

Educate Together 2021 AGM Minutes

Equity House, Ormond Quay, Dublin 7

Meeting held via online Meeting on 'Zoom' platform

8 May 2020, 9.45am

COMPANY BUSINESS	2
1) Opening and Welcome	2
2) Adopting the Agenda	2
3) Minutes of AGM 2020	2
4) Financial Report and Appointment of Auditors	2
5) Annual Report	3
6) Report on Policy Motion passed in 2020	4
7) Elections of Directors and Officers	4
8) New Members	5
9) Policy Motions	5
- Results of the Elections to the Board of Directors	16
ADDRESSES FROM CHAIRPERSON AND CEO	17
10) Chairpersons address	17
11) CEO's address	17
12) The AGM was drawn to a close at 14:40	18

Company Business

1) Opening and Welcome

The chairperson, Jennifer Cummins opened the AGM by declaring a quorum was present. She welcomed delegates and reminded delegates that the AGM has been extended by one hour to allow for debate. Directors, staff members and members of the standing orders committee were introduced. Those present were reminded that only delegates could vote.

CEO, Emer Nowlan also welcomed delegates and went through practicalities for how the AGM would be conducted, including how delegates cast their votes.

2) Adopting the Agenda

The chairperson clarified that the sequence of the motions on Admissions was reordered since the official papers were circulated, i.e., motions 2021/01 and 2021/02 will now be put after all the other motions on admissions. She then called for the agenda to be adopted.

Le Chéile ETNS proposed the agenda be adopted. This was seconded by Wicklow ETNS and put to a vote.

- Votes in favour - 45
- Votes against - 0

The agenda was adopted.

3) Minutes of AGM 2020

The minutes of AGM 2020 were circulated in advance in the official papers. No clarifications or questions were raised. The chairperson called for the Minutes of AGM 2020 to be accepted.

Proposed by Claregalway ETNS and seconded by Ranelagh MDS.

- Votes in favour - 46
- Votes against - 0

The minutes of AGM 2020 were accepted.

4) Financial Report and Appointment of Auditors

Treasurer, Emma Lane-Spollen (Board of Directors), presented the Financial Statements and explained that the past year was a very difficult year for the organisation financially; this required a number of staff redundancies and remaining staff being put on reduced working hours, along with a massive reduction in overall expenditure. She stressed that the organisation is now in a much stronger position but that there is still a challenge for the Board to address the deficit in unrestricted reserves and to build up reserves to mitigate against such a situation arising again.

ELS explained in detail the sources of incomes to the organisation in 2020 and highlighted that core income from DE has been static since 2008 despite rapid growth in the number of schools.

ELS presented a forecast for 2021 and summarised that despite the very difficult year there has been success in turning around the finances, the aim for the board now is to build up unrestricted reserves.

Chairperson asked for any questions. There were no questions from delegates.

Chair thanked finance sub-committee for work done with the CEO over the past year.

Chair explained that the Board are seeking to appoint KSI Faulkner Orr company auditors for the coming year. Following a tender request in March 2021, five companies submitted tenders, three were shortlisted and invited for interview. The Board now proposes KSI Faulkner Orr be appointed.

- Proposed by Wexford ETNS and seconded by Leixlip ETNS.
- Votes in favour - 50
- Votes against - 0

The vote to accept KSI Faulkner Orr as company auditors for the year ahead was carried.

5) Annual Report

Emer Nowlan, CEO presented the 2020 Annual Report which was circulated in advance within the official papers. She stated that despite it being a difficult year it is important to look back in order to capture learning but also to reflect on some of the achievements in 2020.

Highlights

- Student numbers still growing – Educate Together however is still just 3% of primary schools and 2.4% of post-primary. Thousands throughout the nation cannot access Educate Together schools.
- Nurture Schools Project – funding received for this project was critical in financial recovery.
- Shortlisted for GALAS Award in recognition of decades of leading the way on inclusion for LGBTI+ allies.
- Prioritisation for supporting and advocating for our schools – funding for Buildings Officer appointed in April with 23 schools in urgent accommodation situation – very difficult for all of these schools.
- Great to see two schools move into their permanent buildings, e.g. Gaelscoil an Ghoirt Álainn and Grace Park ETNS.
- A lot of advocacy on AEN supports and focusing on ensuring that schools voices are being heard.
- ESRI research commissioned by Educate Together on second-level schools – very positive outcomes, especially really strong sense of belonging across all children regardless of background or ability, in contrast to national results. Key outcome - students stated that learning about Ethics mattered for their lives. Research also highlighted strains of temporary accommodation.

