

MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SCOIL BHRÍDE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION
24th September 2014

Chairpersons Welcome Address

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the AGM, at which she advised that the existing committee members step down and the new committee for the coming year are elected. Special tribute was paid to all outgoing committee members in particular those who no longer had children in the school - their valuable contribution was noted. Appreciation was also expressed to Ruth Stafford who represented the teaching staff on the association over the past year in addition to appreciation to 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.

The minutes of the AGM of 25th September 2013 were proposed for adoption by Mandy Connolly and seconded by Sara Gorman. All reports from that AGM can be accessed through the PA section on the school website.

Constitution Amendments

Scoil Bhríde is affiliated to the National Parents' Council (NPC) - a very good resource for parents and the PA. The outgoing committee had reviewed the existing committee constitution and agreed on some amendments to bring the document more in line with NPC recommendations.

The amendments were advised to the assembled parents most notably:

- addition of a new paragraph regarding the management of sub committees;
- changes to the arrangements for an AGM/EGM;
- PA would raise funds only by prior agreement of BOM;

With no further proposed additions/deletions the amendments were proposed for adoption by Eileen Dunne and were seconded by Edel Marron O'Flaherty.

Chairperson's Report

Secretary's Report

Election of Incoming Committee

New members were sought from the meeting. The following members were proposed for election by Grainne O'Neill and were seconded by Helena Early.

Mandy Connolly
Joan Dempsey
Eileen Dunne
Sara Gorman
Colette Hawkins
Gintaras Kiksininkas
Kathleen Massey
Margaret Maguire
Anthony O'Dea
Deborah O'Sullivan
Eileen O'Sullivan Healy
Edel Marron O'Flaherty
New Member 1
New Member 2

Fundraising

As the new building reaches completion, there will be some requirements which will not be provided by the Department of Education - to begin - a library and stage with curtains, lighting, etc.

The chairperson advised that the PA had been approached with an offer to hold a Classical Viennese Christmas recital. A date has been agreed for 11th December with the venue being Clane Parish Church. €10 from each €25 ticket from this event will be donated to the school. More details to follow.

Principals Address

Appreciation

Mrs Costello paid tribute to a hardworking, supportive P.A. who together with the school and BOM add to the enrichment of every child in the school. She referred to a number of key events organised by the PA most notably:

- Communion Party - last one held in current hall in 2014 - hundreds of families have enjoyed memorable family days over the years;
- Visit of Mrs Claus & Santa and gifts for all classrooms;
- Graduation Night for 6th class - enhanced in recent years by PA with addition of food, balloon release, graduation booklets - a very special celebration of 8 years for the girls and their families;
- Staff Appreciation Lunch - fabulous event which means so much to all the staff who appreciate how busy people are but take the time;
- Facilities such as whiteboards, musical instruments, literacy programmes have all been provided for the school by the PA.

All of this epitomises the positive relationship between the PA and the school. On behalf of all pupils, staff and board of management, the principal thanked all members for their time, energy and support and encouraged new parents to get involved.

Building Programme

Turning of sod last March.

Phase 1 - Development of basketball court to front of school.

Phase 2 - Erection of 2 storey 10 classroom extension - 5 rooms upstairs, 5 downstairs, to be painted in bright colours - a lovely building for pupils and staff. PE hall 3/4 times size of existing hall which can be partitioned to facilitate 2 PE classes at the same time.

Phase 3 - Refurbishment of existing building.

In July 2015 Scoil Bhríde will be a 24 classroom school - up from 16 and prefabs will be removed. Growth to fill these classrooms will be gradual over the coming years.

2 pedestrian entrances will facilitate safer entry to school grounds; entrance to car park will remain.

On 21st November - Presentation Day - 10 classes and 3 offices will move to the new building. The seamless move will have to be planned very carefully - teachers and children very excited.

In December the old building will be closed off with the exception of the existing 6th class rooms which will remain operational with access from rear door. 1st classes will remain in prefabs and Senior Infants will move to existing 3rd class extension.

4th and 5th classes - Rooms 7, 8, 9 and 10 will move upstairs to new extension.

Both 3rd classes will move downstairs and there will be one 2nd class upstairs and one 2nd class downstairs with Junior Infants also on the ground floor downstairs.

Builders will then start a total refurbishment of the existing 14 classrooms and support rooms installing new wiring, plumbing, windows etc.

In planning the new build, Mrs Costello advised that many hours were spent discussing the need for building on the playing pitches. However, there was no other option and to facilitate a replacement pitch Fr. Paul approached Scoil Mhuire & Scoil Phadraig who have very kindly agreed to work with Scoil Bhríde - a playing field has been provided on Scoil Mhuire grounds with access via a safe enclosed pathway at the rear of Scoil Phádraig. In addition, there will be 2 basketball courts to front and additional playing ground around the rear of the new building when complete. Mrs Costello acknowledged the support of the GAA in providing interim playing pitches and ongoing parking facilities for parents and staff.

Lift Off Literacy Programme

New initiative introduced September 2013 with €15-18,000 spent on books in past 16 months with support of BOM and PA. Introduced at 1st class level, outline as follows:

- Children tested to assess reading age of each child.
- 4 groups arranged in the classes according to reading ability.
- Class teacher prepares a writing exercise on Monday - children recount a recent activity.

- 4 teachers attend for 45 minutes every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and each teacher takes one of the four groups of children for 10 minutes then rotating on to the other three groups in turn - all working on what was prepared on Monday. 1 teacher covers spellings & phonics; 1 teacher covers familiar read; 1 teacher covers new read and 1 teacher for intensive teaching.
- Further assessments throughout the year at Christmas and May.
- Year end surveys of children and parents were very positive - positive outcome also reflected in year end Drumcondra tests.
- This year programme running in 1st and 2nd classes.
- Programme unlikely to roll out to senior classes as early intervention has proved preferable with this programme.

Accelerated Maths Programme

Staff considering such a programme. Differentiated groups have been operating in 6th classes over past number of years.

Reading Recovery

18 months ago the school applied for a Reading Recovery Resource Person - application was denied by the Department of Education but possibility will not be given up on.

Resource teachers provided by the Department are for specific individual children - not for every child. Parental concerns regarding special assistance requirements to be discussed privately with principal.

Whole School Evaluation

- Taking place 3rd, 4th and 5th November 2014. Team of Inspectors will look at teaching and learning of English, Irish, Maths and Visual Arts in Scoil Bhríde;
- 6th October - Inspectors to meet 3 representatives of the Parents Association to discuss work of PA; representatives of BOM to discuss issues board concerned with and after school will meet staff;
- Questionnaires to some class parents at each level - to be completed anonymously and sent back directly to Department of Education;
- Inspectors will administer questionnaires to both 4th classes and both 6th classes;
- Inspectors will visit 60% of all classes;
- Inspectors will meet with Principal.

Other School Business

- 1st to 6th Class Parent Teacher Meetings moving from November to week of 8th December;
- Junior and Senior Infant Parent Teacher Meetings in January 2015;
- Owing to building programme there will not be a Christmas concert - school hoping to host a concert before end of school year;
- Book Fair returning to the school from 1st to 7th October following a 5 year absence - being run by Mrs Maybury and girls from Room 9 - opportunity for some early Christmas gifts.

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