

Press Release

08th October 2009

Press Release from the Joint Managerial Body re Under Spending by Dept of Education and Science on School Buildings, JMB Expresses Dismay at the Failure of the DES to Utilise Building Budget.

The Joint Managerial Body, representing the management of almost four hundred Voluntary Secondary schools, has expressed shock and dismay at the news that the Dept of Education and Science has only spent €455m out of a total capital budget of €841m for 2009. In particular the JMB is very seriously concerned that such an under spend should occur when so many schools have been waiting years for the go ahead to upgrade inadequate school buildings.

Ferdia Kelly, General Secretary of the JMB, believes that ” this morning’s report has caused great frustration across our school communities who are making great efforts to survive in sub-standard buildings. School management is forced in many cases to take on a long and challenging process which is littered with inexplicable set-backs and delays. Imagine how frustrated these people feel today when they reflect on the lack of progress of their project in the light of this serious under spend in the capital budget for 2009. ”

“A school such as St Brendan’s College, Bray, Co Wicklow has waited over seven years for a new school building. Despite the many set-backs the school community in St Brendan’s College has doggedly pursued their dream of a new school. The need for such a new school building has long been accepted by the Building Unit in the DES. The requirement for this development has become even more acute lately with large scale housing development in the Shankill and Bray areas. However, the project has stalled at pre-tender stage with no word at all of a possible timeframe for the building to proceed. Imagine the frustration in the school community of St Brendan’s College this morning ”, states Ferdia Kelly.

Ferdia Kelly emphasises the point that “ the JMB is calling on the Minister for Education and Science and his officials to take action immediately to ensure that the full capital budget for 2009 is spent. There are many examples of Voluntary Secondary schools like St Brendan’s College out there who are ready to proceed with a badly needed building project.”

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