

St. Mochtas National School



Board of Management

Agreed Report – December 2014

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Agreed Report

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

The Board of Management meets monthly in the school and oversees all aspects of the running of our school. We don't do this alone, many others have a part to play in the successful running of our school - the children, our parents, our teachers, our learning support team, our special needs team and our ancillary staff and together we all make up the great school community that is St Mochta's National School.

The Board of Management communicates with the school community through an Agreed Report each term. We hope that it will inform you further of matters relating to our school.

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 884 children in our school and have 45 teachers and 8 SNAs.

2. Board membership

The Board Of Management has eight members in total and is comprised of :

Two Patron Nominees – Fr. John Daly & Mr Tony Rock, Chairperson.

Two Teaching Nominees - Ms Maria Farrell, Principal & Mr John Cryan, Teacher

Two Parent Nominees – Mr Dermot Casey, Father & Ms. Samantha Reilly, Mother

Two Wider Community Nominees – Ms Rita Marron & Ms Jean McDonald

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. School Self Evaluation (SSE)

We are continuing our work in Literacy and Numeracy as part of our SSE process. We recently had an advisory visit from the Inspectorate to support our work in this area. She was very complimentary of our work to date and has given us advice on the next steps.

Numeracy

We are planning to review our School Improvement plan for Numeracy. Our focus remains on problem solving and one lesson each week is delivered through team teaching each week.

Literacy

We have prepared our Literacy Evaluation Report and a draft School Improvement Plan for Literacy. Our focus is on comprehension, strategies and discrete oral language. One lesson a week is also delivered through team teaching.

5. Traffic/Parking

This has always been 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.

6. School Building Update

Our School Building Project is progressing well and is now nearing planning. We had our Stage 2a meeting with the Department of Education and Skills on Wednesday 22nd October. Our final Stage 2a Report has been sent to the Department for approval. We held an information meeting in our school on Tuesday, 28th November 2014 and we extend many thanks to all who came. Concerns were raised over traffic and parking and we plan to meet Fingal with our Architects in the New Year to discuss all concerns raised. It is hoped that we can then progress to our planning application.

Members of our BOM attended a meeting in Leinster House earlier this week with An Tánaiste Joan Burton and the Minister for Education, Jan O Sullivan.

We had a very positive meeting and both ministers are very supportive of our school building programme. We had the opportunity to raise concerns over delays to date and to highlight the conditions our children are currently experiencing.

Our main aim is to secure funding and we highlighted the need to secure funding before the next 5 year plan is agreed. We were advised to progress as quickly as possible through the stages and then revert to the ministers who hope to be able to release funding to us at that time. The Department have indicated that we can expect formal approval by the end of the week and to proceed with the planning meetings with Fingal.

Both ministers have accepted an invitation to visit our school early in the New Year.

7. Policies

We have recently reviewed and updated our Special Education Needs (SEN) Policy and our Child Protection Policy. Both policies are available on our website. We plan to formulate a Data Protection Policy next term and to review and update our attendance policy next term.

8. Finances

Letters were emailed to all families in November providing you with details of our projected income and costs for the current academic year and seeking a voluntary contribution from each family. Thank you to those who have already made a contribution. As always, we are extremely grateful for whatever contribution you can make and understand the hardships that so many of us are finding ourselves in in the current environment.

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

9. Nut Allergy

There are several children in our school who have severe allergy to peanuts/nuts. It is important that there is strict avoidance to this food in order to prevent an allergic reaction. We are asking your help to provide these students with a safe school environment.

Any exposure to peanuts/nuts may cause a severe allergic reaction that requires emergency medical treatment. To reduce the chance of this occurring, we are asking that you do not send any peanut or nut containing products to school with your child.

10. Thank you and Farewell

We would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Mr Kirwan, on his recent appointment as Principal to Holy Family National School, Monkstown. The Board of Management would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Kirwan for his invaluable contribution to St. Mochta's National School since his appointment here in 2003. He is a huge loss to our school and we will miss him greatly. We are most grateful for his dedication, hard work and commitment to our school.

11. 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 2015.

With warmest regard,

The Board of Management