

**Grange Post Primary School Board of Management**

**Tuesday the 30th of September 2020 (5:30-6.30)- remote**

**Minutes of Board Meeting 30/09/2020**

1. **Attendance:** S. Kilgannon (SK), D. Egan (DE) & F. McGowan (FMcG), R. O’Grady (RO’G), D. Gilroy (DG), D. O’Connor (DOC), F. Folen (FF), E. Harte (EH)
2. **Apologies:** H. Keaney (HK)
3. **Conflict of interest**: None identified
4. **Minutes of Previous Meetings and Matters Arising**- no matters arising. DOC proposed. SE seconded. Board agreed unanimously.
5. **Principal’s Report-** EH provided averbal report on the progress of the school since re-opening. She clarified that all new teachers are now on site- including Ms Grandison, Mr Dempsey, Ms. McCreanor and Ms. McDermott. Ms McDonald is covering a maternity leave and Ms Clancy has joined us as an SNA. EH advised that some issues re supervision and funding for use of the complex are on-going via the ETB with the Department. Enhancement of IT facilities in Oxfield are not yet complete due to waiting on equipment orders. Expected date of completion is October the 8th. EH commended the behaviour and attitude of students re new arrangements and mask wearing. EH also commended the teachers on their positive attitude and engagement despite significant inconveniences re travel, IT resources and changes in policies and practices. SK wished to thank all students and teachers for their attitude and confgratualt3ed EH on the successful re opening. DE stated that as a parent of a student between two sites the transition seemed seamless and the reports were very positive. FMcG stated that as a parent of students based fully in Grange PPS she could also state that the reopening was successful and the reports very positive. EH thanked both parents for their feedback and will pass it on to staff.
6. **Teaching and Learning –**EH provided an update on theleaving cert alterations for 2020 and the progress on planning for TY in light of the Covid. DOC updated the Board on the alterations made to the JCT assessment for 2020-21. EH informed the Board that due to a very successful on line platform throughout the closure and very high levels of student engagement, we are in a positive position going into this year with exam classes.
7. **School Self Evaluation & School Improvement planning-**EH informed the Boardno new initiatives are required this year as a result of Covid. All SSE resources will be focused on the successful operation of the school with a very ley focus on wellbeing, including both student and teacher well-being. EH asked the Board to ensure they raise awareness of the importance of the ETB and the Department supporting teacher well-being given the very significant challenges they face this year. SK will raise the issue at ETB level and ask that they raise it with the Department.
8. **Financial Report-** EHinformed the Board that the PPE grant is already used up and we are now in a position where some PPE which has run out is being funded out of our school budget. Depending on the costs involved, this could lead to financial issues later in the year. DE asked to be informed immediately if this is the case, as sufficient funding should be coming from the Department and if that is not the case the issue must be raised with them. EH also informed the Board that there are also real issues arising with Health and Safety and Insurance in relation to servicing of machinery in engineering and construction, PAT testing of equipment etc. Funding for this is not being provided by the Department or the ETB and the school budget is not sufficient to cover these significant costs. If we do not comply we are voiding our insurance and if we do comply, it removes any budget being available for curriculum resources and school improvement projects. Policies at ETB and Department level specific a range of servicing etc. but no account taken of how these will be funded- this is unacceptable. All Board members concurred. SK will bring this up at ETB level.
9. **Building Application** update given by EH
10. **Student Council –** EH clarified that no live student council meetings can take place at present as it would involve mixing students from different Year groups, which is contrary to our Covid Policy. EH stated that it is the plan todevise an on line platform for student council meetings in the coming weeks.
11. **Parents Association –** FMcG informed the Board that it is not possible at present to hold parent association meetings at present. There is not currently an appointed chairperson as the AGM was to take place last year and was interrupted by Covid. FMcG has made on-going efforts to seek interest but no interest is being shown to date and this will be very challenging to organise in the current environment. The Board understand the current challenges and will address it at a later stage.
12. **Child Protection-** Clarity being sought on a current issue that may result in a referral- Board will be updated at the next meeting.
13. **Policy review-** Code of Behaviour discussed including an Appendix on Face coverings and behaviour from the Department. ROG proposed the plan and DG seconded. The Board voted unanimously in favour. Admissions Policy discussed. DG proposed the plan and ROG seconded. The Board voted unanimously in favour. Hands Off Policy discussed. SK proposed the plan and DE seconded. The Board voted unanimously in favour.
14. **Code of Behaviour-** - no suspensions sanctioned to date.
15. **Board Priorities for 2020-21-**  Discussion took place and the following three priorities have been agreed for 2020-21:
16. Support the Building project
17. Support the schools Covid Response
18. Health & Safety issues

 SK proposed the transfers into second year. DOC seconded. The Board voted unanimously in favour.

1. **A.O.B –** DG asked if any further progress had been made with the complex re renting use of additional space. EH clarified that the issue was now been looked at ETB level and no answer had been received to date.
2. **Date of Next Meeting-** mid/ end of November, date to be decided, giving a minimum week notice, at the discretion of the Chairperson and Principal.
3. **AGREED REPORT**
* The Board of Management wish all teachers, students and parents the very best for the year ahead.
* The Board are satisfied that every effort has been made by the school to protect and safeguard all students, teachers and staff in light of Covid 19.
* The Board ratified the Code of Behaviour including two Appendices from the Dept., the Admissions Policy and a Hands Off Policy.

**Draft minutes signed by :**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Chairperson) Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Secretary) Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**