

## **MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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

**28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

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

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the AGM. The minutes of the AGM of 30th September 2015 were taken as read and were proposed for adoption by Mandy Connolly and seconded by Liz Dagg. 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.

The Chair advised the meeting that this the first AGM that is taking place in the new school. Special thanks were made to all parents who generously baked cakes etc for the Opening Ceremony.

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 all outgoing committee members - their valuable contribution was appreciated. 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:

- 2 used clothing collections in October and June.
- 2 'no uniform' days November 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 communion children and their parents in Scoil Bhríde.
- In June, the PA committee ran a uniform exchange day alongside the School Booksale.
- 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.
- On the 15<sup>th</sup> June an Information Evening for parents was held on the Transition from Primary to Post Primary school. Thanks was noted to everyone who attended the talk.
- 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 a balloon release on the evening which was fun for all.
- Finally each term the PA Committee produces a newsletter which is available online. Both the newsletter and the website aim 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. The Secretary encouraged all parents to review the newsletters and website for valuable information.

### **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 19 people who have expressed an interest in joining the committee. The following new committee members were proposed for election by Mandy Connolly and were seconded by Liz Dagg:

Michelle Conlon

Mandy Connolly

Agnieszka Czarnecka

Liz Dagg

Natasha Dempsey

Ciara Early

Sara Gorman

Colette Hawkins

Marina Jordan

Gintras Kiksininkas

Rita Mackey

Kathleen Massey

Jenny Mousley

Siobhan O'Brien

Colette O'Byrne

Grainne O'Neill

Sharon O'Rourke

Eileen O'Sullivan

Sylvia Waters

### **Principal's Address**

The Principal Deirdre Costello addressed the room and welcomed all. She explained that this would be her last Parents' Association AGM before her retirement. She noted she had wonderful memories of working with the PA over the years and appreciated all that the committee do over and above what is expected of them.

She explained that the Santa visit and Christmas gifts were a stand out activity for her and that she very much enjoyed the sponsored walk.

She extended her sincere thanks to all parents who spent time baking for the opening ceremony – she was overwhelmed by the volumes made.

She thanked the PA committee for the fabulous teachers appreciation lunches provided each year and explained that it really made the teachers feel very appreciated.

She also extended heartfelt thanks to the PA for all the fundraising effort over the years. So many valuable things have been introduced into the school by the PA including, reading schemes, whiteboards, violins etc. She also noted the Vladimir event which raised funds for the new school which was a great success.

### **Other School Business:**

- Please can all personal belongings be labelled
- Please can parents never park in the bus bays outside the front of the school
- Junior infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> class should use the existing gate and 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class only should use the new gate
- Violin lessons were introduced a number of years ago into the school for 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes at cost of €40 per child

- Communion dates were confirmed as 7<sup>th</sup> May for Ms Stafford's class and 14<sup>th</sup> May for Ms Gleeson's class and both parties to be held in Scoil Bhríde
- Confirmation ceremonies to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> March at 11am and 2pm
- Graduation ceremony to take place on 26<sup>th</sup> June
- Gymnastics has been introduced into the school for junior infants to 1<sup>st</sup> class at a cost of €1 per week. Classes for older classes for later in the year
- The Montessori Le Petit E'cole is now up and running in the school grounds
- Intel matching grants were enjoyed by the school and special thanks were noted to Colin O'Brien who arranged for the school to be presented with a cheque for €2,200
- It was explained that the school will be developing a Year Book to raise funds for the new school.

The Principal then explained that a new Principal will be announced in the coming week. She explained she will be retiring on 28<sup>th</sup> October after 36 years of teaching. She explained it has been a great privilege to work in Scoil Bhríde and that the school and the people will always have a special place in her heart and wishes the school every success in the future.

#### **Any Other business**

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