



**Spiritan Education Trust  
Executive Report  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 24<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**SET Ethos Sub Committee.**

Further to a meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>, a report on the work of the committee will be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration.

**Development Education Teachers group.**

The work of the lead teachers in all school in this area is to be commended. The Development Education Showcases (primary and secondary) will be online on April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The Showcase theme this year will be 'Global citizenship'. Again, the focus will be about creating platforms for the schools to come together in a joint agenda. This year we will have an international feel to it, with schools from Kenya, Ghana and Brazil joining us. The Senior Showcase will be addressed by Fr John Fogarty CSSp (General Superior) and a letter of support from President Higgins will also be included. The speakers have yet to finalised but we hope to have a speaker on global citizenship from the 'South' and the 'North'. There is great buy in from the lead teachers in the schools and all look forward to further developing these plans in the next while.

**Ethos Teachers' working committee.**

At the centre of the preparation for the recent online Francis Libermann prayer service was the Teachers' ethos working committee. This body of teachers continue to bring great leadership and support to the development of Spiritan ethos within our schools.

A recent zoom Mass between Sultan Hamaud School in Kenya and Blackrock College was a great example of the initiative shown in this area during a global pandemic.

**SET/Templeogue College.**

Ronan is to meet with Templeogue College in exploring the employment of a p/t school chaplain.

**Special Ed. Steering group.**

The group has met twice under the Chairmanship of Sean Goan (Spiritan Mission Ireland). There are two representatives from the PLT, two representatives from the Property and Finance Office and two from SET Tom J. and Tom S. The meetings have also been attended by Pat as chair of the Board of Directors. The intention is to pursue a cautious engagement with the DES which will lead to an outcome beneficial to all parties but especially to those students who have special needs and are not currently receiving the support they and their families deserve. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb24<sup>th</sup>.

### **SET/BOM Training.**

An input on Spiritan Ethos in schools was prepared and sent to all school Boards of Management for Catholic Schools Week. The input was given by Sean Goan from the Spiritan Mission Ireland office.

### **Meeting with Chairs of school BoM's and Principals.**

An invitation was issued to all of the Chairs of the school BoM's as well as all school Principals to attend an online meeting for a briefing on the Special Ed. initiative. The response was very positive with some notable contributions from both Chairs and Principals. Assurance was given that school BoM's would be engaged with and that the way forward would be through co-operation and consultation.

### **4 Trusts Leadership Online Programme.**

*Four Trust leadership Development- an introduction.*

Due to the Covid crisis the Four Trusts' Middle Leaders Programme was cancelled for this year. However, it was decided that a series of online presentations would be offered over three nights introducing teachers to leadership development. Ronan presented on "Leadership in Catholic Education" while Tom S. will present on "Leading in times of Crisis"

### **Recent Deaths.**

There has been a great sense of sadness and loss due to the death of so many members of the congregation over the last months. The past year has been very painful for the congregation and I am sure that the deceased, the bereaved and those who are presently unwell will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

### **Templeogue College Campus Development Sub Committee of the BoM.**

Tom S. has attended a number of meetings with the above group. The brief of this sub-committee is to produce a master plan for the development of the campus by the end of March for presentation to the BoM for further consideration. Discussions have taken place in the context of possible support from the DES for a refurbishment/rebuild of the school in return for the provision of Special Ed. facilities

### **Ongoing online Teaching.**

Our Principals, teachers and students have continued to develop their capacity to teach and learn online. Many lessons were learned from the previous lockdown and mistakes made in the past have not been repeated. Principals are reporting that the feedback from parents and students is generally positive although there is a strong sense that remote learning on such a scale can never replace the immediacy and humanity of teachers and students working collaboratively in the classroom or sharing the pleasure of extra-curricular activities on the sports field and in the music room.

### **School Licence Fee.**

The second school licence fee administration fee demands were issued in February. Blackrock Campus and Rockwell have paid and the Congregation has been advanced €450K on account towards the second moiety of €900 K

### **SET Company AGM.**

The SET company AGM will be held by Zoom on Thursday 25/02/2021 St. Michaels are looking for a letter of comfort from the Congregation giving a negative pledge over St. Michaels Schedule 1 for a bank loan to bridge any shortfall in financing the school building capital development. Phases 1,2 and 3 can be financed out of existing school reserves and current working capital.