

## **Portmarnock Community School**

### **Board of Management 2007-2010**

#### **Significant Achievements:**

Over the last three years the Board of Management has built on the significant achievements of the previous one. Still being guided by the work done by Noel Canavan, of the Marino Institute, and subsequent planning meetings involving staff in consultation with parents and students, the Board has worked on developing policies, overseeing improvements to the physical fabric of the school, supporting initiatives in teaching and learning in conjunction with extending the curriculum.

#### **Policies.**

During its lifetime the Board has seen the ratification and implementation of the following policies.

- Guidance
- Pastoral Care
- School tours

A policy relating to Special Needs was drafted however, it did not proceed to ratification due to uncertainty created by the DES decision not to commence the relevant legislation. The draft policy does guide staff in their approach in this area. Work on an Extra-curricular policy was started and will hopefully see completion in the near future. Due to a requirement on the part of the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) and our own stipulation, a review of our Code of Behaviour was undertaken. As a result of

circumstances, outside the control of the Board, completion of this review was delayed however, we anticipate completion by December 2010.

### **School Buildings**

The Board continued to engage with the DES Summer Works programme so as to enable the school to provide the best conditions for teachers and students. In keeping with this one of the school's Home Economics rooms was refurbished.

In addition, with funds raised by the Parents Association, the Assembly Hall was wired to help facilitate the staging of theatrical productions. The stage/room C2 was painted and the floor varnished. In addition data projectors and screens were installed to enhance the delivery of talks to students and parents.

The Board continues to oversee a renewal of the school building by providing improvements, on an ongoing basis, through its maintenance programme.

The Board engages with requirements such as reducing our carbon footprint through such works as replacing the school's sports hall lighting with a more energy efficient system.

The Board continues to implement its desire to provide a holistic education for the students in its care and is still pursuing its plans to provide extra PE and Drams /Music facilities. Architects have been consulted and while the first estimates for such a project were coming in at €11 million, they have dropped considerably lower to €3 million in recent months. The Board continues to consult with its advisers, with a view to reducing the cost even lower, with the intention of launching this project in the not too distant future.

## **Curriculum**

Recognising the importance of learning a language the Board introduced Spanish as a subject. Uptake of this subject has been very with numbers of students studying French and German remaining healthy. Despite the recent cutbacks in the education sector the school has managed to maintain the level of subject choice at pre cutback levels.

## **E-learning**

Thanks to the efforts of several teachers, and to one in particular, Mr D O'Mahony, e-learning in Portmarnock Community School is at a very advanced stage. The Moodle project has expanded to encompass many teachers. It has led to a very healthy debate in terms of teaching and learning. From this initiative developments have taken place in *blogging, podcasting* and *digital animation*. The Board of Management has always been very supportive of these initiatives and has always been willing to provide the necessary finance to support them and will continue to do so.

## **Extra-curricular activities.**

The Board continues to support his area. The school has been able to maintain the wide variety of choice, for our students, in this area and the Board recognises the significant contribution of staff to this. In addition to the introduction of the musical, which has been a tremendous success, the school has seen the start of a Chamber Orchestra.

## **Social Justice**

The Board has seen the development of the South African Project go from strength to strength. It will continue to support it in the coming years and looks forward to the school becoming involved in the Lesotho project as the five year commitment to Friends in Ireland comes to an end.

## **The Future.**

### **School Buildings.**

The Board wishes to improve the physical environment further by seeking funding from the DES to construct a connection between the main building and the K building. This construction will help reduce the energy costs for the school.

### **Policies.**

Completion of the review of the Code of Behaviour is a priority for the new Board. It will also see the completion of an Extra-curricular policy.

### **School Planning.**

The new Board will oversee the production of a new prospectus for the school. In the year 2011/12 an evaluation of where the school stands, based on the ethos/culture review conducted by Noel Canavan, should be considered.