

# Agreed Report 17/06/2024

This agreed report has three sections

1. General School Business
2. Finance
3. After-school care

# 1. General School Business

## Curriculum Evaluation

The Board wishes to commend the staff for all the work in relation to the curriculum evaluation in primary languages that was conducted by the Department of Education. The inspectorate was extremely supportive and complimentary of our school. The evaluation looked at the following areas;

- Quality of pupils' learning outcomes
- Supporting pupils' learning through learning experiences and teachers' practice
- The effectiveness of school planning, including SSE, in progressing pupils' learning
- The inspection also included a Child Protection Check and an evaluation of the Anti-Bullying procedures.

The report will be published in September 2024.

The Board is impressed with all the great work the children undertook during the visit and wish to thank all the staff for their commitment to achievement of high quality teaching and learning and their demonstration of this through the inspection process.

## Parent Teacher Association

- The Board has been informed that Clodagh has stepped down as chair of the PTA. The Board of Management would like to thank Clodagh for all her hard work in leading and facilitating activities and initiatives related to supporting the school.
- The Board wishes the new chairperson Tom best of luck in starting in the role as well as Paula who is stepping into vice-chairperson,

## Parent Nominee to Board of Management

- The Board was informed that Caitriona has stepped down as the female parent nominee from the Board of Management. The Board of Management would like to thank Caitriona for all her hard work on the Board and wish her all the best.
- Niamh will engage with the PTA to discuss the process and mode of replacement of the female parent nominee.

## School Events

- The Board of Management wishes to congratulate our first 6th class children and families on their graduation next Monday.
- The Board wishes to commend the variety of events the staff are engaging with to support the positive and progressive learning experiences in our school such as Simone and Eve's 3rd class attendance at a Fighting Words Workshop and with 2nd classes participation in a workshop about vision impairment week with representatives from Childvision.
- The Board also wishes to acknowledge all the planning, preparation and engagement of staff in school tours this year.

## Awards

- The Board of Management wishes to acknowledge a variety of awards that the school has received in relation to aspects of teaching and learning
- Sinéad C has led the school to our second SFI Curious Minds Gold Award for our work in STEM
- Dave's 5th Class were awarded the activity award for their performance highlighting "Zero Hunger" sustainable development goal WITH Our World Irish Aid
- The school has completed year 2 of our Accreditation with As I Am for Autism Friendly Schools - Adam Harris wishes to visit the school in September 2024.

## Summer Message

The Board wishes all our families a peaceful and safe summer, and looks forward to the return to school for everyone in September.

## 2. Finance

- The Board approved the PTA budget and will continue to fund the PTA so that all fundraising can go directly to purchases resources for the school
- The Board submitted the annual report required by the charities regulator

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movie Night Report Approved</li> <li>• Table Quiz Report Approved</li> <li>• Fundraising Plan for 2024/2025 approved</li> <li>• Reallocation of PE (490) and Literacy Suprlace (48.64) 538.64 for Autism Classes resource of a Trampoline</li> <li>• Aistear funds to be spent early next school year</li> </ul>	
<b>Balance Fundraising from last meeting</b>	3,738
Income	
Movie Night	2,335.10
Table Quiz	1152.05
Expenditure	
6th class tour contribution	2,335.10
Aistear equipment	1,135
Balance at this meeting	3,755.05
<b>New Balance after reallocation of PE and Literacy Funds carried forward to next year</b>	3,217

- Overall Fundraising Report 2023/2024

Month of event	Event name	Run by	Income	Fundraising for	Amount Spent	Surplus
October	Envelope Day	School	6,634	Literacy and PE	6,009.36	538.64
October	Book Fair	PTA & School	Free Books	Free Books	n/a	n/a
November	Movie night	PTA and 6th class	2334.10	6th class tour	2334.10	0
December	Bake Sale	PTA	1500	Aistear	3,200	3,200
March	Tesco Fund	PTA	600	PE	September	n/a
May	Table Quiz	PTA	1000	Aistear	1152.05	17

**Surplus carried forward to next year 3,217 for Aistear Resources**

- Fundraising Plan 2024/2025

*This plan has been produced by the PTA and the Board has approved without change.*

Term	Month of event	Event name	Run by	Anticipated income €	Fundraising for
Term 1	October	Book Fair	PTA & Scholastic or Tara Book Company	€1,000 in book vouchers	Books
	December	Bake Sale / Fáilte Friday	PTA & School	€2,500	STEM
Term 2	February	Movie night	PTA & School (& 6th class)	€1,500	6th class tour
	April	Kids Disco	PTA	€1,000	SESE
Term 3	May	Table Quiz	PTA	€1,000	Gaelige
	June	Camino	PTA	€2,000	Autism Yard