- Ethos guidance platform completed – core element of Quality Framework – also includes Tools for Ethos and Statements of Effective Practice. Members will be asked to engage with the framework as we re-emerge from Covid.

There were no questions from delegates.

6) Report on Policy Motion passed in 2020

The Chair explained emergency measures made for the 2020 AGM and the motion which was passed to move proposed 2020 motions to an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held as soon as practicable. This was anticipated to take place during the 2020 Autumn term in an in-person format. As this was not possible the Board deferred motions further to this AGM.

There were no questions from delegates.

7) Elections of Directors and Officers

The chairperson summarised the positions on the Board of Directors that delegates need to vote on at this AGM. Positions to be filled due to rotation on the Board are the role of vice-chairperson and two director vacancies. (three-year terms)

One nomination was received for vice chair. Emma Lane-Spollen was nominated for the position of vice-chair. The chair stated that as there are no other nominations for this position **Emma Lane Spollen is deemed elected as vice-chair of the Board of Directors.**

In addition to the two three-year director terms due to be filled, two one-year terms also vacant; one due to a Board member stepping down before their full term was completed and one vacancy arising from the appointment of Emma Lane-Spollen as vice chair.

The chairperson explained how delegates cast their vote via an online voting platform (Electionbuddy.com). Information on the elections was circulated in advance in the official papers. Delegates were informed that they would receive an email and/or an SMS inviting them to vote in order of preference for the four vacancies to the Board of Directors from the six candidates nominated, these are;

- Danny Haskins
- Doris Abuchi Ogbonda
- Ger O’Flaherty
- Matt Wallen
- Siobhan Mortell
- Theresa Burke.

Delegates were invited to cast their votes and informed that the results of the vote would be shared as the last item on the AGM agenda. Telephone and email support was offered to delegates to ensure that all could vote.

8) New Members

The chairperson informed delegates that 5 new schools had opened in September 2020, 3 primary and 2 second level, these are:

- Cherrywood Educate Together National School
- Owenabue Educate Together National School
- Rathcoole Educate Together National School
- Goatstown Educate Together Secondary School
- Harold's Cross Educate Together Secondary School

The chairperson confirmed that all named schools completed a consent to join Educate Together membership from prior to the AGM. She proposed that delegates vote on welcoming the above five named schools into membership and invited a proposer and seconder.

- Proposed by Lucan ETNS and seconded by Carrigaline ETNS
- Votes in favour - 51
- Votes against - 0

The vote to accept the above five schools into Educate Together membership was carried.

The chairperson informed delegates that there would now be a short break with proceedings recommencing at 10.40.

9) Policy Motions

Chairperson requested delegates to adopt the Standing Orders

- Proposer – Cork ETSS, Seconded by Fermoy ETNS
- Votes in favour – 50
- Votes against – 0

The vote to accept the standing orders was carried.

Standing Orders informed the AGM that only voting delegates are permitted to cast a vote on motions presented at the AGM.

The Chairperson clarified that there were no motions on the agenda restricted to certain member types, and that all delegates could vote on all motions.

School Admissions Policies

2021/03 This AGM calls upon Educate Together to investigate how the children of families who choose an Educate Together school at Primary level can be given priority when applying for a place in an Educate Together school at Second level.

Board of Management Castleknock ETNS

Proposed by Castleknock ETNS, seconded by Gorey ETNS
Proposer spoke on the motion.

Speaking against the motion - Citywest ETNS, Wicklow ETSS, Board of Directors, Cork ETSS, Wicklow ETNS, Adamstown Castle ETNS

Speaking in favour of the motion - Stepside ETSS, Leixlip ETNS, Galway ETSS, Hansfield ETSS, Griffith Barracks MDS

Proposer, Castleknock ETNS, spoke as their right of reply.

