

Agreed Report from the meeting of the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Molaise

Date: 30th January 2025

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes were distributed and read by board members.

Correspondence

Requests for staff leave for the school year 2025/2026 were received and discussed. Details regarding staffing arrangements for the new school year will be shared with parents/guardians in term 3.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented an Account Summery Report up to the period ending 30th January 2025.

Principal's Report

Enrolment

- Number on roll (currently): 269 pupils
- A threshold of 258 pupils applies to retain the 11th mainstream teacher. A threshold of 284 pupils is required to gain the 12th mainstream class teacher.
- Enrolment Open Evening will be held on Tuesday 11th February from 5:30-6:30pm. A formal information evening for parents/guardians only will be held in June.
- We are accepting enrolment expression of interests from 1st February -1st March 2025.

Special Educational Needs:

- The previously postponed SNA review is expected to take place on 12th February. The SENO requires two days at a minimum to complete the review. The outcome will be shared with the school community once known.

Ethos:

- Catholic Schools Week took place from 19th-25th January. The theme this year was Alive in Christ. The Student Council led a reflective moment each morning and classes engaged in activities based on the theme. As it tradition in our school, 6th class will celebrate their grandparents with a mass and refreshments in the school hall. Date to be confirmed with Fr Christy in due course.
- Confirmation – Thursday, 1st May 2025
- First Holy Communion – Saturday, 10th May 2025

Child Protection & Anti-Bullying – were discussed.

- The Principal and another teacher attended training in the new Bí Cineálta Policy at Sligo Education Centre in recent weeks. This policy will replace the Anti-Bullying Policy in all schools from September 2025. As part of this new approach, there will be a short, poster-like, child-friendly, policy for pupils. All schools have been granted a half day closure to engage with the new materials and to establish a Bí Cineálta Policy for their school. We will take this time on Monday 10th March.

Curriculum

- **Maths Curriculum:** Teachers received training in the new Maths Curriculum on Monday, 20th January 2025. The facilitator was excellent. There is investment needed in basic classroom resources, especially at the senior end of the school.
- **Primary Language Curriculum:** Our school will receive sustained support (4 days support at a minimum) from an Oide facilitator on the Language Curriculum between now and June. We are part of the last cohort of schools to receive this support which was delayed for a number of reasons, including due to Covid. The school is entitled to a half day closure to allow staff to come together with the facilitator. This will be held on March 10th. On the other visits, the facilitator will meet with individuals/small groups to look at aspects of teaching and learning, planning, resources, the whole school plan etc. – depending on the needs identified by the staff.
- **SESE:** As part of their study of the local area, all classes will undertake a fieldtrip this term. 2nd class were in Barnaribbon recently, while 1st class will visit The Mill in Ballintrillick on 7th February.

Sporting Achievements & Extra Curricular Activities – were discussed.

Professional Development - School staff are engaging in professional development in a variety of areas this term, including Maths, the Primary Language Curriculum, Bí Cineálta, Irish Sign Language etc.

Parental Involvement

- The PA are funding the cost of the swimming lessons for 3rd & 4th classes this term: 72 children @ €4.50 per lesson for 6 weeks = €1944. The board extends its thanks to our Parents Association.
- Our thanks to grandparent, Tom Kennedy, for making a sensory table for the junior yard. The children will enjoy making all sorts of recipes and potions at lunchtime.

Special Items

A request from the SENO to open a Special Class

- A request from the SENO to open a special class for September 2025, was approved by the board. Considerable planning and upgrades to a classroom, sensory room and yard facilities will be necessary in the coming months. The board acknowledged and welcomed the enthusiastic, embracing position of staff toward the opening of the special class. The opening of a special class will enrich our school community.

School Extension

- It is anticipated that this project will be brought to a close in the coming weeks.

Internet Safety Talks

- It was agreed that the Board of Management would cover the costs of inviting a speaker, Jeremy Pagent (Lurtel), into the school to work with 3rd-6th classes and to deliver a presentation to parents/guardians via a webinar on the same evening.
- There will be a huge advertisement campaign on the part of the school to encourage parents/guardians to participate.

Policy Review

- The following policies were reviewed by the board:
 - Homework Policy
 - Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy
 - Policy on the Hire and Use of the School Premises & Grounds

The Board of Management extends its deepest sympathy to Seamus Connolly and family, on the recent passing of his mother, Maureen Connolly. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.