

## **MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **SCOIL BHRIDE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

**30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

#### **Chairperson's Welcome Address**

Hello and welcome everyone. I hope you have all had a good start to the new school year. My name is Mandy Connolly and I'm the current Chairperson of the parents' association.

We will start the meeting with an update from our School Principal, Eimear Hennessy and then we'll get into the AGM business.

#### **Principal's Address**

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to the annual Parents' Association A.G.M. It is lovely that you can all be with us as I know it's not easy to come out with small children and especially on such a miserable night.

A warm welcome to our new parents and word of thanks to all the familiar faces for joining us.

We are very lucky here in Scoil Bhríde to have a wonderful Parent's Association. The PA is a great support to the school and has helped in so many ways to enrich the children's experience of school life. The girls have so many wonderful memories of happy days – First Communion parties, Sponsored Walks in Donadea, Christmas Presents for the class, the ice cream van and the Graduation ceremony to name but a few. They have and continue to be a huge support with the maintenance of the school website.

We the staff have also been treated to a beautiful 'Staff Appreciation Lunch' over the past few years. The thought and effort that goes into this lovely lunch is much appreciated by us all.

There is a strong working relationship between the school and the P.A 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 we got science equipment purchased, we got additional seating for our library and we are hoping to get snakes and ladders, hopscotch etc. lined on the back yard.

The Parents Association also assist us with the review of school policies.

On behalf of the pupils, the staff, the Board of Management and myself I want to formally thank you for all your time, energy and support. The work you do is very much appreciated.

I hope this new school year will be a positive one for all of us. I look forward to working with you all again this year as we strive to provide the best educational experience for our girls.

A word to our new parents, please feel welcome to get involved with the Association. It is a great way to get to know people and to be involved in your child's school.

## School News

### 1. Sacraments

The dates have been set for the 1<sup>st</sup> Communion and Confirmation.

#### **First Communion:**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Ms. Moore’s class at 9.30am and Ms. Kelly’s class at 11.30 am

Party will be held in Scoil Bhríde on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

Registration meeting for Parents will be held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **Confirmation:**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – two masses 11.00 am – Ms. Johnston’s class and 2pm – Mr. McConnell’s class.

Graduation mass – will be held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

### 2. Peace Proms

The fifth class are preparing to participate in the Peace Proms again this year. Ms. Sheehan and Ms. Stafford will prepare the girls for the choir. They will be accompanied on the night by Ms. Moore and Jackie. It really is a very enjoyable night. The performance will be held in the RDS on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 8pm.

### 3. Student Council

The elections of class captains for the student council have taken place. The teachers Ms. Heneghan, Mrs. Claire Johnson, Ms. Kelly and Ms. Lipsett will work with the student council this year.

They look forward to hearing the views of the students and working with them to try and achieve the best for our school.

### 4. Sport

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. Clohessy, Mr. McConnell and Ms. McGroarty will coach u11 football team.

**Camogie:** Mrs. Dermody and Ms. Nerney will coach the camogie team

**Basketball:** Mrs. Glennon, Ms. McKinley and Ms. McAuley will coach the basketball team.

**Athletics:** Ms. Claire Johnson, Mrs. May and Ms. Lipsett will coach the athletics team.

A lot of teachers help with the coaching for the 6<sup>th</sup> class **Couch to 5 k** programme.

Aaron Gorman will be working with us all this year. Aaron has been employed by Clane GAA to assist with coaching in the schools. Aaron started on Thursday as we were waiting for his Garda vetting to come through. He will work with the Junior Infants and 6<sup>th</sup> class initially and then we will work our way through the other classes.

Eamon O’Callaghan from camogie Ireland is due to meet me in the morning to see about organising camogie training.

## **5. Swimming**

The 5<sup>th</sup> class have begun their swimming lessons in k leisure. All classes from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> will have an opportunity to avail of swimming lessons this school year. This covers the aquatics strand in the PE curriculum.

## **6. Gymnastics**

The Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 2<sup>nd</sup> class are currently attending Gymnastics Classes with Katerina.

## **7. Music**

Ms. Gately, Ms. Sheehan and Ms. Johnston have set up an after-school choir on Mondays from 2.40 - 3.40 for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class students.

The 5<sup>th</sup> class girls will once again participate in the Peace Proms – the Cross-Border initiative under the guidance of Mrs. Ruth Johnson and Ms. Eimear Sheehan. The children will be performing in the RDS on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 8pm.

## **8. Rainbows**

We as a school are trying to get the Rainbows programme back up and running in the school again. This is a support programme for children who have experience bereavement or separation. It is not a counselling service. The setting up of Scoil Bhríde as a Rainbows Centre has been approved by the Board of Management.

We are currently recruiting volunteers from the staff to train as facilitators. The training takes place over 4 days – 2 weekends from 9am to 4pm. It is a big commitment from staff members. I'd like to thank all the volunteers from the staff for giving of their time to support the needs of our pupils.

