



Executive Team Report
Board of Directors Meeting
November 25th 2019

ATCS AGM.

The AGM took place at Emmaus, Swords, Co. Dublin, Monday November 4th. Ronan attended the meeting on behalf of SET.

A number of topics were covered including, JC Reform and RE, and RSE in both primary and secondary.

The meeting was updated on the CESC Strategic Plan. A motion to allow the process to continue to the next phase was passed unanimously. The various documentation will now be put to AMRI and Episcopal conference for further consultations.

New Boards of Management Training.

This training took place on Saturday the 9th of November and was attended by new board members from both St. Mary's Senior and Willow Senior as well as board members from Templeogue who were not able to avail of the training last year. The E.O. presented on ethos and there was a positive feedback from all of the attendees.

Spiritan School Chaplaincy.

Ronan has visited both the new school chaplains (Willow Junior and Rockwell College) in the network to explore the furthering of Spiritan school ethos programme.

Ronan has also met with the principal of Templeogue college to explore chaplaincy within the school development.

ON November 29th a collaborative initiative with Dublin Archdiocese, Loreto, Le Cheile and SET will offer a full in-service to the school chaplains from these various bodies.

- Prayer - Guided by Ronan
- Scott Evans, Chaplain UCD "Helping our students make meaning from their own life story"
- Group Reflections (Small working groups)
- Questions and answers session led by Scott Evans
- Chris Guret, Chaplain, Rosmini Community School "Putting today's message into practice in our ministry: A practical response"

- Three Workshops (Rotating)
 - Catherine Clarke, Chaplain, Portmarnock Community School “Community Outreach”
 - Christina Evans, Chaplain “Ancient Wisdom for today’s living”
 - Ms Anita Phelan and Fr. Joe McGrath, Shekinah Youth Matters

Closing Prayer led by Scott and Evaluation led by Chris.

Deputy Principal’s Conference.

This conference was held in Mullingar on the 7th and 8th of November and was a joint venture between SET and the Le Cheile trust. A number of our D.P.’s had to withdraw at short notice due to school matters. We may need to review the timing of this event or engage with the D. P’s to establish their views around the value of this conference. A D.P. from Blackrock, Yvonne Markey presented on the co-ordination of Special Education and was most impressive.

Development Education (Global Citizenship Education)

Our next teachers’ Global Citizenship Education meeting is scheduled for November 20th. Included in this month's activities is a student leadership workshop with Willow Park Senior through the school liaison officer, Karen Jeffares.

This year as part of our programme of training, we will prepare TY students to facilitate some of the young groups for the Showcase event at the end of April.

Middle Leaders’ Programme

The most recent ML forum took place on November 20th and focused on the action project, secular society and the digital age. This meeting was presented through a webinar. Those teachers undertaking this course are being supported by the SET office as they prepare to undertake the action project in their own schools.

School Salary Grant

The E.O. met with the JMB and left the meeting with a clear understanding of what the DES requires of schools and of what response can reasonably be expected of us. Following that meeting the advice below was sent to all of our schools.

- The view is firmly held that the outstanding monies must be repaid in full and that the statute of limitations does not apply to Oireachtas funds. In any event, the request for repayment is within the six-year period which might be relevant in other cases.

- The DES is open to negotiation in terms of phased repayment and I suggest a payment plan stretching over 5 years. Each school needs to contact the DES and make their own arrangements.
- Even if your school is in a position to repay the full amount now, it may be wise not to do so as in the unlikely event that any private school secures a write off of any portion of the amount owed, we would expect to receive a corresponding percentage discount.
- There was acknowledgement that neither the FSSU nor the DES should have allowed the matter to be unattended for so long. However, there is also a feeling that it is in our interest that this matter should be dealt with now in a quietly efficient manner which will not attract any unwelcome media attention.
- In relation to schools which have continued to pay teachers the 500E per annum, I have attached a template letter which you may wish to use when communicating to your staff the discontinuance of this payment. Any decisions around how and when the payment will be discontinued is a matter for the BoM and cognisance needs to be taken of people's individual circumstances and reasonable expectations. The template suggests a sentence in the event of the school seeking a repayment of the over-payment, but I don't think that is an option that should be pursued. Again, this is a decision for the BoM.

School Annual Reports.

Only two schools have as yet to submit their Annual report. The matter is being pursued with one school and in the other case there are extenuating circumstances of which SET is aware. All schools are being visited, the report discussed with the principal and a written response is going to each school for consideration by the BoM.

This exercise is proving to be very effective in establishing what is happening in schools and in strengthening the relationship between the trust and our schools. The updated Annual School Report template produced last year by the Education Committee is very focused and ensures that "hard" as well as "soft" information is shared with the trust.

Templeogue College.

There are quite a few issues in Templeogue College causing us a lot of concern, but the matters are being dealt with by a very diligent BoM. There is one particularly challenging issue. The board has sought appropriate legal and HR advice. This matter is being addressed by the BoM and appropriate contact is being maintained between the Chair of the Board and the E.O.

Rockwell College.

There are two major issues which are both being addressed. These are in relation to the Senior Management Team and to the financial viability of the school. Unless these two challenges are overcome there has to be a doubt about the school's survival.

Teacher Ethos working Group

This group of teachers are currently engaged in a project developing prayer resources for the network. They are exploring an App for a phone as part of this programme. They will meet again in February 2020.

Bishop Okoye Spiritan Secondary School (BOSSS), Oyigbo, Rivers State Nigeria

On a recent visit to Ireland, Rev. Jerome Onwughalu, C.S.Sp., Deputy Principal of the above school visited the SET offices and was accompanied on visits to a number of our schools by both Ronan and Tom.

In meetings with Jerome, he expressed concern about the fact that some of their teachers did not have a teacher training qualification. To address this problem, we discussed the possibility of some of our schools hosting perhaps two of their teachers for a period of about six weeks during which time we would appoint an experienced mentor to support them. We may also liaise with the Teacher Education Centres and facilitate their attendance at some relevant Professional Development.

We are in contact with Jerome who told us that the BOSSS administration not only welcomed the proposal but is excited about and would like the process to start. We will progress this matter over the coming months.