Delegate Vote on motion 2021/03

- Votes in favour - 34
- Votes against - 26

Motion 2021/03 was declared carried.

2021/04 This AGM declares that Boards of Management of Educate Together secondary schools can include a priority category for children coming from Educate Together 'feeder' primary schools in their Admissions policy.

Board of Management Stepside ETSS

Proposed by Stepside ETSS and seconded by Castleknock ETNS
Proposer spoke on the motion.

Speaking against the motion – Adamstown ETNS sought clarification from standing orders that given the previous motion was carried should a procedural motion be put on the motion being put now.

Standing Orders committee stated that that all motions will be put to delegates. The debate should proceed and delegates have the opportunity to put procedural motions once this has happened.

Speaking in favour – Hansfield ETSS

Procedural motion 15d to refer the motion to another body was put by Wicklow ETNS and seconded by Lucan ETNS

Point of Clarification raised by Hansfield ETSS as to where the motion is being referred to. The proposer stated that the procedural motion was to refer it back to the Board of Directors to come back to a General Members Forum at a later date.

A vote on procedural motion 15d was put.

- Votes in favour - 33
- Votes against - 21

The procedural motion 15d was carried.

Motion 2021/04 referred back to the board.

2021/05 This AGM calls on Educate Together to give the Boards of Management of Educate Together second-level schools the choice to include feeder schools in the

selection criteria in their admission policies, until there are sufficient second level places in the area to cater for the demand.

***Boards of Management Malahide Portmarnock ETNS/ Belmayne ETNS/
Holywell ETNS***

Motion Proposed by Malahide Portmarnock ETNS.

Amendment

This AGM calls on Educate Together to allow the Boards of Management of Educate Together Secondary Schools prioritise Educate Together Primary Schools when enrolling, until such time as there is equality of access [to second level education] for all.

Adamstown Castle ETNS

Adamstown Castle ETNS proposed their amendment to motion 2021/05 be withdrawn.

A vote to withdraw the proposed amendment to motion 2021/05 was put.

- Votes in favour - 34
- Votes against - 12

The vote to withdraw amendment to motion 2021/05 was carried. Amendment withdrawn.

Motion 2021/05 was proposed by Malahide Portmarnock ETNS and seconded by Drogheda ETSS.

Proposer spoke in favour of the motion on behalf of all three boards.

Procedural motion 15d to refer motion 2021/05 back to the Board of Directors to come back to a General Members Forum at a later date was proposed by Citywest ETNS and seconded by Wicklow ETSS

A Vote on procedural motion 15d was put.

- Votes in favour - 24
- Votes against – 22

The vote on procedural motion 15d was carried.

Motion 2021/05 referred back to the board.

2021/06 This AGM requests the Board of Directors to instruct Educate Together to permit schools to add local schools of all patronages to a priority list within their admission policy.

Board of Management Drogheda ETSS

Proposed by Drogheda ETSS and seconded by Le Chéile ETNS

Procedural motion 15a to bring the motion to a vote was proposed by Stepside ETSS.

Standing Orders clarified that the proposer should speak to motion 2021/06 first and then the vote on the procedural motion 15a could be taken.

Proposer spoke in favour of the motion 2021/06

Leixlip ETNS seconded procedural motion 15a to bring the motion to a vote.

Chair put the vote on Procedural Motion 15a to delegates

- Votes in favour - 28
- Votes against - 14

Some delegates stated that they were confused on what they were voting on in the last poll. Standing Orders clarified that as procedural motion 15a if supported would result in the vote on motion 2021/06 being put following the proposer of the motion speaking. As some delegates stated that they had not been clear on whether they were voting on motion 2021/06 or procedural motion 15a, the chair called for the poll to be repeated.

Stepaside ETSS raised a point of order, stating that the vote on procedural motion 15a had already been taken.

Leixlip ETNS raised a point of order in relation to standing order number 27 which relates to the conduct of the meeting, stating that debate is being frustrated by procedural motions which are not permitting delegates to debate.

