



## Agreed Report of the Board of Management 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022

### *‘Living Our Ethos’*

Mrs. Miriam Brickley outlined that the following Sacramental celebrations took place in St. Brigid’s Church, Shanahoe since the last meeting of the Board of Management (7<sup>th</sup> March 2022):

- First Penance for 2<sup>nd</sup> class on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022;
- Service of Light for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022;
- Confirmation for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022;
- First Holy Communion for 2<sup>nd</sup> class on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022:

The Board of Management expressed its thanks to Mrs. Brickley & Mr. Whelan for preparing the pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes to receive the Sacraments this year, and to our Parish Priest and Board Member Fr. Paddy Byrne for celebrating these Sacraments with the pupils.

### **Financial Position**

The school’s current financial position was outlined by Treasurer of the Board of Management Mrs. Agnes Kerwin and Chairperson Mr. Michéal Delaney.

### **Change of School Opening & Closing Times**

Following on from consultation with different stakeholder groups and the issuing of a survey as part of the consultation process, the Board of Management approved and ratified the proposed changes to school opening and closing times, with effect from the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The new arrangements that were ratified by the Board of Management of the school are as follows:

- The school will open to receive pupils at **8:50a.m** each morning. Pupils will go directly to their classrooms on arrival at the school at 8:50a.m. **(Pupils cannot enter the school grounds before 8:50 a.m on any morning, as they will not be supervised or covered by insurance prior to this time);**

- Formal instruction will commence at **9a.m sharp**;

Pupils in the **Infant Classes will be released at 1:40p.m daily** and **pupils in 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will be released at 2:40p.m daily.**

### **Principal's Report**

The Principal's report to the Board of Management was given by Mr. Barry Whelan.

Headings on the Principal's Report included:

#### Child Safeguarding:

- The Board of Management attended Child Safeguarding Training which was facilitated by Seán O'Caseide from '*Stay Safe Services*' in Cherry Orchard on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022;
- All staff (teachers and SNAS) viewed and engaged with the webinar entitled '*Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017: E-Learning Programme for All School Personnel*', as part of Croke Park Hours on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022;
- The '*Stay Safe*' programme was taught in its entirety in all classes across the school in term 2 and into term 3, in certain instances;

#### Anti-Bullying:

- The school's Anti-Bullying procedures and protocols were discussed.

#### Critical Incident Management Plan

- Michéal Delaney, Barry Whelan and Kris Cahill attended training on Critical Incidents and on developing a '*Critical Incident Management Plan*' with the school's NEPS psychologist Dr. Eilís Wallace-Chisholm in March. Since then Kris Cahill and Barry Whelan have worked on the development of the school's '*Critical Incident Management Plan*' which is now ready for ratification.

#### Active Schools

- Miriam Brickley has commenced in earnest the process of renewing the school's Active Flag tatus. Different activities and events that have/are being organised by Mrs. Brickley include the '*Run Around Ireland Challenge*', '*Funky Friday*' and '*Playground Leaders*'. She is also in the process of re-organising the school's active walkway and planning for an '*Active School's Week*' in the week following the June Bank Holiday weekend.

### Discover Primary Science and Maths Award

- Notification was received on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to say that the school has received its Discover Primary Science and Maths award for the school year 2021-2022, following submission of our '*Log of Evidence*'.

### Blue Star Programme

- The school received notification last week that they will be awarded a '*Blue Star*' award and a European flag for their participation in the '*Blue Star*' programme on the E.U this year.

### Reader's Theatre Project:

The Readers' Theatre project '*Create What You Read: Using Reader's Theatre as the Cornerstone for Cross School Collaboration,*' based on Irish myths and legends, that 1st and 2nd class & 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class worked on after Christmas, in collaboration with Holy Family Junior School in Portlaoise and Scoil Bhríde in Knockmay in conjunction with Laois Education Centre, has been chosen out of 52 schools nationwide for a Teaching Council Researchers in Residency Scheme. As a result, the participating schools will be awarded a bursary of €2,000 together with a third level lecturer supporting us in the next academic year to further develop the project.

