

**Board of Management Agreed Report 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**

The Board welcomed Samantha Rice and congratulated her on her appointment as Deputy Principal. Condolences were also extended to Philomena Calnan, SNA, on the death of her father.

The Board discussed a communication received by Cork Special Schools Principals from Minister Rabbitte's office outlining the progress on reinstating health and social supports in special schools and the commitment to provide support on site. The HSE is involved in discussions with worker representative organisations on this.

The Board also acknowledged communication from Cork Parents Unite, an advocacy group formed by parents of children in the school which is committed to better outcomes and improved services for children enrolled in our school, and to addressing the inequitable access to supports that families have encountered.

The programme of staff professional development has continued, with staff receiving two days training with therapists from the National Council for Special Education, curriculum planning training with Junior Cycle for Teachers, language curriculum training with the Professional Development Service for Teachers and Manual handling training for SNAs and ancillary staff.

The Board also noted adjustments made to ensuring the safety of the premises, with some minor works being done on site by our caretaker, Liam O'Brien. Families have been very supportive in adapting to the new arrangements with the gates.

The school has been working closely with its NEPS psychologist on supporting individual students and in assisting the school with Critical Incident Management.

There was also welcome news that the school has been successful in its application for the Community Dog programme with the Irish Guide Dogs and hopes to welcome a new canine member of staff in the new year.