

MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SCOIL BHRIDE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

28TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Chairperson's Welcome Address

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the AGM. The minutes of the AGM of 28th September 2016 were taken as read and were proposed for adoption by Eileen Sullivan and seconded by Colette O'Byrne. All reports from that AGM can be accessed through the PA section on the school website. The main objectives of the Parents' Association were advised to the congregated parents, as outlined in our Constitution. A copy of the constitution is available on the school website.

It was explained that the purpose of this meeting is to elect new members to the PA Committee and that existing committee members step down. Special tribute was paid to 4 outgoing committee members – Michelle Conlon, Grainne O'Neill, Natasha Dempsey and Sara Gorman - their valuable contribution was appreciated.

Special thanks was also given to Sinead Barrett, the Teachers' Rep who agreed to continue as Teachers Rep for another year.

It was noted that the PA committee had a good year and met all of the agreed goals.

Secretary's Address

It was noted that the Parents' Association committee had a very busy year and monthly meetings were held on the first Tuesday of each month in Scoil Bhríde. In addition, various events were organised throughout the year with funding provided when necessary by the Parents' Association.

The secretary thanked all members of the outgoing committee for all their support and also acknowledged all the people on the "PA Helper's list" who were a great support at various events throughout the year. She asked that if anyone was interested in helping out at PA events throughout the year they should put their name on the list before they leave.

The following fundraising events were organized in the year:

- 3 used clothing collections in October, January and May.
- 2 'no uniform' days December and February.
- Sponsored walk held in Donadea Forest in April. The Secretary explained that the walk this year was very successful and is going from strength to strength every year. A sincere thanks was noted to everyone who supported these events and a special thank you to all the local businesses for their very generous donations to our sponsored walk raffle. A list of those local business who very kindly supported us this year is on our Website.

It was explained that the PA also organises various other events during the year which benefit all the girls in the school:

- Christmas entertainment for all the classes. A special thanks was noted for Mrs. Claus and Santa who paid a visit to the school and entertained the girls with stories and songs.
- It was explained that each class teacher was asked for a wish list of educational toys/games they would like for their class and the Committee organised the purchase and wrapping of beautiful hampers of these presents along with an individual chocolate Santa for all the girls. Santa presented these hampers to each class teacher during his visit.
- Confirmation and First Communion Ceremonies – it was explained that the flowers in the church for both these ceremonies were funded by the Parents Associations of both Scoil Bhríde and Scoil Phádraig and the PA committee hosted a lovely party for the first week of communions (for the second week of communions, the party was hosted by Scoil Phadraig).
- In June, the PA committee ran a uniform exchange day alongside the School Booksale. For parents not familiar with this, parents are asked for donations of good quality school uniform items that they are finished with and on the day of the book sale, parents looking for uniforms are free to browse the table take what they need and leave a small donation if they wish. It is a great way to recycle uniforms which are still in very good condition.
- School sports day – the PA also help with the school sports/fun day and organize and fund the first aid provision on the day.
- A staff appreciation lunch is organised towards the end of June and thanks was noted to all those committee members and helpers who prepare a great selection of food for the staff to enjoy.
- The 6th class graduation ceremony took place towards the end of June to mark the end of 8 years in primary school. It was explained that this is an evening celebration and the girls and their parents are treated to a Graduation party after the celebration Mass in the school. The PA produces a yearbook for the occasion, which is presented to each girl and is a lovely keepsake of their time in Scoil Bhríde. The girls had a graduation cake and had bubbles on the evening which was fun for all.
- School website – one of the Parents in the PA committee is responsible for maintaining the school website and sincere thanks was passed onto Marina Jordan for all her hard work and commitment. The website is a great source of information for parents and its ease of use is down to Marina’s hard work.

Treasurers Address

The Treasurer provided the meeting with an income and expenditure statement for the year.

Election of Officers

The meeting was advised that, according to our constitution, the committee can have a maximum of 22 elected members. There are currently 16 people who have expressed an interest in joining the committee. The following new committee members were proposed for election by Grainne O’Neill and were seconded by Catherine Martin:

Mandy Connolly

Liz Dagg

Ciara Early

Colette Hawkins

Marina Jordan

Rita Mackey

Kathleen Massey

Jenny Mousley

Siobhan O'Brien

Colette O'Byrne

Sharon O'Rourke

Eileen O'Sullivan

Sylvia Waters

Noel Delaney

Caoimhe Gaine

Ciara Carroll

Principal's Address

Ms. Emer Hennessy welcomed all to the meeting and explained it was her first AGM as school principal. The support of the Parents' Association was acknowledged and it was highlighted that this support helps in so many ways to enrich the children's experience of school life. It was explained that the girls have so many wonderful memories of happy days including First Communion parties, the Sponsored Walks in Donadea, Christmas Presents for the class, the ice cream van which the PA partly funded and the Graduation ceremony to name but a few.

Grateful appreciation was extended to the PA for the beautiful 'Staff Appreciation Lunch' which is provided over the past few years.

There is a strong working relationship between the school and the PA and this helps greatly in endeavours for the good of the girls and the good of the school.

The Parents Association are also very active in their fundraising efforts which have provided much needed supports for the school. This year, with the aid of funding from the Parents Association the school got the basketball courts lined and basketball nets put up in both the GP halls. €4000 worth of sports equipment was also purchased at the end of June last year. This was used to purchase gymnastic mats, balls, tennis racquets, bean bags, athletics equipment and much more. Some images of the sports equipment have been uploaded to the school website.

None of the above would have been possible without the parents ongoing support and formal thanks was extended on behalf of the pupils, the staff, the Board of Management and Principal.

