

Agreed Report 27.05.24

The Board was provided with a summary of a meeting held on 23rd May 2024 involving a delegation of the Board of Management with a group of parents involved with the protests in relation to the afterschool.

- The purpose of that meeting was to communicate some material concerns, following on from various complaints by parents of distress and disruption caused to pupils and interruption of their education.
- Those who attended acknowledged the underlying ethos of the school and committed to avoiding further upset to the most vulnerable of our pupils.
- The delegation of the Board also sought to respond to various questions relating to the decision following the procurement process of a third-party after-school service.
- The Board delegation, having advised that there was no facility available between 1.10 and 2.10, was asked, and agreed, to request the Board to consider a new tender for care from 2.10 onwards.

The Board considered the matter. It was noted that nothing has changed in respect of the decision. The fundamental issues with a service running during part of the core school day (from 1.10 – 2.10) in particular were further discussed and explained.

- The Board noted its awareness of a great deal of erroneous and defamatory material being circulated on messaging services, public fora and social media outlets. Some of which includes suggesting that 'funding' has been received and the Board has still not provided after school. The Board referred to the extensive communication report circulated some months ago and reiterate that the school has never 'provided afterschool' and that much of these various statements, and the commentary being perpetuated, is fundamentally wrong. It would be an impossible exercise to seek to take appropriate actions, or to correct every wrong or deliberately false statement being circulated, but the Board reserves its position to do so in the future.
- The question referred to the Board as retendering for a service to run from 2.10 was then considered. It is apparent from previous communication that this option was offered to a tendering party, who rejected the same. At the time, along with considering a variety of options and scenarios, the Board considered a retendering then from 2.10 for the 2024/25 school year. However, given the complete rejection by the tendering party and

noting the time frame involved for a proper tender process to be conducted, it was felt this could not be achieved.

- The Board does not consider that there are any material circumstances three (3) months later that have changed to warrant a revisiting of this decision, and indeed, in the intervening period, other parties have sought use (which has been approved) of the space during the 2024/25 school year that was previously offered and rejected by the current provider.

However, with the interests of the whole school community and notwithstanding a truncated timeframe for a procurement process and lack of prior interest, the Board has decided to further consider a procurement process for a limited number of students from 2.10pm. The Board will further revert once a decision is made and next steps are further set out.