



ST. LOUIS HIGH SCHOOL



Board of Management Meeting

Minutes

16-09-2024

Attendance: P Bourden; F Cunnane; E O'Dea; E Howard; J Bracken; G Convery; M Earwaker. C McDonough (Sec).

Apologies: K Sunderland.

Prayer and Reflection: The chair led the BoM in prayer and reflection to commence the meeting and mark the beginning of the academic year.

Minutes and matters arising:

The minutes of the 17-06-2024 were proposed by E O'Dea, seconded by E Howard and ratified by the BoM.

The minutes of the 27-06-2024 (1) were proposed by J Bracken, seconded by E O'Dea and ratified by the BoM.

The minutes of the 27-06-2024 (2) were proposed by G Convery, seconded by E Howard and ratified by the BoM.

The minutes of the 15-08-2024 were proposed by E Howard, seconded by E O'Dea and ratified by the BoM.

There were no matters arising.

Correspondence

The following staff members' applications for personal days were approved by the BoM:

Personal Days:

S Tyndall 22nd August 2024

A Doyle 5th September 2024

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Principal: Ms. Cliona McDonough Deputy Principal: Ms. Sinéad Thornton

J Sheahan 11th & 13th October 2024

C Maughan 27th September 2024

C McDonough 13th October 2024

- The Board was informed of the late resignations of Ms Grace Donnelly (Art) and Ms Helen Lawlor (Maths, Science and Biology). Both thanked the school for their positive experience in the school over many years. The Board wished them both every success and happiness in their new schools.
- The Board was presented with a letter from teacher, Ms H Begley, in relation to staffing arrangements for PE for the academic year '24-'25. The Board noted the letter and was satisfied that concerns raised had been addressed by senior management and that the matter is now resolved.

Financial Report

- The finance sub-committee met on Monday 16th September 2024. J Garry; E O'Dea; J Bracken and C McDonough met. N Mulcahy will be joining at the next meeting.
- The accounts up to 31-08-2024 were accepted by the BoM. Thanks was expressed to J Garry who prepared the accounts.
- The BoM discussed rising costs, deficit and outstanding payments due to the school.

Staffing Matters

- The Board was informed that school numbers have increased from 642 to 687 which has resulted in being in a position to employ some additional staff.
- The Board formally ratified the following teachers to their respective teaching positions:

Ms Gráinne Roe Delaney (Art) – increased enrolment

Mr Barry Ludlow (PE, Biology and Science) – increased enrolment

Mr Terry O'Doherty (Maths) – maternity leave cover

Ms Baneen Talpur (Science & Biology) – maternity leave cover

Ms Shauna Kelly (EAL) – sick leave cover

Additional hours have been divided up amongst some other teachers:

Ms A Kennedy (French) – 3 hours

Ms G Doyle (English) – 3 hours

Ms L Tynan (Geography & EAL) 8 hours

Ms R Ferguson (Maths, German) 5 hours

Ms AC Becque (French) 4 hours

- Middle Management – Ms Melanie Earwaker has been ratified and appointed to the Acting-Up AP1 position for the duration of a sick leave following an appeals period. There was no appeal.
- Interviews for the next set of Middle Management posts will be held the week of the 25th & 26th September 2024. Declan Mowlds (Independent chair) and Maura Mooney

(BOM nominee) will be on the interview panel along with C McDonough (Principal). These nominations were ratified by the BOM.

Child Protection

- The principal presented the CPOR report. There were no referrals made to Tusla since the last BoM meeting.
- The BoM reviewed and ratified the following Child Protection documentation:
 - The Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment
 - Notifications of the reviews were signed for both Le Chéile and the Parents' Council.

- The following policies and documents were presented and ratified by the BoM:
 - Trips and Outings Policy
 - Policy for External Speakers and Coaches
 - First Aid Policy
 - Critical Incident Policy

Anti-bullying Report

- The principal reported on a situation in 3rd Year whereby a physical altercation occurred between two students. The BoM was advised that following much investigation, that the student who instigated this physical altercation has received a two-day external suspension. The other student received an internal one-day suspension for her involvement. Tusla is also being asked to support in relation to one student. This dynamic will be monitored closely over the next while. Both year heads, principal and acting deputy principal are working with parents in relation to this complex matter.

Suspensions

- **One third year was suspended externally for 3 days for inappropriate online behaviour.**
- One third year students was suspended externally for 2 days for instigating a physical altercation.
- One third year students was suspended internally for 1 day for inappropriate online behaviour.

Building Matters

- The BoM was informed that we have continuing issues with drains and pipes in the newer part of the building. We have been advised that by installing external downpipes should rectify the issue.
- Waiting for quotation for these works from Rathgar Engineering.

