

Attendance: Liam O'Dwyer, Regina O'Connell, Val Quinn, Miriam McNally, Janet O'Shaughnessy, Mark O'Leary, Catherine Troy, Loretta Wynne, Frankie Berry, Brenda Egan, Paula Keenan, Shirley Wolverson, Laura Behan, Maura Buckley, Declan Keane, Barry Glennon, Eoin O'Mahony, Jason Maguire

Introduction

On behalf of CIDP Liam O'Dwyer welcomed the members of the committee to St. Joseph's School for this meeting. Each member of the committee introduced themselves. There is one place to be filled on the committee and this will happen next week.

Agenda and Administration

The agenda as circulated was agreed. Liam O'Dwyer agreed to take the notes for this meeting and Loretta Wynne agreed to take the notes of future meetings. It was also agreed that the notes would record the key outcomes or issues raised and that they were not confidential since people on the committee were nominated by the interested parties on the proposed amalgamation process. The quoting of individual contributors at the meeting was agreed not to be appropriate. Agenda items or information for review by the committee would be circulated by Alison in the CIDP office. The committee agreed that Frankie Berry would chair the committee.

Role of the Committee

Liam O'Dwyer outlined the role of the committee as the key consultation group with the social researcher Eoin O'Mahony. Although three meetings have been scheduled it was agreed that if more were required they would be arranged. If members or their representative bodies had issues with how the research was being managed or conducted they should signal that and raise it at these meetings.

Terms of Reference for Eoin O'Mahony

The draft terms of reference for Eoin O'Mahony were reviewed and agreed, with the inclusion that "on the basis of the available evidence gathered by Eoin O'Mahony" at bullet point four. The final terms of reference with this addition are attached to these notes.

Work Plan and Timescale

Eoin O'Mahony circulated his proposed work plan and the associated timeframe for his work. The timeframe is circa 3.5 – 4 months. His intention is to review the current provision of education and the needs of the children, consult with stakeholders and supply a written report to the CIDP Board following consultation with this committee. His report will also include the recommendations made by this committee. Eoin outlined the methodology he will use, namely, group discussions, individual interviews and parental questionnaires. Eoin will use focus group discussions with the students and he has applied for clearance in respect of child protection. There will be no one to one interviews with children.

Interpreters from SLIS or Bridge Interpreting will be used in the group and individual sessions. It was pointed out that the non teaching staff were not included in the consultation schedule and it was agreed that they would now be included. The timescale for the work was discussed and it was agreed that if more time was required it would be allocated. The intention of the current timeframe was to clarify for all stakeholders by June if the amalgamation was going ahead or not.

CIDP Process

The process, once the report and its recommendations were reviewed by CIDP was discussed. The CIDP Board will take a final decision to amalgamate or not, seek the approval of the Archbishop and the Department of Education and Science and if it is to proceed engage then with staff, unions, parents etc on how, when and the implications.

Next meeting of the committee is agreed for Monday 2nd February in St. Joseph's School at 2.15pm.