



Stratford College Board of Management AGREED REPORT

Monday 29 May 2023

The Board of Management met in person for its sixth meeting of the academic year on Monday 29 May in person.

The Principal's Report and Business highlighted admissions and communications activities, Student Welfare and Attendance and Behaviour.

Attendance

We are concerned about the number of absentees we have had to report to Tusla. 25% of our students were reported this year. While there are different reasons for this, one is the lingering impact of Covid and where parents are keeping the children at home as a precaution. This despite all mitigation measures being suspended.

The Chair of the BOM, Mr John Rafter reported on the school finances and the programme of works for this summer.

The Board of Management expressed its satisfaction with the projected enrolment and current finances.

Our Summer Works this year include the installation of **solar pv panels** and upgrading our electrical distribution board, the benefits of which will be shared with Stratford NS. Work has commenced already!

We finally have a drawing for our **School Zone as part of the Safe Route to Schools (SRS)** Programme. This will be sent out for consultation by Dublin City Council shortly with the aim of having the zone in place for the new school year. See this link for more details.

SRS is also upgrading our **bike parking facilities** with a new shelter and bike racks being installed over the summer. Read more here!

Stratford College was recently presented with its **6th Green Flag for Biodiversity** at a ceremony in DCU! This Biodiversity Theme looks at steps which can be taken in schools to increase awareness of the importance of native plants, animals and habitats and to increase species-richness in a locality. Congratulations to the Green Schools Team and look out for our Polytunnel coming next year!

We are also upgrading the **school bell and installing a new PA intercom system.**

A feasibility study was commissioned by the Board of Management for improved **disability access** to our school buildings. It is clear from the report that the work required is extensive



and expensive and will take several years to process. We hope to apply to the Department of Education for grant aid.

Well Being: Disconnect to Reconnect

When we surveyed our students last year, they told us that the quality of their sleep and social media are the two biggest challenges to their wellbeing. We've spent the year exploring this further by asking students, parents, and teachers how we can enable students to ask for expert advice and embedding it. Coincidentally, this important theme in Wellbeing Framework coincides with strong evidence and warnings about the negative consequences of both for student development and academic achievement.

Behaviour For Learning

Our work in this area has been dominated by behavioural, social, and emotional issues. We are not sure if this is the impact of Covid lockdowns but there is no doubt that some of the behaviours can be attributed to an arrested development particularly among the younger classes along with the sleep and social media issues they have identified themselves. It is very interesting to note the line that other schools are taking about the use of mobile phones, and we are watching this space very carefully. We installed phone away boxes for the junior classes earlier this year and are considering doing the same for the seniors next year. The penalty for having a phone is severe so please don't allow or support your child's use of phones in school without permission.

We will also be asking parents to sign our Code of Behaviour and Acceptable User Policies in August each year to avoid unnecessary challenges to the everyday and safe operation of our school. We will send the link and follow up before the commencement of the new school year.

The social, emotional, behavioural and learning needs of students are assessed and prioritised as per Department guidelines ie the greater the need the more intervention is provided within our current allocations.

The BOM reviewed the draft policy on communication. It was felt necessary that existing documentation would be brought together and supplemented by guidelines on the use of on line messaging platforms. The document had been circulated for feedback and would be divided up into policy and guidelines.

The Deputy Principal and Assistant Principals presented their progress in the following areas:

- Sustainability Policy Delia Donohoe
- Assessment Policy Revised Catherine Conlon
- Well being/SSE/SIP: disconnect to Reconnect - Venita Kenny/Linda Finnegan
- Middle Leadership and Management Biennial Review Recommendations - Siobhan Reynolds – Approved.
- Ethos Framework - Patricia Gordon Approved
- Digital Strategy - Helen O'Kelly Approved



Finally, the BOM approved the Child Protection Oversight Report and the Anti Bullying Report.

As there was no other business the BOM adjourned.

Dates for 2022-23

Monday 18 September 2023 at 6.30pm

Thursday 19 October 2023 (PA AGM, Student Council & BOM) @ 7pm

Monday 27 November 2022

Monday 12 February 2024

Monday 25 March 2024

Monday 27 May 2024