

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM): ONLINE: GOOGLE MEET

SCOIL BHRIDE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Tuesday September 28th @ 7.30pm

The meeting was held as a virtual meeting via Google Meet. Parents were notified via message on Aladdin and a post on the school website

AGENDA

Colette welcomed everyone to the AGM and handed over to Niamh Henegan who was presenting the Principal's address on behalf of Eimear Hennessy.

1. Principal's address

Niamh thanked the committee for the ongoing work and support over the past year. Niamh acknowledged that the past 5/6 weeks since the return to school has been difficult for the school and parents with regard to Covid 19. The schools are hopeful there will be no further closures in the future.

In terms of staffing the school has lost some fantastic teachers and welcomed others. The school said goodbye to Ms. Mc Kinley, Ms. Nerney, Ms. Lipsett, Mr. McConnell and Ms. Walsh. The school welcomed Ms. Hyland to Special Ed, Mrs. Mac Glinchey to 2nd class, Ms. Doyle to 3rd class, Ms. Farrell to 5th class and Mr. Stritch to 1st class.

The Parent teacher meetings are due to be held at the end of November. The school are awaiting guidelines as to whether these can be held face to face or if they will be held remotely as they were last year. The school will revert to the parent body when they receive further information.

The production of Christmas cards will go ahead this year and Ms Downes in 2nd class will organise this in the coming months.

The school are in the process of electing the student council which consists of representatives from 4th, 5th and 6th class students. The Student Council plan to organise the annual pajama day to raise funds which will be donated to the outdoor learning area which is being developed.

Two areas are being developed for the school garden this year. The area between the boys and girls school is in progress and Michael, the caretaker, has already put in six raised flower beds. A pond and seating area is also in development. There are plans to further develop another garden area for the junior classes near the car park. Some toad stool seating has already been purchased for this. Niamh asked for the PA's assistance in recruiting parents who have an interest or expertise in gardening to assist the teachers, caretakers and Green

Schools Committee in this development. Colette agreed to raise this with the PA committee members for volunteers and suggested the invite is included in the November letter planned for the wider parent body. If the annual sponsored walk takes place, it will put the PA in a good position to financially support the project.

Niamh thanked the PA for their work and in particular Marina for her support with the school website and website training.

2. Chairperson's Address

Colette has been a member of the PA Committee for the past six years and this will be her third and final year as Chairperson.

The purpose of the AGM is to update the parent body on the activities and events that the Parents Association (PA) committee have been involved in during the past year. Colette expressed that over the past year the PA's activities have been severely hampered by the continuing impact of Covid 19 and last year's activities are a paler imitation of what the PA committee are usually involved in.

This meeting purpose is also to elect new members to the PA and to re-elect any existing members who wish to remain on the committee. Each year committee members stand down and if they so choose put themselves forward for re-election. The PA currently have 18 people who will continue in the committee from last year. Under the constitution there can be a maximum of 22 representatives in the committee, so there space for 4 new members.

Louise has kindly agreed to help with the recording of PA video discussed at the first PA meeting this year. The aim of this is to recruit some new members to the PA Committee particularly from the Junior and Senior Infants parent group. It is hoped this video will be recorded in the next few weeks.

Colette sincerely thanked all members of the current PA for their commitment and valued contribution last year. A special thanks was given to the 3 outgoing members, Ciara Earley, Siobhan Obrien and Rita Mackey for all their work on the PA committee over the years. Colette thanked Louise Johnston, the current teachers rep, who has agreed to stay on as teachers rep for the current year. Louise has been an excellent go-between for the PA over the past year highlighting and supporting PA activities to Eimear and the teachers. Louise has kindly agreed to help us with the production of the video on PA role and activities for parents who are new to Scoil Bhríde.

Colette thanked all the teachers, Eimear, Niamh and the Board of Management (BOM), all of whom, work together with the PA for the benefit of the school and the children in particular.

A section of the PA Constitution was read out for the benefit of those new to the school or new to these meetings. A copy of the Constitution can be found on the PA section of the school website which explains the PA's purpose and function. It is revisited at the AGM each year. The PA Association membership and aims section was read to the assembled parents.

Following discussion of the Constitution, the following actions were agreed:

- Caoimhe to look at the existing helpers list and put out a request for new volunteers.
- Colette to follow up with Eimear regarding an invitation to the elected parent representatives of the BOM whom are automatic committee members. It would be useful for the BOM parent reps to share updates and insight into the function of the BOM with the PA.
- Officer roles will be discussed at the next PA meeting. Officer roles cannot be held for longer than three consecutive years. The Vice Minute Taker role has been vacant for the past year and is due to be filled.
- The creation of a sub-committee is provided for in the Constitution. A sub-committee is being proposed in the next PA meeting.

Minutes of last year's AGM

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

Colette asked if there were any matters arising from the minutes last year that anyone wanted to raise. No matters arising.

The minutes were proposed by Avril and seconded by Mags.

3. Secretary's Address

Caoimhe acknowledged last year was a different year for the PA Committee due to Covid 19. Monthly meetings were held online but this appeared to work well and saw good numbers in attendance. There was great support from everyone on the Committee, including new members who joined this time last year. Some of the activities organised during the last academic year were outlined.

Fundraising events this year were:

- The 'no uniform' day in November which was extremely successful in raising funds
- The main annual fundraiser - the sponsored walk, unfortunately was cancelled again this year due to the pandemic.