- Have been advised that there are issues with the lighting on the internal corridor which we inherited from the St Louis sisters. Electricity has been cut off because wires are exposed in the roof due to leaks in the roof over the years. These works will be expensive.
- The Principal advised that we will probably need to prepare an emergency works application to the DES. She has consulted with Críostóir O'Raghallaigh (former consultant) who will advise as to what steps to make. The BoM agreed to pursue this with C O'Raghallaigh (architect).
- He advised that we should consult DeLap and Waller for the electrical engineering consultation and commission a report on these works.
- Tom Mitchell of Macadam is due in to check tarmac because there have been issues of the weeds emerging on the tarmac. They are going to take samples of core depth of tarmac. The retention fee will not be paid up by the school until this is sorted.
- Tree fell down – between back of the school and No 5 Grosvenor Rd. We liaised with the owner and then Sr Eithne Woulfe has got involved because the boundary wall there is Convent responsibility.
- Some painting done over the summer.
- Cleaning of the school was an issue and rising costs. New company IDS Facilities has been employed and is doing a very good job. However, costs are expensive.
- Solar Panels –

First company we proposed was rejected by the DES

Got secured three different quotes, however we are still waiting on the DES Photovoltaic scheme to let us know where we are in the process.

We have sent three emails at this point – they have come back to say they are very busy and will be in touch. There is no number to contact them.

- Sr Eithne Woulfe has provided a document to clarify the use and responsibility for our shared site with the convent. See document.
- The stage has been revamped and new lighting installed. The Haystack has also been painted and leaks dealt with. We look forward to some training in this regard.

Leaving Certificate Results for 2024

- Results were very good overall.
- Top result was 625. One student achieved this.
- Smaller cohort this year – 83 students.
- 14 students received over 550 points in the LC with one student receiving 625.
- 17% of the cohort got over 550
- 6 students over 500-550 7.2% of cohort
- 12 students got from 450-499 14.5% of cohort.
- Great success for students who found academics challenging. Many of them are moving on to PLC courses and were extremely happy. They have been well advised in Guidance and Counselling and all seem to be progressing on to the next stage of life. We wish them well and thank all their teachers for their input into their success.
- We invited them in on the day of the results – many of whom came in to meet with their teachers.

- After the results a call was made to each students' family congratulating them on their results and wishing them well.
- Debs was held on the 3rd Sept with a small reception in school. A lot of students and parents came into that and it was a lovely school community event.
- Most students got their 1st or 2nd choices on the CAO. See attached form
- The PDST/OIDE toolkit for 2024 is not available as yet to carry out the LC analysis vs the national norms.

Health and Safety

- Cleaning company making a massive difference.
- Locks will be put on the doors in the labs to ensure students do not enter without teachers present.
- H&S announcements over the intercom. – school entrance; cycling to school, hot drinks; etc.
- A H&S committee has been established this year to assist with the monitoring of H&S issues in school.

SSE and School Development Planning

- The BoM ratified policies re Child Protection and other policies earlier in the meeting.
- An SSE Committee will be working on various elements during the year with the hope that there will be some further policies coming down the line, led by the SSE co-ordinator.
- SSE committee will collate feedback from the OIDE day to inform our planning for the introduction of the new Senior Cycle.

Global Citizenship

- Four teaching staff members are booked into the **Take 1 programme** initiative which is being run by the DES. The CPD will be on the 15th October next.
- Energy monitors have been elected in each class as part of student leadership.
- We are driving a campaign for good recycling. Students were auditing bins today.
- Green Schools agenda on the table again.
- We will look to the Súil Eile initiative again marrying it with the Arts.

OLCS

The following have been paid through the OLCS system since the 23-08-2024

TERRY ODOHERTY

EMMA DOHERTY

CARRAGHER, CECELIA GERALDINE

UMULBANEEN TALPUR

SHAUNA KELLY

Agreed Report

The BOM confirmed the content of the agreed report.

AOB

P Bourden was thanked for her leadership as Chair of the BoM over the past four years. She was presented with a gift from the school to mark the end of her tenure as Chair of the BoM.

She spoke about the importance of Faith education in today's world and wished to recognise the vocational and dedicated work of those in religious orders who dedicated their lives to Irish education in a positive and meaningful way over many years. She wished this to be recorded whilst recognizing that Faith education is in a difficult space in light of the revelations from the scoping inquiry (September 2024).

Keith Sunderland was also thanked in his absence for his contribution to the BoM over the past four years as a parent representative.

Siobhán Corry will be the new Chair moving forward.

A new parent representative will have to be nominated by the parent body to join the BoM.

Date of Next Meeting

The BoM agreed to meet in early to mid-October once the 15th has passed. The date will be confirmed nearer the time.