School News

1. Label Your child's belonging.

Please ensure to label your child's belongings. Especially tracksuit tops and cardigans. The weather is very changeable at the moment and the children often take off their top layer. It is impossible for the children and for the teacher to establish which item of clothing belongs to which child. It makes life a lot easier for everyone and saves a lot of distress.

2. Parking

No parent should ever park in the bus bays. The GAA has kindly offered the use of their facilities. Please avail of them and walk your children to the gate.

3. ASD Class

This year saw another new exciting development in the life of Scoil Bhríde. On Monday 11th September, we welcomed our new students into our ASD class. We were granted funding over the summer holidays to complete some works to refurbish an existing classroom into an ASD class, and to have a dedicated enclosed soft play area. We were also granted funding to set up a sensory room which was completed yesterday by 'Adam and Friends'. The children have settled well into school with Ms. Arrigan and Collette and Julie.

4. Sacraments

The dates have been set for the 1st Communion and Confirmation.

First Communion:

Sunday 20th May – Ms. Barretts class and Sunday 27th May – Ms. Gleasons class. Two masses 9.30 and 11.30.

Party will be held in Scoil Bhríde on Sunday 27th May.

Registration meeting for Parents will be held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 17th October.

Confirmation:

Saturday 10th March – two masses 11.00 am – Mrs. May's class and 2pm – Mrs. McKenna's class.

Meeting for Parents will be held on Wednesday 18th October.

Graduation mass – will be held on Wednesday 27th June.

5. Peace Proms

The fifth class are preparing to participate in the Peace Proms again this year. This choir is run every year by Mrs. Maybury and Mrs. D'Arcy. Thank you to the two ladies for their great work in preparing the children for this event. It really is a very enjoyable night. The performance will be held in the RDS at the end of February.

6. Violins

All girls from 1st to 6th class have begun their violin lessons with Sandra Mason. The cost of the lessons is €40 per year which can be paid in two instalments.

7. Student Council

Mrs. Maybury, Ms. Heneghan and Ms. Johnson are working on setting up a student council with the students from 3rd to 6th class. This will give the students a voice in our school.

8. Active Flag

The staff in this school are very committed to the development of sport within our school. These teachers give of their own time and energy to coach teams and to attend matches.

Football: Ms. Brown will coach u11 football team.

Hockey: Ms. Young will coach the hockey team with the help of Ms. Gleeson.

Camogie: Ms. Doyle will coach the camogie team

Basketball: Ms. Arrigan, Ms. Cronin and Ms. Mc Neilis and Ms. Maguire will coach the basketball team.

Spikeball: The TY students coach the 6th class in Spikeball (The primary school version of volleyball) for 6 weeks each school year. They then participate in a tournament at the end of this period.

The GAA provided coaches last year to coach camogie to the 1st class girls. The girls thoroughly enjoyed this and it is hoped that we can do the same this school year.

15 members of staff completed a course with Kildare Sports Partnership on the promotion of Physical Literacy Skills. The teachers gave up a day of their summer holidays to attend this course and also completed two modules after school.

As part of the 'Be Active Schools Campaign 2017 – we are participating in the 'Run Around Europe' Challenge. We have mapped out a 500m run around the school. Two laps will be a km. We will be recording how many laps we can clock up and how far we can run around Europe – Tomorrow we hope to make it to London – 597km.

This year we have decided to apply for the Active Schools Flag. Ms. Amy Young, Ms. Marian Fox and Ms. Sinéad Barrett have kindly offered to co-ordinate the application for this flag.

9. Gymnastics

We are conscious of the fact that the older classes can seem to get a lot of coaching opportunities but it is difficult to get coaches to come in to work with the junior classes.

Last year, Leonard worked with the girls for gymnastics. Unfortunately, due to ill health, Leonard is not in a position to work with us this year.

Ms. Young has worked hard on locating another gymnastics coach who will work with the girls. The cost of this is €10 for ten weeks. If we are happy with this new arrangement we will discuss rolling it out to the other classes.

10. Swimming

The 6th class have begun their swimming lessons in k leisure. All classes from 2nd to 6th will have an opportunity to avail of swimming lessons this school year. This covers the aquatics strand in the PE curriculum.

11. Debating

The 6th class students will be participating in the 'Kildare Primary School Debating Festival' again this year. We got to the semi-final stage last year. Ms. May is attending an information meeting on this Tuesday night to get further details for this year.

12. After School Activities

There are a number of After school activities available in Scoil Bhríde and these are all listed on the website with the relevant contact details.

- Art, Irish dancing, hip hop and, Playball.
- Rita Ruane runs an after-school club for boys and girls – again details are available on the website.

Thanks was extended to the parent body for such a great response to our appeal for kitchens, and toys etc to help equip our classes.

Questions and Answers session with the Board of Management

The Chair then welcomed three members from the Board of Management - Colm Early (Chairperson), Eimear Hennessy, Principal and Doreen McMahon (Parents Rep). It was explained that only questions asked of a general nature will be answered and parents were asked to avoid asking questions that relate to a specific pupil or teacher within the school. Any questions that parents may have of an individual nature can be asked separately.

One parent thanked the Parents' Association members for all their help and support, acknowledging that without a parent body willing to help out, the school would not run as effectively.

One parent asked if the timing of the AGM could be considered and suggested that a meeting during the day be considered.

One parent asked if future AGM's could include a guest speaker on a specific subject of interest to parents.

One parent asked if a WhatsApp group could be created so that parents can stay better informed.

One parent asked for an update on the library project.

One parent asked if there could be an open evening for parents to visit the classrooms and see what their daughters are working on.

One parent acknowledged the importance of having a helpers group to assist the school with various activities.

Any Other business

There being no further business to attend to, the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attention and closed the meeting.