

Agreed Report 30/04/2024.

The following agreed report is organised as follows:

- **Section A:** General school business
- **Section B:** After school care

Section A

Staffing

The school is a rapidly developing school, and each year additional staffing has kept pace with this status. However, now that we are fully developed additional staffing will be limited. However, as communicated previously, the school is under serious pressure in terms of a lack of special educational teachers because of the unique status of our school. Therefore an exceptional review was completed to attain more special educational teaching hours. This is a huge amount of paperwork required to make the case for even one additional hour of a teaching resource.

This is completed by school staff outside school time to prioritise the limited teaching time they have. The school gained 27.5 hours which was great news. However, the very next day it lost 15 hours of English as an Additional Language (EAL) teaching hours, which equates to a net gain of only 12.5 hours. This is very challenging for the school in terms of meeting the needs of our pupils. The school will complete another exceptional review given the significant need for additional teaching resources to support children in our school.

As previously communicated the school engaged in two exceptional reviews of ANA supports. Again, a huge amount of paperwork and time spent by staff to make the case for support for the children in the school. Recruitment for these roles will take place in June and are currently filled in a temporary capacity through substitution.

Communication

The Board of Management is concerned that a minority of the school community is engaging in communication that does not reflect the school's core values. The Board of Management is determined that the engagement with and within the school for parents and staff is one of respect, kindness and collegiality. The Board of Management will undertake professional external support to work with the whole school community to create the vision and subsequent conditions and expectations for the whole school community for communication as part of the Grace Park ETNS community.

Professional Learning

The Board of Management commends all staff and wishes to highlight the significant professional learning staff undertake to support the various needs of all children in our school.

- The ANAs attended Crisis Prevention Training (CPI) on a Saturday
- The whole school engaged in training from Shoutout
- The school is engaged in support from Oide to implement the Primary Language Curriculum
- Liana (Deputy Principal) is undertaking training in Friends for Life to support training of staff in the school

Community engagement

- The school is celebrating an Intercultural Day and information was shared through the school. The Board of Management supports the school and wishes the community a wonderful day.
- The Board approved matching funding with the PTA to fund Internet Safety classes for senior classes.
- School Tours are being planned and several classes have the support of parents and the Board thanks parents in support of these tours.

Summer Provision

The school is operating summer provision for children with additional needs in July this year.

Fundraising Report

Balance Fundraising from last meeting	6,248.64
Income	n/a
Expenditure	
Gymnastics Equipment	2510
Aistear Total	0

Balance at this meeting	3,738
	<u>Remaining Breakdown</u>
	3,200 Aistear
	490 PE
	48.64 Literacy

- The fundraising plan set out a school concert for May. The school is not able to run this level of event, the amount of planning was underestimated. Instead, the school will plan an intercultural day which will meet the ethos of inviting parents to school but there will not be a fundraising element. The Board of Management always sought to manage the ask of parents in relation to fundraising and considering the Department of Education issuing a Digital Grant, the school has sufficient funds for STEM resources earmarked for the 3,500e anticipated from the plan.

Section B

After-school

The Board of Management wishes to communicate the extensive time given to the process and engagement for renting school space for an after-school care service. The Board convened three special meetings to solely address and respond to the queries and questions, as well as giving substantive time in two ordinary meetings to discuss the matter. It produced a 20 page report which took extensive research, review and engagement from all Board members.

Collectively the Board has spent over 80 hours on the matter, and this is of significant concern for the Board in terms of the use of its resources and its core remit as set out under the Education Act (1998). The Board's core function and remit is to provide an appropriate education for all. The Board's ability to operate its core remit is now being seriously impacted with the diversion of resources to this matter. For the purposes of transparency and efficiency, the Board sets out its response to further correspondence below.

The Board acknowledges the input and considerations that it was asked again to review in relation to rental of school space for after-school care. The Board has listened to and considered the correspondence. The Board again engaged in significant discussion related to it, however, it has determined there is currently no workable solution that would not have a significant impact on the core work of the school – which is an appropriate education for all children. The Board will not be reversing or amending the decision. The Board has determined that facilitation of meeting parents or groups would not provide material changes that would enable the Board to reverse the decision.

The Board acknowledges that advocacy and activism is part of a robust school community. As the school's decision making body, the Board takes the consideration of voices within the

community seriously, being a democratic school, however it is party to significant balancing of considerations and obligations to children, staff and parents. The balance of these ultimately are always made in the context of the Board's core remit which is to provide an appropriate education for all. The Board is satisfied it has deliberated significantly and comprehensively on the matter in making and affirming its decision.