## **9. Weaving Well Being**

This programme which was introduced from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> last year has proved very popular with students and parents alike. This year we have extended it to 2<sup>nd</sup> class.

Last year Fiona Forman, the author of the programme spoke to the staff for two hours. The Parents association also invited Fiona to talk to the Parents. A talk that was very well received by all in attendance.

Fiona has asked that the school take part in a Pilot research project through Trinity on the benefits of the programme in our schools. Our 4<sup>th</sup> class students will be participating in this pilot programme.

## **10. Well Being**

In our continuing efforts to promote Well Being amongst our students, Ms. Heneghan and Ms. Barrett who are both new to teaching Senior Infants this year, attended training run by the HSE on Friday on the 'Zippy Friends' programme. This programme which was introduced last year promotes resilience in young children.

## **11. Literacy**

Over €5000 was spent in June on new books to introduce station teaching in 3<sup>rd</sup> class. This is something similar to what is in operation in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class where children read books at their level. Mrs. Claire Johnson and the third class teachers have done a lot of work preparing for this initiative. Each of the third classes will receive an 8 week block of teaching.

## **12. Climate Change**

The Green schools committee, Ms. Ruth Stafford and Mrs. McKenna held a short prayer service on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September to remember how precious our world is and to thank the Greens schools committee for all their work in doing their bit to support climate action.

13. We are hoping to plant a tree in the coming weeks in memory of Johnny Higgins our former caretaker. Johnny's family will be invited to attend.
14. Since being appointed as DP in June 2018. Niamh Heneghan has been working hard on developing IT in the school.
  - She has got all the Interactive Whiteboards fixed and organised training for staff in the use of same.
  - She has purchased 'Beebots' which will be used from Junior Infants to 1<sup>st</sup> class to teach simple coding through play.
  - She has got laptops refurbished through Green IT to ensure there is a set of 15 laptops for classes to use for Project work and for Accelerated reading testing at the beginning and end of the school year.
  - She has ordered a set of 15 iPads which are due to arrive in the coming weeks and has also organised for training for staff in the use of these.
  - I would like to thank Ms. Heneghan for her hard work and dedication to our school.

## **15. Per Cent for Art Grant**

Last year, we received our stage for the school Christmas concert through the Clodagh Emoe who was appointed to work with us on our Art Per Cent Project which Hilary Moss gave us huge assistance with. Part of that project was for an artist – Dr. Clodagh Emoe to come in and work with a class group to write a script with the children and to perform a drama on the stage. Clodagh wasn't available last year but we got the stage in order so that we could have it for our Christmas concert. Clodagh and her colleague Shane will work with Ms. Johnston's 6<sup>th</sup> class on this project this year.

## **16. Movie Maker**

We were looking for a project for our other 6<sup>th</sup> class to do so they wouldn't feel left out. We have booked a movie maker workshop for Mr. Mc Connell's 6<sup>th</sup> class for the 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December.

This project will introduce the concepts and basics of film making to the students. They would then write, script, edit and produce a short films. This workshop is facilitated with 2 tutors so the class splits and each tutor works with their group on a collaborative film.

We think this will also be a fabulous learning opportunity for our students.

## **17. Road Safety Authority**

We have been on the waiting list for the past 18 months for 'Streetsmart' from the Road Safety Authority.

This will be set up in the hall for the week beginning the 9<sup>th</sup> December. This mobile village is used to teach children all about Road Safety. It travels around the country hence the long waiting list of schools who want to avail of it.

I think it will be a great learning opportunity for the children.

## **18. Funathon and Christmas Markets**

The children will dress up as normal on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October.  
Christmas Markets – dates to be confirmed

## **19. After School Activities**

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

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

*Chairperson thanked Eimear and proceeded with the AGM Agenda*

Now with the AGM business:

- The purpose of the AGM is to update you all on activities and events that the PA committee have been involved in during the past year.
- We also use this meeting to elect new members to the PA. Each year committee members stand down and if they so choose put themselves forward for re-election. We currently have 19 people who will continue in the committee from last year. Under our constitution we can have 22 in our committee, so we have space for 3 new members.
- I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all members of the current PA for their commitment and valued contributions – last year was another busy year for fundraising and many members of the PA gave up much of their time. A special thanks to Kathleen Massey who is not continuing as her daughter left the school
- I'd also like to thank Eileen Glennon – the teachers rep who has been our rep for the past year. Eileen will be replaced as teachers rep this year by Sinead Kelly and we very much look forward to working with Sinead.
- I'd also like to thank all the teachers, school principal and Board of Management (BOM) all of whom, together with the Parents' Association (PA) work together for the benefit of the school and the pupils in particular.
- Before we go through the agenda, for the benefit of those new to the school or to these meetings, I'd like to read a short section from the Parents Association constitution (a copy of which can be found on the PA website) which explains what the PA is and does .....

PA Association Membership and Aims section was read to the assembled parents.

## **Minutes of last year's AGM**

A copy of the minutes from last year's AGM are available on the school website.