The chairperson clarified that not all delegates were clear on what they were voting on in the previous poll and therefore the proposed procedural motion 15a would be voted upon again.

Stepaside ETSS proposed procedural motion 15e which challenges the ruling of the chair. As there was no seconder for procedural motion 15e it was not put to a vote.

The chairperson informed delegates that they would now vote for a second time on procedural motion 15a which proposes that motion 2021/06 be put to a vote.

- Votes in favour – 24
- Votes against – 26

The vote on procedural motion 15a was declared not carried.

Adamstown Castle ETNS proposed procedural motion 15d for the motion to be referred back to the Board of Directors to be brought back to a GMF at a later date. This was seconded by Fermoy ETNS

A vote on procedural motion 15d was put.

- Votes in favour – 23
- Votes against – 22

A vote on procedural motion 15d was carried.

Motion 2021/06 referred back to the Board.

2021/07 To ensure full equality of access and to continue to support parents choosing an Educate Together secondary school this AGM mandates the patron body to negotiate with the Department of Education that the catchment area priority for admissions is removed for Educate Together secondary schools and that applications can be made by parents regardless of where they live.

Board of Management Stepside ETSS

Proposed by Stepside ETSS and seconded by Shellybanks ETNS
Proposer spoke in favour of the motion.

Amendment

In the event that a catchment area priority for admissions needs to stay in place, then this should be extended to reach towards the midpoint to the nearest Educate Together Secondary School.

Citywest ETNS

Proposed by Citywest ETNS and seconded by Shellybanks ETNS
Proposer spoke in favour of the amendment.
Speaking against the amendment – Hansfield ETSS

A vote on amendment to motion 2021/07 was put.

- Votes in favour - 29
- Votes against - 10

The vote on amendment to motion 2021/07 was carried.

The amendment became part of the original motion which would now be debated by delegates.

Amended motion 2021/07 To ensure full equality of access and to continue to support parents choosing an Educate Together secondary school this AGM mandates the patron body to negotiate with the Department of Education that the catchment area priority for admissions is removed for Educate Together secondary schools and that applications can be made by parents regardless of where they live. *In the event that a catchment area priority for admissions needs to stay in place, then this should be extended to reach towards the midpoint to the nearest Educate Together Secondary School.*

Speaking in favour of amended motion 2021/07 – Drogheda ETSS, Leixlip ETNS, Adamstown Castle ETNS

Speaking against the motion – Board of Directors
The original proposer spoke as their right to reply.

Amended motion 2021/07 was put to a vote.

- Votes in favour – 48
- Votes against – 4

The vote on 2021/07, as amended, was carried.

2021/08 *This AGM calls on the Board of Directors to clarify the position taken by the patron body, Educate Together, on the non-prioritisation of students who have attended Educate Together primary schools for enrolment into Educate Together post primary schools.*

Board of Management, Hansfield ETSS

The proposer sought to withdraw the motion.

A vote to withdraw the motion was put.

- Votes in favour - 47

- Votes against - 0

The vote to withdraw motion 2021/08 was carried.

Motion 2021/08 withdrawn

2021/01 This AGM, in keeping with the principle of equality of access to all Educate Together schools as laid out in the organisation's Charter that 'all children having equal rights of access to the school', confirms that Educate Together schools will not give priority to children of staff in their admissions policies.*

***member schools, including joint and independent patrons and partnership schools.**

Board of Directors

Proposed by Board of Directors and seconded by Wicklow ETNS.

Proposer spoke in favour of the motion

Speaking against the motion - Monkstown ETNS, Griffith Barracks MDS, Claregalway ETNS

Speaking in favour of the motion - Citywest ETNS, Cork ETSS.

Proposer spoke as their right to reply.

A vote on motion 2021/01 was put

Votes in favour - 35

Votes against - 20

The vote on motion 2021/01 was carried.

2021/02 This AGM, in keeping with the principle of equality of access to all Educate Together schools as laid out in the organisation's Charter that 'all children having equal rights of access to the school', policy, confirms that Educate Together schools will not give priority to children attending any particular primary school(s), unless instructed to do so by the Department of Education.*

***member schools, including joint and independent patrons and partnership schools.**

Board of Directors

Proposed by Board of Directors and seconded by Lucan East ETNS

Proposer spoke on the motion.

