



St. Columba's College, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal.

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Board of Management

Agreed Report of Meeting of 7th May, 2025

1. Prayer

The meeting opened with a prayer.

2. Minutes

The minute of the 12th March, 2025 were read and approved.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Correspondence

4.1 Recent Department circulars were listed to the Board.

4.2 Letter from CEIST acknowledging minutes received from Board of Management meeting on 5th February 2025 and FSC report to end of March 2025

4.3 Two applications for maternity leave were received

4.4 A letter was read informing the Board that Mr. Jarlath Donnellan will be retiring from his teaching position from 1st September, 2025. The Board wishes to take this opportunity to thank Mr Donnellan for his significant contribution to education at St. Columba's College and wished him well for the future.

5. Ratification of Policies

5.1 **Bi Cinealta – Anti Bullying Policy** – the Board reviewed the policy and were happy to ratify same.

5.2 **School Book Policy** – the Board reviewed the policy and were happy to ratify same.

6. Finance

A finance meeting took place prior to the board meeting. The board were informed that the budgets are on line to date. The forward budget was presented to the Board for the 2025/2026 school year.

7. Staffing 2025/2026

7.1 The updated teacher allocation was received on 29th April.

7.2 Recruitment for staff for 2025/26 school year is ongoing

7.3 A number of teaching appointments were ratified by the Board

8. Ongoing Plant Development and Maintenance

8.1 Major Building Project

The architect published on eTenders the notice and the tender documents on 26th March on the eTender . The tender deadline was 30th April 2025. However, due to the complexity of the project and the Easter break, an extension was requested by the tenderers. The deadline was extended to 14th May 2025.

The Design Team has requested tenders on the eTenders platform from the M&E Reserved Specialists Monday 28th April. The return date for submission of tenders is set for Monday 2nd of June 2025.

8.2 Ongoing Maintenance

- Quotes were sought to install seven further security cameras
- A health and safety audit/visit from Allianz took place on Friday 21st March
- A tender request was published on eTenders on 14th April for the replacement of some of the woodwork/engineering equipment due to health and safety concerns.

9. Leadership and Management Biennial Review

Following consultation with the staff and working group a comprehensive list of 'Needs and Priorities' were presented to the Board. The Board were happy to ratify same.

10. Bullying Issues

10.1 Bullying Issues

There are no bullying issues to report.

10.2 Meeting with Staff from the School Completion Programme

A number of students continue to be supported by the project Workers in the School Completion Programme. The EWO and school management had meetings with parents recently regarding ongoing attendance issues.

10.3 Saturday Detention

Saturday Detentions took place on 5th April 2025 for those who have persistently arrive late to school/class without parental consent. The last Saturday detention takes place this Saturday 10th May.

10.4 Discipline Issues

Suspensions were listed and approved by the Board

11. Child Protection Issues

The Principal presented the CPOR to the Board.

12. Principals Report including Teaching and Learning

12.1 Teaching and Learning

- **Mock Exams:**
- **Junior Cycle Profile of Achievements**
CBA's, SLAR Meetings and Junior Cycle Profile of Achievements 2025
- **Leaving Certificate Oral Examinations 2025.**
- **State Exam Practicals, Coursework and other Assessments**
- **Seachtain na Gaeilge**
- **Evening Study:**

12.2 Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities

The Principal listed some of the curricular activities which have taken place since the last Board meeting:

- **5th Year Retreats**
- **Aspire Programme**
- **Bank of Ireland Money Smarts QuizCareer**
- **Guidance events**
- **European Studies.**
- **European Mock Council Debate**
- **County Enterprise Competition**
- **Network for Teaching Enterprise Competition (NFTE)**
- **International Pi Day**
- **Mock United Nations Council**
- **Junior Cycle Schools Programme (JCSP)**
- **Columban Missionaries Competition**
- **TY Activities**

12.3 Extra-curricular Activities

Thanks to the staff members who give so much of their time to facilitate these activities for the students. Some of the extra-curricular activities since our last board meeting on 20th March include:

- **Athletics**
- **Soccer**
- **Rugby**
- **Gaelic Football:**
 - **Hurling and Camogie**
 - **Darts**
 - **Chess**
 - **Golf**

12.4 Post of Responsibility Allocation and Post Reviews

The DES has announced an increase in the number of Assistant Principal posts for post primary schools for the 2025-26 school year. Next year the college will have 9 AP I's, 11 AP II's (an increase of one) and a Programme Coordinator (outside the schedule of posts).

Post vacancies will be advertised at the beginning of the next school year after the completion of the review of roles and responsibilities.

12.5 Student Leadership Events

12.6 Fundraising/Charity Events:

- **'Lá Glas':**
- **Daffodil day 2025**
- **Golf Classic**
- **Charity work in Uganda**
- **Darkness into Light**

12.7 Parents Council

The Parents Council continued to meet on a regular basis since the last board meeting. They organised an Easter 50/50 Draw which raised €7100 in total. The winner collected a cheque for €3550 after the draw on Friday 11th April. The last meeting took place on Monday 28th April. A number of issues were discussed including our School Book Scheme and end of year activities.

12.8 Proposed Calendar for 2025-2026

The Board were happy to ratify the calendar.

12.7 Upcoming Events

- Prize-giving on Thursday 15th – the Chairperson has been invited to represent the Board
- TY 'Strictly Come Dancing' will take place in Jackson's Hotel on Friday night 16th May
- LC Mass on Tuesday 20th May – Invitation to the Board
- TY Awards Night on Wednesday 21st May
- End of term exams begin on Friday, 3rd May. (all reports in by Friday 13th June)
- The term finishes at 1pm on Friday 30th May. Rooms then need to be set up for the State Exams.
- State Examinations start on Wednesday 5th June
- LC Results will issue on Friday 22nd August 2025

13. Staff Issues – OLCS Claims

A list of staff paid through our On-Line Claim System was outlined to the Board.

14. A.O.B.

The Meeting concluded with the preparation of the Agreed Report.