

## Board of Management in CETSS

### Election of Student Nominees

Dear Parents/ Guardians/ Students,

The first formal Board of Management of CETSS was constituted in September of 2016, at which time, the school became a legal entity.

In Ireland, school Boards normally consist of the following members:

Patron nominees x 4 (including the Chairperson) Parent nominees x 2 Teacher nominees x 2 Principal (secretary and a non-voting member)
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**It is important to note that the Board acts in a collective manner and in an atmosphere of confidentiality. Contrary to what one might assume, the nominees are not *representatives*; that is, they cannot relay information back to the community that elected them (due to confidentiality) and neither do they *represent* the majority view of that group. Rather, they represent typical viewpoints, from those constituencies. This may seem strange initially, but when you consider that they are acting on the basis of confidential (sometimes personal) information, it is understandable that there cannot be a wider majority viewpoint.**

Nevertheless, it should be noted that the Board will produce minutes of each meeting for the wider school community, and that it is not the primary or sole decision-making forum. Rather, their job is to see that the school functions well. Decision-making (e.g. policies) takes place at a number of levels, including the Students' and Parents' Councils, Staff Meetings, Management etc. It is our intention to make transparent the level at which decisions are made and to try to make those decisions in the broadest way possible. All long-term policies will be created through consultation.

Given our emphasis on Democracy in CETSS, we shall constitute our Board differently:

Patron nominees x 2 (Chairperson Eric Hurley and Rachel Doody) Parent nominees x 2 (Susanne Fiessler and Joseph Feller) Teacher nominees x 2 (Laura Nagle Kiwanuka and Pamela O'Leary) Student nominees x 2 (TBD) Community nominees x 2 (Siobhán Mortell and Peadar King) Principal (secretary and non-voting member)
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Unlike the other members, who are elected/nominated for a three-year period; student nominees are, according to our Articles of Management, elected for a single year. Normally this would be done in late September, but we didn't have time to date, due to the expansion of the school.

We shall therefore hold student elections on the 13<sup>th</sup> November. As with last year, this is an historic development in the educational history of Munster, as it is, to the best of our knowledge, the first time that students are being given such responsibility.

I would like you to discuss this opportunity with your child, to see if they'd like to put themselves forward.

They will need your consent and support in order to potentially participate on the Board.

Points to note are:

- Their participation on the Board will last for 1 year
- Meetings will happen approximately every 5-7 weeks during the school year and will last for 2 hours (7:30-9:30pm approx)
- Meetings will happen mid-week
- Attendance must be regular in order to retain one's membership
- Student nominees will have full voting rights and so this is a huge learning opportunity for the students
- Meetings will take place in Carrigaline ETNS (Thus transport is a consideration)
- Should issues arise related to highly sensitive matters e.g. Child Protection cases, the students (and their parents) will be notified in advance so that they may leave early
- Student nominees may not be related to existing Board members

We are very excited about this process and hope that students see it as a significant life opportunity. Should your child wish to apply, please sign below and return the form to the office by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November. These forms will be placed on a noticeboard so that the students will have a sense of the people standing for election. The election will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November and be overseen by two students (who are not running for election) and two teachers. All students will be given a ballot on which they can choose five candidates, in order of preference and the election will happen according to Proportional Representation.

Kind regards

Colm

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---Please cut out and return this piece of paper if you wish to nominate yourself for this role---

I \_\_\_\_\_ (student signature) wish to nominate myself for the position of student nominee on the Board of CETSS.

I feel that I would do a good job because I:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parents signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_