Stepaside ETSS proposed procedural motion 15d that it be referred back to the Board of Directors to be brought to a GMF at a later date. This was seconded by Drogheda ETSS.

A vote on procedural Motion 15d in relation to motion 2021/02 was put.

- Votes in favour – 42
- Votes against – 6

The vote on procedural motion 15d was carried

Motion 2021/02 referred back to the Board.

The AGM adjourned until 13:05

School Insurance

2021/09 This AGM calls upon the Minister for Education to increase capitation grants to take account of the significant rises in school insurance costs.

Board of Management Carrigaline ETNS

Proposed by – Carrigaline ETNS and seconded by Wicklow ETNS

Proposer spoke on the motion.

Speaking in favour – Fermoy ETNS

A vote on motion 2021/09 was put.

Votes in favour - 48

Votes against - 0

The vote on motion 2021/09 was carried.

2021/10 This AGM calls upon member schools to join a group scheme so as to ensure schools are in a stronger position when it comes to dealing with insurance providers.

Board of Management Carrigaline ETNS

Proposed by Carrigaline ETNS and seconded by Citywest ETNS

Proposer spoke on the motion.

Speaking in favour of the motion - Middleton ETNS, Board of Directors, Fermoy ETNS

A vote on motion 2021/10 was put.

- Votes in favour - 47
- Votes against - 0

The vote on motion 2021/10 was carried.

2021/11 This AGM calls on the Minister for Education to extend State Indemnity, managed by the State Claims Agency, to all schools and not limit this to Community & Comprehensive Schools.

Board of Management, Carrigaline ETNS

Proposed by Carrigaline ETNS and seconded by Fermoy ETNS.

Proposer spoke for the motion

Speaking in favour of the motion - Fermoy ETNS

A vote on motion 2021/11 was put.

Votes in favour - 51

Votes against - 1

The vote on motion 2021/11 was carried.

Inclusion and Students with Additional Educational Needs

2021/12 *This AGM:*

a) notes that full inclusion of every student is the aspiration of all Irish primary schools.

b) reaffirms that, where appropriate, special schools and special classes are a more suitable educational setting for children with complex needs in order for them to fulfil their full potential.

c) instructs Educate Together to enter into talks with the Minister for Education and the Government regarding improving funding and resources for primary schools to support current inclusion policies.

d) instructs Educate Together to enter into discussions with the Department of Education and the National Council for Special Education outlining educational concerns regarding the current lack of investment in additional education supports.

e) instructs Educate Together to enter into talks with the Minister for Education and the Government regarding a separate mechanism for new and developing schools for SET allocations.

**Board of
Management Firhouse ETNS**

Proposed by Firhouse ETNS and seconded by Midleton ETNS

Proposer spoke for the motion

Citywest ETNS proposed procedural motion 15c which requires the motion to be taken in separate parts. Seconded by Dalkey School Project

A vote on procedural motion 15c was put.

- Votes in favour - 27
- Votes against - 8

The vote on procedural motion 15c was carried.

The chair invited delegates to speak for or against the motion.

Speaking against the motion – Citywest ETNS

A vote was put on part (a)

Votes in favour of part (a) – 31

Votes against part (a) - 12

The vote on part (a) was carried.

A vote was put on part (b)

Votes in favour of part (b) – 43

Standing Orders stated that any vote that surpasses 40 votes is automatically passed.

The vote on part (b) was carried as it surpassed 40 votes.

A vote was put on part (c)

Votes in favour of part (c) – 52

The vote on part (c) was carried.

A vote was put on part (d)

Votes in favour of part (d) – 52

The vote on part (d) was carried.

A vote was put on part (e)

Votes in favour of part (e) - 49

The vote on part (e) was carried.

All sections of motion 2021/12 were carried.

