Minutes 06.12.2016

Attendees:
See Attachment

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

2. Introduction to Schoology (David)

- Parental access possible via parents' codes given by David

Q&As

Can parents access marked tests?
- Depending – only if this is a digital test. The details can be visible after clicking on the link to the test in the "Grades" tab

There is a great variety or resources for each subject: how can we help students to be more organized?
- David could advise textbooks for his subject
- David is developing e-book for geography, other teachers may join this initiative
- Students are encouraged to download the materials into folders onto e.g. memory sticks or a personal computer to keep them more organized

How long is the exposure to screens and iPads at school?
- Depending on subjects but, in general, iPads are used sporadically and their use is discouraged at breaks

Schoology used for too much of the assessment. How can we ensure that students do develop also traditional skills of e.g. hand-written tests, essays?
- Most tests are done on paper
- Students often have a choice to complete their homework in their copies

Where is Schoology hosted? How about Data Protection? Who owns the data?
- David will find out re hosting
- Wriggle has a very detailed policy on Data Protection and is willing to share it

How do we regulate Schoology use and overuse?
- Some rules regarding the use will need to be established e.g. teachers should not post on Sundays (unless in emergency)
- The deadline for 12 midnight is set as a default option – this can be changed but it is debatable if this will solve a problem of students sitting up late at night to finish assignments

Other comments/questions:

Parents may e-mail questions to Jon and David regarding Schoology
FAQ sheet for Schoology and possibly also e-book for parents to be created.
Open question: How can we support collaboration and other skills via Schoology?

3. Working Groups: Summaries

CETSS Constitution
- Progress made on the first draft
- Final version may be ready for presentation and voting during January PC meeting

Reaching Out
- Multipoint approach
- Newsletter, short notices given to students etc. proposed to keep everyone updated
- Coffee mornings proposed in the Mahon Community Centre

Academic/Community Interest
- STEM e-mailing group proposed
- Involving non-STEM expertise also proposed
- Reaching out suggested to all parents to draw more interest

4. AOB
- Extra-curricular activities – parents ask for sufficient notice (e.g. 10-14 days) and consultation whenever financial costs are involved
- Payments for extra-curricular activities and voluntary contribution may be enabled via Schoology online
- Transport issues – ET must lobby at the State level – what can parents do? They could send letters to lobby free transport for ET schools.

ACTION POINTS:

- PC to survey whether parents are interested in getting the parental access code to Schoology; then to communicate the outcome to David
- David will find out where Schoology is hosted and whatever protection is given to the users
- David (TBC) will set up some basic rules/schools' policy regarding Schoology use
- David will prepare a FAQ sheet for parents regarding Schoology; parents to e-mail questions to (Jon?, David?)
- CETSS PC Constitution: draft to be finalised for voting
- Reaching out – a survey to be sent out to parents (? TBC)
- Academic/Community Interest – an email to be sent out to parents to reach out
- Transport issues – Jon to contact other PCs in ET secondary schools to survey whether an unified lobbying action is possible

Attachment:

List of attendees.

6/12/16 — CETSS PC
— attendees

Jen Ishaque

Katarzyna Pyr

Sue Fiessler

Sandro Perini

Naema O Sullivan

Leah Murphy

Matthew Hurly

ANGELA SMITH.

Siobhán Deeney

DARRAGH O RIORDAN

IVOR SWEENEY

Lucie Kmiťcam

Tónica Silva

D Gallagher

Jre Maurlaghan

Laura Maher