St. Finnachta's National School,
Sixmilebridge,
Co. Clare

Scoil Naomh Finnachta,
Droichead Abhann Uí gCearnaigh,
Co. an Chláir

Board of Management Meeting

04.02.2025

Agreed Report.

1. The Admission Statement has been published on the school website and the closing date for applications is 15th March.

2. The school has extended the lease of the adjoining green space from Clare County Council for a three-year period.

3. The school have awarded the contract for Managed Print Services to Copymoore with new measures to help reduce photocopying and printing costs.

4. The Board adopted the report of the Finance Sub Committee. The Annual Accounts 2023/ 24 were approved from submission to the FSSU having been certified by the school's accountant. The Board expressed concern about the inadequate funding to met the basis day-to-day costs of running the school. The factors contributing to this deficit include: increased running costs, reduction in Department of Education grants, once-off financial adjustment to align the payment of the ancillary services grant to the relevant school year.

5. The Board is awaiting a response from the Department of Education's Building Unit in relation to the completion of the Final Account in respect of the New School Building Project.

6. It was decided to proceed with additional fundraising events including with the Golf Classic on 9th May and 'The Chaser' event on 27th November.

7. The school's support of the local St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal was noted.

8. The principal presented the Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR).

9. The Board noted that the Health & Safety Committee is progressing with the rolling cycle of risk assessments.

10. The appointment of an Assistant Principal as Ethos Co-ordinator was noted.

11. The Board considered applications from teachers for leave in 2025/ 26.

12. There was a discussion about the updated Parental Complaints Procedure. Parents will be advised to refer to the procedure on the school website.

13. There have been further expressions of interest in relation to the use of the school's facilities by third parties. The Board approved these, subject to the approval of the trustees and Patron's office.

14. Staff training in relation to the newly published Guidelines on Understanding Behaviours of Concern & Responding to Crisis Situations will be sought.

15. The Children's Council has identified four priority areas for development: Wellbeing Promotion; Homework; Extra-Curricular Activities; and Break/ Lunch Activities.

16. As part of the redevelopment of the Primary School Curriculum, the NCCA has published: Report on the consultation on the Draft Primary Curriculum Specifications; and Consultation with Children on the Draft Primary Curriculum Specifications

17. The Poker Classic was held on 31st January organised by Pat and Monica Keane. The proceeds are to be split between Sixmilebridge NS and St. Caimin's Secondary School.
    Jane Quinn organised Woody's Fundraiser which was jointly in aid of My Canine Companion: Autism & Therapy Services and the school.

18. There were 5 exceptional closures in January 2025 due to adverse weather conditions. These were Monday 6th – Thursday 9th January (inclusive (snow & ice) and Friday 24th January (Storm Eowyn/ Red Warning). Measures were agreed to ensure the completion of the curriculum before the end of the year.
    The recruitment of three Assistant Principals is underway in accordance with Circular 44/ 2019.

19. The school continues to engage with the Agree-to-Agree Project in partnership with the Clare Education centre and Dr. Maureen Griffin.
    The project is aimed at 'Enhancing the Digital Well-Being of School Communities'. In simple terms, it's about helping parents to keep their children safe online. A small group has been established to lead this initiative and there is significant parent involvement. This project links well with the Department's Well-Being Framework and the Minister's 'Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free' guide.

20. The school will close for teacher Inservice on the new Maths Curriculum as scheduled on 24th February. On this day, SNAs will undertake training in relation to Epilepsy Awareness and the Administration of Emergency Mediation (Buccal Midazolam).

21. Absenteeism continues to be an area of concern for some children. 2 A number of referrals have already been submitted to Túsla's Education Welfare Support Service (TESS).
    Current school attendance statistics are shown below:

	Days present	Present %	Days absent	Absent %
Total	36719	92.3%	3049	7.7%
Girls	17982	92.6%	1427	7.4%
Boys	18737	92%	1622	8%

22. The Board noted some concerns with the Hot Meals Scheme.

23. There is a notable proportion of children who are at risk of educational disadvantage.

24. The SENO, Ray Cullen, visited the school recently and, arising from that visit, preparations are underway to submit an application for a SNA Review.

On behalf of the Board of Management, Sixmilebridge N.S.