

Board of Management Report June 2014

Introduction

St Laurence's National School is located in the centre of Sallins village. A look at the history section on the school website shows that along with the village the school has seen huge growth and expansion with respect to the size of the school itself, the numbers of children attending and the staff employed in the school.

Parents with young children in the school, like me, may not have fully realised or appreciated the work and level of expansion that has already occurred. That work continues today and is assisted by all parts of the school community.

St Laurence's National School is a progressive and innovative school. The improvements to the physical structure of the school can be appreciated by all when visiting the school. Since the current Board was established in 2012, one of the most satisfying parts of being a board member is also seeing how various initiatives to improve the learning experience of pupils in the school have been decided upon, developed and rolled out. This is an example of very important work that the school does but is not as obvious as improvements to the building.

The school relies on the policies and guidelines in place to help support and promote the best learning environment for pupils. Schools also need to be able to respond to any changes that may occur with respect to staffing, policies, and curriculum. The Board helps the school to do this.

School plays such an important role in the life of a child, it is important that parents and guardians understand how the school is managed. At a recent Board of Management meeting in May it was decided that the Board should write a short introductory report into the work of the Board for the benefit of parents and guardians of children attending the school.

For further information on policies of the school please check out the policies section on the school website sallinsns.scoilnet.ie

Páraic Walsh, Board Member

What does the Board do?

Each member of the Board performs their duties on a voluntary basis in accordance with the legislation and guidelines. The Board's main function is to manage the school on behalf of the patron and for the benefit of the students and to provide an appropriate education for each student at the school.

We play a key role in the decision making that is required and in providing support to the school community. Among other things:

- We must ensure that the school fulfils its functions as set out in the Education Act 1998.
- We have overall responsibility for the school's finances.

Who is on the Board?

There are eight members on a Board of Management. Each is a nominee of a particular group with an interest in the school. It is important to know that the members run the school together as a board and they do not represent the groups by whom they were nominated.

The members of your Board are:-

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| ▪ Mr Michael Francis | Chairperson |
| ▪ Fr. Kevin Walsh: | Patrons' Nominee |
| ▪ Ms Deirdre Foley: | Treasurer/Community Nominee |
| ▪ Mr Páraic Walsh | Community Nominee |
| ▪ Mr Noel Lanigan: | Principal/Secretary |
| ▪ Ms Íde Kelly: | Teachers' Nominee |
| ▪ Ms Colette Cahill: | Parents' Nominee |
| ▪ Mr Derek McConnon: | Parents' Nominee |

Each Board of Management serves a four year term. The current Board has served three of these so far.

What happens at a Board of Management meeting?

A Board of Management must meet at least once a term and at least five times in a school year. During the 2013-2014 year we have had eleven meetings so far. The Principal provides a report on the issues that need to be brought to the attention of the Board to make sure we are aware of them or if a decision is required.

What have we done?

One of the on-going functions of a Board is to review and update policies. This year we have reviewed the following policies:

- Enrolment;
- Assessment;
- Anti-Bullying;
- Child Protection;
- Sports

As part of our ongoing work to enhance and improve the school building and environment the Board has completed the following projects during the year:

- Signage outside the school
- A new LS/RT building
- Soft surface Infant yard*
- Canopy at reception*
- Re-development of the portakabin site to the side of the school

****These were co-funded with our Parents Council.***

We would like to thank staff, parents and pupils for their diligence, support and co-operation. May you all have a lovely summer break and we look forward to working with you in the 2014-2015 school year.