### Shanahoe Schools Collection

- Work on the Shanahoe School's Collection is nearing completion. Final editing works are now being undertaken and printing and publication options are being considered. It is hoped to have an official launch of the collection in September/October. The Board of Management expressed its thanks to all members of the school and wider community for their interest in and involvement with the project/collection.

### Scholastic Book Fair

- As a result of sales from the book fair, we have €450. to spend on books for our class libraries.

### Standardised Tests

- Standardised Tests in English Reading (Micra-T) and Maths (Sigma-T) are currently taking place in the school. Aggregated results will be reported to the Board of Management at its next meeting.

### Maintenance Works:

The following maintenance works were completed over the Easter Holidays:

- Installation of an electronic opening system on the elevated windows in the senior room. The original wrought iron system had ceased to function. The cost of the system was €2,939. (less installation);
- Installation of a keypad/ 'maglock' on the old front door;
- Upgrade of the CCTV system to include cameras at the rear of the school;
- Repair and reactivation of the sensor lights at the front of the school;
- Installation of a new LED central light fitting in the computer room;
- Stripping and cleaning of the floor in the girls' toilets in the original school building;
- Replastering and bonding of the ceiling in the staff toilet (Many thanks to our Chairperson Micheál Delaney for overseeing this work);
- Painting of the staff toilet;
- Painting of the old ploughs at the front of the school;
- Repainting of an area of the wall at the rear of the school;
- Repair to the basketball net and sandbox following damage;
- Upgrade of the school's CCTV and alarm systems;
- Installation of new hand towel dispensers across the school, that use fully recyclable/biodegradable hand towels which meets our green agenda very well.

### Outstanding Works:

- The Sensory Room will be installed in the very near future;
- The ground works have been completed for a soft surface play area which will be installed at the rear of the school by '*Backyard Adventures*' from Naas in Co. Kildare, in the coming weeks;
- An '*Additional Accommodation Grant Application*' for adaptations and modifications to the current Junior Room, which will become the ASD classroom in the Autumn, have been lodged with and received by the Buildings Section of the Department of Education in Tullamore, and the tendering process for the works is now in progress. It is hoped that works will be ready to commence as soon as the school closes for the Summer months.

### **Curricular Policy**

The Whole School Plan for History was ratified by the Board of Management. The plan places significant emphasis on Local History elements to capitalise on

the very rich historical basis in the Shanahoe area. In addition to this, it includes a three year cycle to reflect our multi-grade context and to ensure continuity and progression in teaching & learning in History as a subject area. The plan can be viewed and downloaded from the school website at

<https://shanahoens.weebly.com/history-planpolicy.html>

### **Organisational and Administrative Policies**

The following Organisational and Administrative Policies were ratified by the Board of Management of the school:

1. Intimate Care and Toileting Policy;
2. Critical Incident Management Plan.

The '*Intimate Care and Toileting Policy*' can be viewed and downloaded from the school website <https://shanahoens.weebly.com/intimate-care-and-toileting-policy.html>, as can the '*Critical Incident Management Plan*'

<https://shanahoens.weebly.com/critical-incident-manangement-plan.html>

### **Correspondence**

Chairperson of the Board of Management Micheál Delaney read one item of correspondence to the Board, namely a letter from Teacher Nominee on the Board of Management and Deputy Principal of the school Mrs. Miriam Brickley, announcing her intention to retire from her teaching position in the school after 39 years, with effect from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. All members of the Board of Management were unanimous in expressing their deep regret at receiving this news and expressed their sincerest thanks to Mrs. Brickley for her immense professionalism and unwavering commitment to Scoil Fionntáin Naofa since 1983.

### **Date of the Next Meeting of the Board of Management**

The date of the next meeting of the Board of Management of the school is to be decided in due course.

ENDS