2021/13 This AGM calls on the Minister for Education to simplify and speed up the pathway to sustained and suitable support for children with additional educational needs by:

- a. *Preserving the current model of a continuum of provision, as opposed to any move to full inclusion;*
- b. *Speeding up the implementation of the Progressing Disability Model with adequately and equitably resourced clinical teams serving geographical areas, as designed;*
- c. *Putting in place a system whereby a consistent link person/service takes responsibility for an individual child;*
- d. *Providing schools annually with a clear outline of up-to-date services with contact details and pathway relating to the range of additional needs.*

Board of Management Glasnevin ETNS

Proposed by Glasnevin, ETNS and seconded by Midleton ETNS

Speaking on the motion - proposer

Speaking in favour – Midleton ETNS, Malahide Portmarnock ETSS, Adamstown Castle ETNS

A vote on motion 2021/13 was put

1. Votes in favour - 50

The vote on motion 2021/13 was carried as it surpassed 40 votes.

2021/14 This AGM calls upon the Board of Directors and members to lobby the Minister for Education to ensure that the implementation of the proposed new SNA Model and proposed new Inclusion Model are paused until current NCSE initiatives/models are adequately resourced and reviewed in relation to funding, staffing, school placements, HSE diagnostic services and HSE intervention services, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Board of Management, Midleton ETNS

Proposed by Midleton ETNS and seconded by Citywest ETNS.
Proposer spoke on the motion.
Speaking in favour – Hansfield ETSS and Malahide Portmarnock ETSS
Proposer spoke as their right of reply.

A vote on motion 2021/14 was put.

2. Votes in favour - 50

The vote on motion 2021/14 was carried as it surpassed 40 votes.

The chairperson moved to shorten the length of time given to speakers on motions as the AGM was going over time. Proposers would now speak for 3 mins and responders for 2 minutes.

School Supports

2021/15 This AGM requests members to support their principal in volunteering as a mentor with the Centre for School Leadership with a view to mentoring another Educate Together principal. This support can include practical supports such as release time and additional administrative support hours.

Board of Management Grace Park ETNS

Proposed by Grace Park ETNS and seconded by Wicklow ETNS.

A vote on motion 2021/15 was put.

3. Votes in favour – 42

The vote on motion 2021/15 was carried as it surpassed 40 votes.

2021/16 This AGM recognises that NABMSE is best placed to provide support to schools in setting up and running special classes and encourages member schools with special classes to join NABMSE.

***Board of Management Grace Park ETNS
and Board of Management Citywest ETNS***

Proposed by Grace Park ETNS and seconded by Citywest ETNS
Proposer spoke on the motion.

A vote on motion 2021/16 was put.

4. Votes in favour – 43

The vote on motion 2021/16 was carried as it surpassed 40 votes.

2021/17 This AGM calls upon Educate Together for clear template policies for all new legislations and legislative changes impacting upon running of schools, in a timely manner e.g. Admissions Act, Child Protection etc.

Board of Management Midleton ETNS

Proposed by Midleton ETNS and seconded by Leixlip ETNS.
Proposer spoke for the motion.

A vote on motion 2021/17 was put.

5. Votes in favour – 42

The vote on motion 2021/17 was carried as it surpassed 40 votes.

2021/18 This AGM calls upon Educate Together to provide

- a. *A resource bank for campaigning for/setting up second-level schools that are supported by the patron (Start Up Campaign).*
- b. *Communication forums to educate start up groups on a step-by-step approach to a successful campaign.*

Board of Management Midleton ETNS

Proposed by Midleton ETNS and seconded by Shellybanks ETNS
Proposer spoke for the motion.

A vote on motion 2021/18 was put.

6. Votes in favour – 46

The vote on motion 2021/18 was carried as it surpassed 40 votes.

2021/19 This AGM calls on the executive and members to lobby the Minister for Education to put in place standing arrangements for DLPs and DDPLs to have appropriate support supervision in place when addressing Child Protection cases.

Board of Management Pelletstown ETNS

Proposed by Pelletstown ETNS and seconded by Wicklow ETNS
Proposer spoke for the motion.

A vote on motion 2021/19 was put.

7. Votes in favour – 46

The vote on motion 2021/19 was carried as it surpassed 40 votes.

