

AGM – Parents’ Council Meeting, 14th November, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE: Sinead Flannery, Alan Carney, Margaret O’Neill, Geraldine Brannigan, Claire Anderson, Stephanie Burns, Ruth Houlihan (Jackson), Ber O’Donoghue, Iowna Wiktorowicz, Arancha Comenge, Timothy Murphy, Louise Burke, Cherlyn Finn, Elaine Beausaung, Siobhan O’Meara, Lana Coughlin, Pree, Sadbh Le Donne

APOLOGIES: Eve Altman, Paul Roche, Grace McArdle, June Manson, Mary Buckley

Minutes taken by: Geraldine Brannigan

ITEM	DETAILS	ACTIONED or ACTION
BOM Elections	<p>Michael McCarthy welcomed all to the BOM elections. Voting was held for new members.</p> <p>Louise Burke and Patrick O’ Donoghue were voted in and elected onto the BOM. Michael congratulated both members and thanked outgoing members.</p> <p>This was echoed by Sinead Flannery and Margaret O Neill.</p> <p>Other reps include x2 Teaching reps (of which one must be the Principal) and the second teacher rep is by Ballot. There are x2 Patron reps and x2 reps from the Community .</p> <p>The Incoming Board will come into effect on the 1st of December 2019</p>	MMcC
ADDRESS FROM THE PRINCIPAL	<p>Sinead thanked all members of the PC for attending the AGM.</p> <p>Thanks was also given to the Parent’s Council and to the Staff of the school for the ongoing collaborative effort to ensure the best for the children to Bunscoil at all times</p> <p>Sinead explained, in particular to the new members of the PC (Pree and Sadbh) how the role of the PC involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting with and adhering to the Policies and Procedures of the school • Ex Curricular Activities with the school • Fundraising, which is such a vital role to play for school 	SF

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighted how the PC is a Supportive Forum for parents of the school • The importance of information sharing • Impressed the importance of how the PC is not a forum for complaints and how the school has its own policies and procedures for that <p>Sinead reiterated how the school works very hard re Teaching and Learning and provides a safe and happy environment for its children</p> <p>Working in close collaboration at all times with the PC</p> <p>Its success comes from parents, teachers and staff working together</p> <p>Gratitude and thanks, was given to the PC for all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising • Investing in projects, library, book fairs, school evets (Halloween and Christmas, Confirmation, Communion) • CAPER (Child and Parent enjoying reading) • Ex- Curricular activities with particular thanks to Ruth for her involvement in Science in the school • Policy Development • Per Cent for Art Scheme • Madrid Exchange <p>The positive involvement of the PC is driving all of the above within the school</p> <p>Sinead spoke of how the school strives to ensure open lines of communication through the website, school app and school newsletter</p>	
<p>NEW and ONGOING INITIATIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 2 of Science and Digital learning • Oral Language at a whole school level • More emphasis on student voices and their opinions and involvement in their own learning • SPORTS including: Zumba, Aquatics, Tennis, Gymnastics, Gross Motor Skills in OT room 	<p>SF</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRAMA – Julie Dennehy – last year one class taken to Feis Maitiu and this year there will be 4 classes • MUSIC – Mr Walsh once again has a full time position of Music Teacher within the school – Last year one class taken to Cor Fheile and this year there will be 3 • WELL BEING/MENTAL HEALTH: SPHE has a new emphasis on “Weaving Well Being”; Gratitude Tree and Golden Heart award for Kindness “Sharing a smile” and emotional support needs of children always being looked after in school (Fiona McCarthy) • FOOD DUDES – is back this year along with ongoing Healthy Eating Policy • CATHOLIC ETHOS – ongoing masses within the school • PARENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE: Internet talks for children and parents are in the pipeline going forward • AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS: French; Dance; Drama; Table Tennis; TAE Kwando; Ukelele; Musical Theatre; Robotics; Designer Minds; <i>Parent Fitness Classes Starting Soon</i> <p>Sinead also thanked Tim Murphy – Outgoing and thanked Louise for her ongoing work on BOM also</p> <p>Thanks also given to the wider community involved with the school, The Sirius, GAA, UCC</p> <p>Special thanks given to Margaret O Neill (Chair) and Claire Anderson (Vice Chair) for their continuing work and support</p> <p>Final thanks to all members of the PC for continued support and hard work – efforts of the PC are very much appreciated</p>	
<p>ADDRESS FROM VICE PRINCIPAL</p>	<p>Alan seconded everything Sinead had said, reiterating his own thanks to the staff and PC</p> <p>Alan both highlighted and emphasised the school’s Open Door Policy</p>	