- School Levy Report 2023/2024

*This is a report to indicate the total amount received and expenditure using the School Expenses parents pay each September. This is to illustrate that the funds are spent each year and allocated to what they are requested for.*

Item	Total Income	Expenditure	Amount
<b>School Levy Income</b>	<b>30,300</b>		<b>30,300</b>
Stationery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Copies</li> <li>- Pencils</li> <li>- Scrapbooks</li> <li>- Folders</li> <li>- Pens</li> </ul>		3,900	
Dig learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Digital subscriptions for learning and online content</li> <li>- Online platforms</li> </ul>		3,270	
Arts and Crafts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All classroom consumables for teachers to support creativity</li> </ul>		12,048	
PP insurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 24/7 accident insurance</li> </ul>		3,368	
ET membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- membership subscription</li> </ul>		5,535	
Sport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PE equipment</li> <li>- Coaches for teaching PE</li> </ul>		1,500	
		Total	<b>29, 981</b>
		Surplus	319

- School Levy 2024/2025 and school book grant information

Last year the book grant was 90e per child and covered photocopying, books, book rental and stationery (copy books) and the school expenses were 80e per child. The costs have remained the same and the grant was reduced to 80e per child. Therefore school expenses are 90e per child. As outlined below. The expenses will be payable in the new school year and any parent can contact Niamh in confidence in relation to managing school expenses.

Item	Cost	Covered by Grant	Covered by Parents
Photocopying	20	x	
Books	40	x	
Book rental	20	x	
Stationary	10		x
Dig learning	12		x
Arts and Crafts	35		x
PP insurance	8		x
ET membership	15		x
Sport and Activity	10		x
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>		
		80	<b>90</b>



### 3. After school care

#### Protesting adults at Grace Park ETNS during the transition to school each morning

The Board of Management respects the right to protest, however, it does not condone any protest that causes upset to others. Children and families have the right to access education without the disruption and possible upset caused by protesting adults.

The Board outlines clearly below, its intention to make the school available for childcare purposes from 2.10-6 daily, and the process and timeline involved. In the interest of partnership and collaboration, the Board is hopeful that these protests will now cease.

#### Process after school care from 2.10 - 6.00 pm updates

##### Engagement

The Board of Management met representatives of the Child Care Action Group and subsequently, the Board of Management agreed to look at the provision of care services from 2.10 – 6.00. Liana (acting school principal) has liaised on behalf of the Board of Management with a representative of the Child Care Action Group and has spoken each week with them to keep the lines of communication open.

As indicated in the agreed report of 27th May, the Board of Management has further considered a process to explore making space available in the school for care services from 2.10 - 6 pm, based on what the school is in a position to provide. Now that Niamh has returned, she will engage with the representative of the Child Care Action Group until the school holidays. Once the school is closed, we will provide timely updates, as indicated below, but as a courtesy to the staff, please note that it won't be possible to respond to other queries during the holidays.

## Sibling hour and care children from 1.10 -2.10

The Board has received further requests to provide a service for the sibling hour, however, there has been no material change to the school circumstances since we first communicated the decision on this matter..

Unfortunately, there is no room in the school that is unutilised at 1.10. Because the school is now at capacity, the hall and the library are utilised throughout the day to accommodate all classes.

Although the infant children are gone home, their teachers are not obliged to give up their classrooms (their workspaces) between 1.10 and 2.10. This is still their working day, and they have the right to be in their rooms.

The teaching staff did try this approach this year (and in the past in the prefabs), but it has proven to be an unworkable solution and did, in fact, interfere with the day to day running of the school during this time. **There is no unused space that can be provided elsewhere in the school for this purpose.**

In this context several references have been made by parents to extracts from the Department of Education's newly issued guidelines on the use of school property. The Department's key message was as follows: *"While the primary purpose of schools is the provision of primary and post-primary education the department is supportive of the use of available school property by childcare providers if there is space available and it does not interfere with the day-to-day running of the school".*

**This remains and has at all times been the Board's primary consideration.**

The Board of Management understands that a local provider, the Learning Tree, has provided additional sibling hour space and has accommodated many families with further space still available.