Quality Standards

2021/20 This AGM calls on members to adopt the agreed Ethos Quality Standards and Statements of Effective Practice which were developed through a consultative process between 2019 and 2020 and requires all member schools to strive to implement these standards.

Board of Directors

Proposed by the Board of Directors and seconded by Wicklow ETSS.

Proposer spoke for the motion.

No speakers against the motion.

A vote on motion 2021/20 was put.

8. Votes in favour – 42

The vote on motion 2021/19 was carried as it surpassed 40 votes.

A point of clarification was raised by Dalkey School Project Ltd to address a point of order between the official papers and the conduct of the meeting. DSP claimed that the official papers were unclear as to the application of some motions to independent patrons and therefore this impacted on their consideration of certain motions.

Standing Orders stated that the standing orders committee took the view that all delegates were entitled to vote on all motions as they impacted on all schools, and that for this reason none of the motions was marked in the Agenda as being restricted to any group or groups of members.

DSP requested their point be noted in the minutes and the issue was closed.

A point of clarification was sought by Hansfield ETSS; that if something is considered not to be in order does that not put into question the validity of motions that were passed.

Standing Orders stated that it was made clear orally at the AGM and in how the motions were presented in the official papers that they were to be voted upon by everyone, therefore the results of all polls stand. The need for this to be made very clear in all correspondence and official papers in future was noted.

- Results of the Elections to the Board of Directors

The chairperson declared the results of the election to the Board of Directors and stated that there were no issues vote with the poll.

The following candidates were deemed elected

1. Danny Haskins
2. Doris Abuchi Ogbonda
3. Matt Wallen
4. Siobhan Mortell

The chair thanked outgoing directors Martina Von Richter, Theresa Burke and Aidan Clifford.

Addresses from Chairperson and CEO

10) Chairpersons address

Key Points

- Thanked former CEO, Paul Rowe and noted the Board's continued intention to hold an event to mark Paul's departure with an in-person event when possible.
 - Welcomed the commencement of new CEO Emer Nowlan last February.
 - Thanked all staff who finished their employment with Educate Together in 2020.
 - Thanked remaining staff.
 - Acknowledged fundraised income and grants secured.
 - Nurture project is core to Educate Together ethos.
 - Noted that organisation is pursuing strategic goals agreed in 2019. In process of developing new Strategic Plan.
 - Celebrated the Milestone of members having adopted Statements of Effective Practice.
 - Referred to actions taken in 2020 to improve governance, strengthen Board, achieve compliance with Charities governance code.
 - Thanked grass-roots families for the new schools that have opened this year.
 - Thanked outgoing directors and welcomed new directors.
 - Special thanks to Danny Haskins as outgoing vice-chair.
 - Thanks to national office staff and Standing Orders Committee.
-

11) CEO's address

Key Points

- Thanked the chairperson for excellent job in chairing today's meeting.
- Really engaging debate and most important issues for our schools and network.
- The things that are occupying us at present a lot of firefighting; mirroring what's happening in schools – gave examples of current pressing issues arising from Covid 19 and need to raise funds.
- Huge thanks to national office team – busy week and year.
- Thanks to the Board and volunteers on sub-committees that have been very involved this year.
- We need to make sure that we continue to see the bigger picture and remind each other of the big system issues that exist and need to be resolved.
- Book launch of Áine Hyland's new book documenting the founding of the Dalkey School Project last month – reminds us progress made and of the work that still needs to be done.

- New in the role last year – wanted to listen to schools. Would like to listen more to all voices in all schools – it has been difficult given the constraints of this year.
- Not hard to hear, however, that the role of principal in new and developing schools is not sustainable, that needs to be addressed.
- Need to continue to advocate for children who are most vulnerable, children with AEN, children in six counties in the Irish republic where there is no Educate Together schools. We need to be able to hear the voices of the quietest and those that don't always get heard.
- New strategic plan is in development – a lot of work over the past number of months on this – need to be clear on what we can control to ensure that we focus our energies and work with other stakeholders. Will get the draft plan out to members as quick as we can. Will be looking for members to engage.
- We all need to work together to achieve our objectives.

12) The AGM was drawn to a close at 14:40