	<p>Thanks and gratitude was expressed to the PC and how the school relies on the PC for such fruitful hard work</p> <p>New ideas are always welcome and he looks forward to working productively with the PC for the year ahead</p>	
ADDRESS FROM CHAIR	<p>Margaret thanked both Sinead and Alan for their time and attendance at the AGM and spoke of how the PC is a great opportunity for parents to be involved in their child's time in the school</p> <p>Margaret passed next to Iowna for a review of the Finances</p>	MO'N
FINANCES	<p>Before Iowna spoke, Sinead took the opportunity to thank her for her work as Treasurer.</p> <p>Sinead: Information on the FSSU (Financial Support Services Unit) was given at the AGM</p> <p>From now on, at the request of the Dept. of Education, the school banks all monies and will transfer a float to cover the PC</p> <p>All statements, spending, receipts to be kept with BOM account</p> <p>Iowna:</p> <p>There are still 3 accounts held with school name – BOI; Credit Union and PTSB</p> <p>AIB will be opened and will be the only account from now on going forward</p> <p>€3100 @ moment is what we have</p> <p>Main fundraiser this year was the Danceathon which raised between €5k to €6k (final tally will be given and information on what monies will go to will also be given promptly)</p> <p>DVD and Calendars generated €4310 for last school year</p> <p>The above mentioned are the biggest earners for the school. On a smaller scale monies are generated from the Moive Screening and Second Hand clothes collections</p>	IOWNA SF

	<p>Monies go to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas – Santa – Presents (Juniors and Seniors) • STEM • Communion Party • 6th Class disco • Graduation gifts (pens) <p>Last year running costs of PC were €2000 to €2200</p> <p>There are also bank charges costs; membership of the parents council</p> <p>Funds given from PC to the school last year were €8000 and the year before was €8680</p> <p>The Dance-A-Thon raised €5171.10 and all has been lodged to the school account</p> <p>Tim asked if the school could let the parents know how much was raised and what it will be spent on? Alan and Sinead said they are in final stages of organising this information for parents – and it was noted that monies will go to Science and iPads</p> <p>Tim also asked if it will be possible to keep the School Credit Union Account open but was informed by Sinead and Margaret that is not possible</p> <p>It was noted how the online option for AIB is better for the school and more transparent</p> <p>Margaret thanked Iowna for her excellent work as Treasurer as she has indicated that she will now be stepping down from that position – all present echoed</p>	
<p>PREE</p>	<p>Pre spoke of laptops and desktops sitting in his work inventory and perhaps they could be used for the school?</p> <p>The school will need to let company know that they would make use of these and then action can be taken</p>	<p>PREE ZC</p>

	Alan will liaise with Pree on this and Pree was thanked by the PC, SF and AC	
PC VOTING OF MEMBERS	<p>Margaret opened the floor up for voting of PC members. The results are as follows:</p> <p>Chair: Margaret was nominated again and seconded</p> <p>Vice Chair: Claire was voted again and seconded</p> <p>Treasurer: Ruth was asked by Margaret if she would be willing to take on this role to which she agreed and was seconded</p> <p>Secretary: Geraldine was nominated again and seconded</p> <p>PRO: Cherlyn was nominated again and seconded</p>	
AOB	<p>Opening time of school gates: Ber asked on behalf of a parent if there could be a wider timeframe from the opening of the gates at 8.40am as there is a high volume of people and traffic</p> <p>It was noted that even if there was an extra hour, parents/people were still inclined to come at the same time in the morning and it is very difficult to change the high volume of people or traffic</p> <p>Active homework: Cherlyn asked if this was still ongoing on a Thursday and it was confirmed as yes</p> <p>CAPER: Ruth put in a request for CAPER to be done for Irish if possible? It was noted by SF that the staff have done this within the school with small groups and she would welcome any parent who feels confident enough in Irish to come forward if they so wish</p> <p>Parental Expertise: Sinead thanked all parents who use their expertise within the school to support students and any parents, with any expertise that may</p>	ALL

	<p>prove beneficial to the students of the school, could come forward with any ideas that they may have</p> <p>Calendar of events: It was requested by Tim to see if the school could provide a hard copy of events if the school had this information at hand at the beginning of school year.</p> <p>Alan high lighted how the app does this and if it was not on the app, a text would have been sent to parents (through the app) to inform them of any/all school events.</p> <p>It was suggested that the school highlights to parents again, the importance and benefits of using and regularly checking the school app on their phones and to download if not already done.</p> <p><i>To this, I would add that it is a good idea to save any dates that the school sends out (through the app calendar or the app notifications) to your own personal phone calendar. Just a general tip that I do this and it works perfectly to show you what is coming up</i></p>	
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