- Chairperson asked if there were any matters arising from the minutes last year that anyone wanted to raise now?
- There was no response from the meeting attendees.
- Chairperson indicated that the minutes would therefore be taken as read

**Proposed by** – Siobhán O’Brien

**Seconded by** – Ailish Sheehan

### **Secretary’s Address**

Hi members, I am just going to give you a quick outline of some of the activities we organise during the year.

The Parents' Association committee had a very busy year -- we held our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month here in Scoil Bhríde and various events were organised throughout the year with funding provided when necessary by the Parents’ Association.

We had great support throughout the year from everyone on the Committee, including new members who joined this time last year. It was great to see such a big turnout each month at the meetings.

I would also like to acknowledge all the people on our ‘PA Helper’s list’ who were a great support at our various events throughout the year. - a big thank you to everyone for all their hard work.

If you would like to help at PA events throughout the year please put your name on the list before you leave, even if you have put it down in previous years please do so again.

### **Fundraising:**

Our fundraising events this year were:

3 used clothing collections in October, March and May.

2 ‘no uniform’ days December and February.

Our main annual fundraiser - the sponsored walk, was again held in Donadea Forest in April. Our walk this year was very successful and seems to be going from strength to strength every year so a sincere thanks 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.

### **Various events:**

As always, the PA committee organise various other events during the year which benefit all the girls in the school:

In December we organised Christmas entertainment for all the classes. A special thanks to Mrs. Claus and Santa who paid a visit to the school and entertained the girls with stories and songs.

Each class teacher was asked for a wish list of items they would like for their class, the Committee organised the purchase and wrapping of beautiful hampers of these presents along with and sweets for all the girls. Santa presented these hampers to each class teacher during his visit.

Christmas to May is a busy period as we plan for our annual sponsored walk and the Confirmation and First Communions ceremonies.

In relation to Confirmation and First Communion Ceremonies the flowers in the church for both these ceremonies were funded by the Parents Associations of both Scoil Bhríde and Scoil Phádraig and we hosted a lovely party for the First communion children and their parents here in Scoil Bhríde on the second week of Communions, with Scoil Phádraig hosting the party the first week.

In June we ran a uniform exchange day alongside the School Booksale. For parents not familiar with this, we ask parents for donations of good quality school uniform items that they are finished with and on the day, parents looking for uniform items 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. We also help with the school sports/fun day and the Parents Association fund the first aid cover on that day.

A staff appreciation lunch is organised towards the end of June and thanks to all those committee members and helpers who prepare a great selection of food for the staff to enjoy.

The 6th class graduation ceremony takes place towards the end of June to mark the end of 8 years in primary school. This is a fabulous evening the girls and their parents are treated to a Graduation party after the celebration Mass in the school. We also produce a yearbook for the occasion, which is presented to each girl and is a lovely keepsake of their time in Scoil Bhríde.

The school website aims to update parents on various issues such as, dates of school holidays, various pa activities, children's achievements, school policies, school photographs, school events, National parent council events etc.

Also, Marina uploads the school newsletter each term. A huge thank you to Marina for all her hard work, on keeping the website up to date, she does an immense amount of work on it, keeping us all well informed on all school info and activities.

So please check it out.

### **Treasurers Address**

The Treasurer provided the meeting with an income and expenditure statement for the year. This will be posted on the School Website.

### **Election of New Committee**

The meeting was advised that, according to our constitution, the committee can have a maximum of 22 elected members. Committee members can serve in officer roles for a maximum of 3 years.

There are currently 19 existing members of the committee who have confirmed their commitment to continuing the committee. There are also 3 new parents who have expressed an interest in joining the committee.

The following new committee members were **proposed for election by Hilary Moss** and were **seconded by Ciara Early**.

1. Mandy Connolly
2. Ciara Early
3. Marina Jordan
4. Rita Mackey
5. Jenny Mousley
6. Siobhan O'Brien

7. Colette O'Byrne
8. Sharon O'Rourke
9. Eileen O'Sullivan
10. Sylvia Waters
11. Noel Delaney
12. Caoimhe Gaine
13. Ciara Carroll
14. Ronan Lowry
15. Dervilla Callan
16. Avril Dixon
17. Cara Ronan
18. Niamh Doolan
19. Ailish Sheehan
20. Mags Lennon
21. Leonie Wilson
22. Evelyn Andrews

Sinead Kelly (Teacher's representative)

- The Chairperson indicated that the election of officer roles will happen at the next Parents' Association Meeting.
- Those parents who expressed an interest in joining the PA Helper's list will be added to the PA Helper's What's App group in the coming week or so.
- A reminder that all Committee Members and PA Helpers must be Garda Vetted in order to participate in PA and school activities. Details on the vetting process can be accessed on the Scoil Bhríde Website

### **Any Other business**

That concluded the formal agenda for the meeting. The Chairperson asked the parents present if there were any other topics. There were no topics raised.

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