The PA committee organise various other events during the year which benefit all the girls in the school, this year to a smaller scale than usual:

- In December the PA were delighted to be able to organise Christmas entertainment for all the classes. A special thanks to Santa who paid an individual visit to each classroom in the school. It was great to continue with this tradition despite Covid restrictions. This year each child received a tub of sweets, causing great excitement and Christmas cheer.

- The Confirmation and First Communion were delayed but took place over the last two weekends. The flowers in the church for both these ceremonies were funded by the Parents Associations of both Scoil Bhríde and Scoil Phádraig. Unfortunately, we were unable to host the usual parties afterwards.
- The staff appreciation lunch was cancelled but the parent's association were able to supply cooked goods from Super Valu for tea break for the staff and this was well received.
- The 6th class graduation ceremony takes place towards the end of June to mark the end of 8 years in primary school. Committee members, Marina and Mandy, produced a yearbook for the occasion, which was 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 (NPC) events etc. 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.

4. Treasurer's Address:

Income & expenditure statement 1st September 2021

INCOME:

Winter Wollies	€ 1200
----------------	--------

<u>TOTAL INCOME:</u>	<u>€1200.00</u>
-----------------------------	------------------------

EXPENDITURE:

Bank Charges & Stamp Duty	€40.00
Flowers for Communion	€250.00
Parents Association Insurance	€215.00
NPC Membership/Training	€200.00
Christmas Expenses	€740.00 (Presents, Entertainment, Refreshments)
Graduation Expenses	€380.00 (Booklets etc.)
School Tour Donation	€112.00

Staff & Committee Gifts	€40.00 (Retirement)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>€1977.00</u>

TOTAL INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2020/2021

Expenditure exceeded income: €777.00

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

Opening Balance 1st September 2020	€1340.00
Total Income 2020/2021	€1200.00
Total Expenditure 2020/2021	<u>€1977.00</u>
Closing Balance 31st August 2021	<u>€563.00</u>

30th September 2021

It was acknowledged that funds are running low and the PA will be looking at this again at the October meeting.

Noel has been treasurer for the PA for the past three years and will hand over the role to Sharon for the coming year. NPC invoices and bank statements will be transferred to the new officers as required. A big thank you to Noel for all the hard work during this time.

5. Election of Parents Association Committee for 2020/2021

1. Colette O'Byrne
2. Caoimhe Gaine
3. Mags Lennon
4. Noel Delaney
5. Marina Jordan
6. Avril Dixon
7. Ciara Carroll
8. Sharon O'Rourke
9. Mandy Connolly
10. Dervilla Callan
11. Cara Ronan

12. Niamh Doolan
13. Ailish Sheehan
14. Leonie Wilson
15. Evelyn Andrews
16. Jenny Mousely
17. Triona Quinlan
18. Paul Edwards was welcomed to the Committee

The election of officer roles will happen at the next Parents' Association Meeting on Tuesday October 12th. Colette and Caoimhe will confirm that those on the committee are willing to remain on the committee and also if those in officer roles who have not been in the role for three years are also happy to continue. There are currently three spaces.

Officer roles include: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Minutes Secretary. The importance of Marina's role in maintaining the school website and training the teachers on use of the website was acknowledged.

If there parents who expressed an interest in joining the PA Helper's list and they will be added to the PA Helper's What's App group in the coming weeks.

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.

Review of the PA Goals for the coming year:

1. Organisation of the AGM in order to invite more parents to join the Committee
2. Organisation of information talks. The Committee aim for two talks a year. The NPC have various trainings for parents. At present there are two online trainings available for the PA to book.
3. Monthly Meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month. These are online at present but it was discussed last June that blended meetings may be held in the future.
4. Review of School Policies in conjunction with the Principal and the BOM as they arise.
5. Christmas Events including the organisation and funding of celebrations in the school. The format of this will be discussed at November meeting
6. First Holy Communion events and funding of flowers. Activities including the communion party and cake will be considered closer to the time as these will be dependent on Covid restrictions.
7. Confirmation- funding of flowers in the Church.
8. Graduation Yearbook – funding and preparation of booklet.
9. Website training for teachers and support provided with uploads as required including PA documents, school events etc.
10. Teacher Appreciation Lunch. This will be discussed again closer to the time this year.
11. Uniform exchange at book sale. This hasn't taken place for the last two years due to Covid restrictions but will be considered this year closer to the time.
12. Fundraising- traditional annual fundraising activities listed below have enabled us to make an annual donation to the school and fund PA Activities:

- Non uniform days x2. Aim to co-ordinate this with the Toy Show if possible
- Clothing collections x2/3, however, this does not seem to be a viable earner anymore
- Sponsored Walk
- Setting up a PA finance sub-committee to include members from the wider parent body.

13. Avail of Training from NPC- There are two possible options at present which are being delivered online: 1.supporting parents to support their childrens' mental health and wellbeing 2. Supporting your child to build healthy friendships and relationships. These courses can be provided for the PA at a cost of approximately €50 euro per course.

14. To make a promotional video outlining the work of the PA Committee and the various roles people may have on the Committee. The video is to compensate for the lack of a direct meeting with incoming Junior Infant parents in the past 2 years due to Covid 19. The aim is to attract new members onto the PA Committee.

No further goals were suggested.

The above goals were proposed by Caoimhe and seconded by Colette.

Colette thanked everyone for their time and for attending this evening.

The next PA meeting is Tuesday October 12th @ 20:00. The agenda will be sent out in advance and Colette will liaise with the School Principal before hand.