

Annual Report on the work of the Board of Management of Ballyfacey N.S. 2021-2022

Introduction:

The current Board of Management of Ballyfacey N.S. is in year three of a four year term which began at the end of November 2019. The Board manage the school on behalf of the patron and is accountable to him and the Minister for Education. The Board must uphold the ethos of the school. The Principal is responsible for the daily management of the school, including staff management and in turn is accountable to the Board.

The Board has eight members: two members from the patron, two community representatives and two parent nominees. The Principal has a place on the Board along with one teacher nominee.

The Board is responsible for the efficient use of funds, having the building equipped and in good order and repair. It arranges the employment of teaching and ancillary staff. It is involved in and responsible for school planning, delivery of the curriculum, school policies, health and safety issues and child safeguarding.

The Board met on regular occasions during the school year 2021-22. All members made frequent and important contributions which have helped the Board to carry out work smoothly.

A report on how the school is meeting its child safeguarding obligations was made by the Principal at each Board meeting as per Department of Education Guidelines.

A comprehensive Treasurer's report was given at all meetings and every effort is made to use our financial resources wisely and for the best benefit of the pupils and curriculum delivery.

The current members of the Board of Management are:

Fr. O' Toole P.P. - Chairperson

Tommie O' Gorman - Principal/ Board Secretary

Ciara Spencer – Teachers' Nominee

Margaret Boyle - Parents' Nominee

Enda Keogh - Parents' Nominee

Geraldine Roche - Patron's Nominee and Treasurer

Frankie Kirwan - Community Nominee

Mary O' Connor - Community Nominee

Issues dealt with:

1. Child Safeguarding including Garda Vetting requirements.
2. Covid 19 return to school protocols, policy, risk assessment and monitoring of same throughout the school year. Policies were adjusted at times in line with public health advice as well as directives from the Department of Education.
3. School extension oversight – snaglists, completion of project.
4. Enrolment of new pupils.
5. School Security and key holding.
6. Health and Safety issues including all matters relating to maintenance and repairs included replacement of school water pump.
7. First Aid Refresher Training for teaching staff.
8. Revision of curricular plans and curricular development.
9. Policy creation and review.

10. Facilitation of three whole-staff Language Curriculum In-service sessions.
11. Literacy and Numeracy development and standardised testing assessment.
12. Staffing arrangements and appointments.
13. School Insurance and 24 hr Pupil Insurance.
14. Quarterly Fire Alarm Inspections.
15. Transition Year student placement facilitation.
16. Organisation of Swimming lessons for 2nd - 6th Class and subsidising of cost.
17. Facilitation of Nasal Flu Vaccine administration for pupils through the school for families who wished to avail of the service.
18. Purchase of Air Filtration Units.
19. Group and Sibling photos taken through County Photos.
20. Attendance and Tusla reporting.
21. School Tours for all classes organised for the first time since the school year 2018-2019.
22. Organisation of power washing and painting of all external walls of school premises in July 2022.
23. Approval of resurfacing work to resurface existing basketball court as well as cover an additional area to provide more tarmac play area for the winter months – work to be carried out in July 2022.
24. IT Resources and advances – purchase of a suite of 21 tablets and a charging trolley using ICT Grant funding.
25. School finances and financial planning including transfer of school accounts to Patron and Financial Support Services Unit of Dept. of Education.
26. School Calendars of events and holidays.
27. Managing unexpected school closures due to storms and organising to make up these days by the end of the school year.
28. Internet Safety and Cyber bullying workshop for older classes.
29. Facilitation of return to interschool activities for school hurling and camogie teams in spring 2022.
30. School Reports including mid-year reports in lieu of Parent-teacher meetings due to Covid 19 public health advice.
31. Relevant Contracts Tax and ROS online revenue payments system.
32. Energy Saving measures - SEAI monitoring annual report given.
33. Training of Ancillary staff – including for use of the school's new Aladdin administration system.
34. October returns to Department of Education for capitation grant purposes.
35. Purchase of furniture and school equipment.
36. Organisation of open afternoon for extended family members of the school community to see the new extension to the school at the end of the school year.

The Board had in place a huge number of protocols and procedures prior to the beginning of the new school which included increased cleaning hours and supplies, including chlorination of the school water supply.

As with the previous two years, the school year 2021-22 was heavily impacted by Covid-19 – mainly due to Covid-related absences as opposed to school closures as had been the case in 2020 and 2021. The Board wishes to thank all families for their support and due diligence in relation to Covid-19 guidance and monitoring of symptoms. The whole school community embraced the attitude of everyone being in this together and it is through this shared attitude that the school managed to operate as effectively as could be hoped for during the pandemic.

The pupils are thanked for their learning efforts and their co-operation with fellow pupils and staff alike.

The Board also extend their gratitude to the Parents' Association who year-on-year, carry out great work for the benefit of the school. This year has been another difficult one for our Parents' Association in terms of what they could do but please God the new school year will bring with it new opportunities. Despite the

pandemic, the Parents' Association managed to hold a fantastic Christmas raffle which helped raise valuable funds. The Board approved the use of these funds for a Santa visit, outdoor play kitchens and a four week drumming programme in June 2022.

The Board wishes the pupils who have left for secondary school every blessing for their futures. Five families are ending their longstanding ties to the school with their youngest child finishing 6th Class and we thank those families for their strong support of the school over the years.

Ballyfacey N.S. Board of Management is happy to serve the school and wider community and promises to continue to work hard to meet its obligations and stay always within its remit, supporting the children through offering a safe learning environment and effective staff. The Board welcomes the support it receives from the parent body and hope that this account gives an understanding of the role it has and the amount of work it does.

Signed: Fr Thomas O' Toole
Chairperson, BOM

Date: 22nd June 2022