

**National Association of Boards of Management in  
Special Education  
February 2006**

***Word from the Chairperson***

Greetings to each member of NABMSE! We are now almost half way through the 2005/6 school year and this Newsletter is to update you on the activities of the Association.

You will find details of the motions passed at our AGM on Thursday 10th November 2005 in this Newsletter. Friday 11<sup>th</sup> provided us with a welcome opportunity to meet with Minister Mary Hanafin, Minister for Education and Science. Following the Minister's address a Question and Answer Session with Mr. Peter Baldwin enabled us to represent and clarify issues of concern in relation to Special Education.

Ms. Teresa Griffin and Ms. Anne Killian from the Department of Education and Science Planning and Building Unit, Tullamore, gave a powerpoint presentation which outlined the Department's strategy in relation to its school building and modernisation programme.

The option of attending two of the three workshops held in the afternoon around this year's theme "***Positive Environment Supporting Special Education***" completed the programme.

Since our AGM the Executive Committee has met on a monthly basis in order to:

- ***Further the Motions passed at our AGM***
- ***Plan for our 2006 AGM and Annual Conference***
- ***Put in place Professional Development Sessions for Boards of Management***
- ***Finalise the setting up of a NABMSE Website***

The initiation of the National Council for Special Education is beginning to bear fruit. The launching of the ***Council's Guidelines for Individual Education Plans*** is scheduled for 2006 and a ***Consultative Forum*** is due to be put in place.

It is important that Boards of Management familiarise themselves with recent legislation entitled the "***Education for Person's With Special Educational Needs Act 2004***" or "EPSEN" as it has come to be known. This Act can be downloaded from the Department's website.

Marie Carroll RSC  
Chairperson  
February 2006

