

Board of Management Agreed Report 25th April 2022

Two community nominees were welcomed in joining the Board. These are Finn Ó Murchú. Head of School Post Primary, MIC Thurles; former Inspector for Special Education and Peter Collins, Proprietor, Carrigaline Court Hotel & Barry's of Douglas, both of whom bring a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience to the school.

The Board congratulated Brian Cahill, SNA, on his engagement. The school is sad to see the departure of Brian Haughey, Caretaker, who was thanked for his contribution to the running of the school and will be fondly missed. Muireann Lynch, SNA, was commended for her efforts in managing an incident on Carr's Hill while escorting students.

The School Self Evaluation Process is underway, and staff are reflecting on teaching and learning as the initial stage of devising the school plan. The Board welcomed the publication of Autism: Good Practice Guidance for Schools Supporting Children and Young People. This document will be a very useful guide in the future for evaluating the quality of education provided.

The school's first inspection report has been published on Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling and reflected favourably on the staff's efforts to provide a safe environment during the pandemic.

The Board finalised the admissions process for 2022-23 and is looking forward to welcoming 16 new students in September. Work is underway to start the transition of these students. The recruitment of additional staff is underway.

Some residual building works remain to be completed. Additional furniture is being sourced and it is hoped to have the sensory room fully equipped before the summer.

The Board welcomes the establishment of the Parents' Association which will provide a structure for parents/guardians in the school to work together for the best possible education for their children.

The school has begun to establish links with local partners invested in special education and looks forward to working with UCC in the future.

Professional development and support for staff is planned and will involve NCSE, JCT, CPI and NEPS over the coming months.

The Board noted with interest the impact of disability services on families and recent media reports on the matter and will follow developments closely over the coming weeks.