## Transparent process as per *Procedures on the use of school property and school sports facilities outside of school hours (2024)* for renting space in school for child-care services 2.10 - 6.00 pm

The recently published Department of Education Guidelines set out how a school should approach making rooms available in their school for after school care services, stating *“it is recommended that applications from others who may wish to apply to provide such a service are sought under an open transparent and fair process”* if approached by a provider or recommended a provider.

Therefore, considering the space that we have available, from 2.10 - 6.00 pm, we are required to undertake a transparent application process and meet the recommendation of DE guidelines. To this end, the Board will set out a process in line with guidance which states that an advertisement *“advising of the possibility of the making available of the rooms/facilities, how services providers will be selected and the essential terms that would have to be abided by any such users of the premises, including contributions to maintenance and upkeep”* should be made.

The Board has agreed the following indicative timeline for this process, with the aim of having the process completed as soon as practical. The Board is mindful of, and is eager that parents understand that, requirements such as those made by Tusla, are out of our control.

### Preparation of *Expression of Interest* documentation **June 18th -20th**

- Request for *Expression of Interest* Applications to rent space in Grace Park ETNS to provide after-school care published by **Monday June 24th**
- Closing date for expression of interest applications **July 5<sup>th</sup>**
- Interview with selection panel week of **July 8th**
- Negotiation and agreement with successful provider week of **July 15th**
- Communication with community and final update on outcome and next steps on **July 19th**

As has been noted, providers are required to register in advance with Tusla prior to commencement. Therefore, without prejudice to any outcome of the process the Board will in parallel investigate a solution for care between August 28th and the commencement of any future service. This will be communicated if it has been achieved with updates on the process on July 19th.

The Board of Management will set out in the *Expression of Interest* the application process guided by the DE guidelines that will

- Include a weighting process which is made publicly available to all potential applicants.
- Taking into account the best interests of the overall school community, in terms of the service to be provided by the operator;
- Balancing the benefits of potential revenue to a school which could be offered by a commercial provider versus the benefits to the local community of a low cost, not-for-profit service for parents of the school with running costs covered;
- References / previous relevant experience;
- Garda vetting / supervision;
- Inclusion of criteria for selection/refusal (a checklist may assist in reducing incomplete applications)

The expression of interest will not be an indication of what the service will end up providing, this is a matter for the provider. It will be up to parents to decide if the service provided meets their needs and to avail of this service if they wish.

For your convenience the Board is listing previous communications here.

1. Agreed Report March 21st (After-school specific meeting)

[https://www.graceparketns.com/\\_files/ugd/03174b\\_c83b82f0426f47f6b8856fc4f95bfff0.pdf](https://www.graceparketns.com/_files/ugd/03174b_c83b82f0426f47f6b8856fc4f95bfff0.pdf)

2. Agreed Report April 9th (After-school specific meeting)

[https://www.graceparketns.com/\\_files/ugd/03174b\\_5e83d7f0417c42a4b1377ab3244f9971.pdf](https://www.graceparketns.com/_files/ugd/03174b_5e83d7f0417c42a4b1377ab3244f9971.pdf)

3. Agreed Report April 11th (After-school specific meeting)

[https://www.graceparketns.com/\\_files/ugd/03174b\\_67012b46aecb44af94475445c5bd3463.pdf](https://www.graceparketns.com/_files/ugd/03174b_67012b46aecb44af94475445c5bd3463.pdf)

4. Communication Note April 12th

[https://www.graceparketns.com/\\_files/ugd/03174b\\_b94c748651994bf6b973305e79e1d735.pdf](https://www.graceparketns.com/_files/ugd/03174b_b94c748651994bf6b973305e79e1d735.pdf)

5. Agreed Report (see part B) April 30th (Ordinary Meeting)

[https://www.graceparketns.com/\\_files/ugd/03174b\\_16b8ae4c951946e7835a6fcb823985b1.pdf](https://www.graceparketns.com/_files/ugd/03174b_16b8ae4c951946e7835a6fcb823985b1.pdf)

6. Agreed Report May 16th (After-school specific meeting)

[https://www.graceparketns.com/\\_files/ugd/03174b\\_d5a806db572749b6ba188403afc2c979.pdf](https://www.graceparketns.com/_files/ugd/03174b_d5a806db572749b6ba188403afc2c979.pdf)

7. Agreed Report May 27th (After-school specific meeting)

[https://www.graceparketns.com/\\_files/ugd/03174b\\_c9051a538f5440a9ab48de1919ee0115.pdf](https://www.graceparketns.com/_files/ugd/03174b_c9051a538f5440a9ab48de1919ee0115.pdf)