**Agreed Report of Meeting of BOM 23/09/20**

1. Opening prayer/reflection

The meeting was opened with the prayer of Blessed Edmund Rice. Apologies were accepted from those who was unable to attend. CQ was welcomed to the board. She was elected by parents to take the place of COM who retired as a result of her son leaving the school. Carmel had been thanked for her contribution to the Board over the past

1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was proposed by CS and seconded by KK.

1. Minutes of previous meeting for adoption

The minutes were proposed by DK and seconded by CS.

1. Matters arising

There was nothing arising from the minutes so we decided to move on.

1. Correspondence

N/A

1. Policies

Admissions Policy: The Board have been given permission to sign off on the Admissions policy from the Trustees. The board ratified the policy subject to correction of a sentence relating to the mention of SVP newly coming to the school. TL pointed out that SVP has been in the school for many years.

SNA Policy: With the advent of an SNA to the school for the first time a policy relating to the work conditions and practises was examined by the Board. This was ratified without approval by parents and students as it was felt this policy is a contract between the SNA and the Board.

Health and Safety control of COVID Policy: JMB issued a draft policy on this matter earlier in the week. We decided to ratify the policy in it’s entirety in relation to our school

Mobile Phone Policy: Teachers felt that we needed to update our mobile phone policy to exclude the use of phones during the school day unless under teacher direction. The student’s council were in agreement with the desires of the teachers when asked their opinion. When the discussion was opened up to parents a small number of them were opposed to a blanket banning of phones during the school day. They believed that with the COVID restrictions the students have nothing to do during the day when on breaks. The board decided to reword the policy amendments to reflect these concerns and to redistribute it among teachers and students. MW undertook to redraft the policy and send it out to teachers and the student’s council. On 24/09/20 students discovered they could interrupt classes by playing music on the new (extremely expensive) technology.

1. Finance

Accounts were available for May, June and July. These only arrived just before the meeting so were not addressed in detail. The current account balance is relatively healthy. This healthy figure needs to be tempered with a note of cauton. This includes COVID 19 grants that will be needed for the development of our store room, and a cost of the new lighting system €23,000 and funds for COVID supervision and PPE.

The school received a “minor works” grant of circa €40,000 which has been used wisely to reduce the effects of COVID 19 on the school. The Board is grateful to the DES for this necessary funding.

The Board agreed to contribute €500 towards CPD training necessary for the continued development of SEN expertise in the school.

1. Principals report

OLCS report: There have been illnesses due to COVID testing so time has been lost. There are currently 3 teachers on approved leave. Another teacher retired last week. All this has led to a convoluted way of covering classes. We are extremely lucky to have acquired the services of four new teachers to cover our needs and also have an extremely proficient PME student who is allowed help out with substitution.

Staff matters: Three teachers applied for personal days which were granted subject to the teachers in question following the schools protocols.

Resignations and appointments: The school is going through huge personnel changes. Since the end of last year and up to the midterm break we have lost 4 teachers to retirement and a further three to career change. This is a huge drain of about one third of the total staff and includes the appointment of a new principal and deputy principal and almost half the middle management team. As stated above we have been extremely lucky to appoint four new teachers and hold onto some of our younger teachers on year two contracts.

Student disciplinary: COVID has brought up some issues. I have had to send two students home as a result of COVID breaches. I believe that more will need to sent home over the coming weeks to emphasise how committed the Board is to the health and safety of the members of the school community.

Open night: At this time of the year we are usually starting our launch of our Open Night process. This is very much up in the air at the moment, where we find ourselves at the mercy of the primary schools in trying to plan the best approach. Staff has begun work on preparing a different sequence of events.

Leaving certificate results: The leaving cert results were excellent and most students got the course they applied for or onto the apprenticeship they wanted.

# Prayer of Thanks for Blessed Edmund Rice

O God, we thank you for the life of Edmund Rice.
He opened his heart to Christ present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice.
May we follow his example of faith and generosity.
Grant us the courage and compassion of Edmund as we seek to live lives of love and service.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

1. Child protection
2. Principal’s oversight report: Nothing to report
3. Between now and the next meeting there will be a need to install a new DLP.
4. Anti-bullying report

The first year, Year Head is currently involved in helping her cohort settle into school. There is a degree of name calling, exclusion and general meanness that we are dealing with. Parents of all parties have been contacted.

1. Middle Leadership and Management

With the changes in staff the Board has commenced the selection process to appoint new AP 1 and AP 2 post holders. The process is at the stage where we plan to interview next Saturday. KK, MW and Kathryn O’Brien (independent chair) have been ratified to make up the selection panel.

There have been six applications for the posts on offer..

1. Buildings report

Our emergency works water tank has been completed.

We have been awarded funding circa for our universal access toilets. This is currently out to tender. I would hope to have movement on in the next couple of weeks. We have changed our thinking to reconfigure the inside of the building. This may lead to us being able to develop toilets for the girls who visit the school on a daily basis. It will have a knock on effect on our computer room and our indoor PE area.

As stated earlier we hope to be in a position to use our refurbished store are in the next three weeks.

PF is currently in the process of seeking grant aid from the Tipperary GAA in relation to our development of the astro turf pitch last autumn.

1. Ethos

We hope to have a school mass in the next couple of weeks. With the departure of Tracy from the school it is essential that the excellent work done on ethos is maintained and developed in the next few years.

1. Agreed report

It was agreed to publish the minutes of the meeting with some omissions as the agreed report.

1. Any other business

DK asked about the issue of student cars. This was a small problem last year but has not been a concern as of yet this year. It may become so as the students get a little older and can afford cars.

TL gave an update on the road development outside the school. He recently contacted the council and is awaiting a response.

With the large number of retirements/movements form the school TL opened up a discussion on the Board presenting the retirees with a token of our gratitude. The Board agreed to mark each person’s moving on with a token of our gratitude.

1. Date of next meeting

Thursday 5th November 2020.