some great news in November when Minister Jan O'Sullivan announced that our school is to be rebuilt commencing in 2016. Over the last 10 years the whole school community has supported us with our application and we are delighted that finally our pupils will have the building they deserve. Thank you to everybody who has helped us reach this point. A particular thanks to our Building Task Force who co-ordinated the recent email appeals to An Tánaiste – Joan Burton, Minister for Health – Leo Varadkar and TD's Ruth Coppinger and Joe Higgins. We were delighted with the support of our parents and the success of our email campaign.

So now, we can look forward to 2016. We will keep you up-to-date as things develop.

## **7. Finances**

The school budget was set in September with yet further cost saving measures included. We are constantly reviewing all expenditure with a view to getting the best value for money while trying to maintain a safe and caring environment for our children to learn and our staff to provide the best education possible.

A letter was sent home to all families in November seeking a voluntary contribution from each family. Thank you to those who have already made a contribution. Our shortfall from the grant we receive from the Department of Education for the academic year 2015/2016 is €7,836, which is 33% lower than last year. As always, we are extremely grateful for whatever contribution you can make

## **8. Season's Greetings**

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas. We hope Santa comes on time!

Wishing you all every health, peace and happiness for 2016.

## **9. New Board of Management**

The new Board of Management begins this month and will be in place until November 2019. We would like to wish them every success in their new role and look forward to watching the building programme come to fruition under their leadership. The new Board of Management will have the following members:-

- Two Patron Nominees – Fr. Paul Ward & Mr. Tony Rock.
- Two Teaching Nominees – Ms. Maria Farrell, Principal & Mr. Ronan Boner, Teacher.
- Two Parent Nominees – Ms. Val Haslam (Mother) & Mr. Liam O'Connor (Father).
- Two Wider Community Nominees – Ms. Samantha Reilly & Mr. Gerry Phelan.

With warmest regards,  
The Board of Management.

**Tony Rock, Chairperson**

**Maria Farrell, Principal**

**John Cryan, Teacher**

**Samantha Reilly, Parent Nominee**

**Dermot Casey, Parent Nominee**

**Rita Marron, Wider Community Nominee**

**Jean MacDonald, Wider Community Nominee**