

Esker Educate Together Board of Management Minutes 7th December 2017

Venue	Esker ETNS
Date of Meeting	07/12/2017
Minutes taken by	Marie
Present	Peggy, Colette, Sandra, Jacky, Zedd, Marie
Apologies	Catherine, Virginia
Time meeting opened	7.30
Time meeting closed	9.00

Issue	Decision/Action	By
Minutes of previous meeting	Minutes proposed, adopted and signed. Proposed by Marie Seconded by Sandra	
Matters arising	Paula Murphy would like to thank the board for money she has received. Sherpa kids has taken off and there are now two members of staff on duty. The children discussed under Child Protection and Bullying report at last are being carefully monitored and receiving a lot of support.	
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board has received a letter from NCES requesting the board to consider taking on an autism unit which would involve the building of additional accommodation. The board agreed to consider a unit for children with severe language impairments and is open to discussing it further with NCES. • PDST is running a 2nd full day of language training on the 12th of March 2018 during which the school will be closed. Parents will 	

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	be notified.	
Garda Vetting Policy and Retrospective vetting	<p>There is a change to garda vetting which is retrospective. All staff and parents working with children have to be revetted if this has not been done in the past two years Educate Together sent out a generic policy which we ratified.</p> <p>Proposed by Zedd and seconded by Jackey.</p>	Colette/Gemma
Report on President's visit to the school	<p>The visit was very successful. Evan took a video. The Board was very complimentary. There has been a lot of positive feedback. The President was a delight and really enjoyed the event. He really wanted to be with the children. He said, 'this is very encouraging for Ireland'. The event was well prepared, and the school looked stunning inside and out. There was happy atmosphere and the food was great.</p>	
Yard Improvement project	<p>The yard is small. Behind the yard is big piece of land. The staff are asking the board to consider a project to extend the big yard or create a 3rd yard. We received a minor works grant in of about 12k. There was a suggestion that it would come under this. Peggy will find out more about what's involved. The Board agreed in principle. The staff are to be asked for their opinion about what would make it easier to manage and more enjoyable for the kids. The staff are also prepared to help with the funding by running a fund raiser. There might be an issue of planning permission. It would have to go to tender. It was agreed that Peggy will get a few names of playground firms.</p>	Peggy
Staffing, leave and substitute leave	<p>Mentioned in the Principal's report. See Principal's report for staffing issues.</p>	
SNA Croke Park Hours	<p>Teachers do 36 Croke Park hours – as part of a group. These have to be minuted. SNAs have to do 72 hours. They can do them on their own. They must be documented. Colette and Gemma met Esker's SNAs. Colette contacted Educate Together. Educate Together say they have to do them. If we have whole school evaluation we have to show the hours have been completed. Colette is doing up a template with Gemma and Gemma will record the</p>	Colette/Gemma

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	hours. The board agreed the 72 hours commitment is policy (as is the 36 hours for teachers) in line with Educate Together and the Department.	
Numbers/Enrolment/Staffing 2018-2019	18 places have been accepted under the old enrolment policy. 48 places have been offered under the new policy. We can take 56. There are 21 pre-enrolments up the school. See attached.	Colette
Finance Report	See attached. It was agreed we need to keep track of the grants we have received over the years and examine what we've spent them on. There are strict guidelines in place regarding this. Sandra is in a discussion group with other school treasurers and find this helpful. Educate Together will likely provide training in FSSU. Sandra will check if we have received the school completion grant.	Colette/Sandra
Child Protection/Anti bullying reports	There were no anti – bullying reports. Re child protection, one issue was reported and is being followed up by Gemma.	Colette/Gemma
3-day suspension	One child was suspended for three days. This is the school's third suspension in 10 years. The child and parent have a meeting with Colette next week. They must sign the code of behavior.	Colette/Peggy
Principal's report	See attached. The board expressed congratulations to the PTA on the recent award it received for its magnificent garden.	Colette
The appointment of deputy Principal	There were 3 candidates, all very impressive. The independent assessor was very impressed. Gemma was deemed to be successful.	
	Jacky offered to come in and look at the camera at the sculpture.	Jacky
Date of next meeting	A short meeting will be required to ratify appointments. Interviews are to be held next week. The next Board meeting will be in January/February 2018.	Colette/Peggy

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