



St. Munchin's College Parents' Council
7.30-8.30pm on Monday 15th November 2021
In the College Boardroom
Minutes of Meeting

Attendance:

Present: Anna Butler, Carmel Naughton, Valerie Fahy, Mariajean Geary, Cynthia Hassett, Jamie O'Sullivan, Michael O'Regan, John Moloney, David Quilter (Principal)

Apologies: Kathleen Daffy, Trevor Brewer, Jennifer(McGrath) Newman, Ioannis Zabetakis, Marian Keane, Sinead Nolan, Grainne Walsh, Karen Kiely.

Opening Remarks:

Welcome to new members:

The meeting was chaired by Anna Butler, outgoing Treasurer. Anna welcomed all new members to the association (we have 26 parents indicating their interest in getting involved in the PA this year) and each new member gave a brief introduction to the parents present.

Role of Parents' Association

The role & function of the PA was explained to all:

- The PA serves the school on a voluntary basis and organizes fundraising activities throughout the year. We welcome all parents and guardians to become active parents.
- The PA is a social group of the parents of children at a school formed in order to foster better understanding between parents and the school and to organize activities on behalf of the school.
- The PA is the structure through which parents/guardians in a school can work together for the best possible education for their children. ... can suggest and/or organise co-curricular & extra-curricular activities. The Parent Association is a support for parents in the school.
- The PA is a resource at the disposal of the individual parent- represents the views of parents, e.g., by having an input into school policies. All parents and guardians of children attending your school are members of the Parent Association.
- The PA is a social group of the parents of children at a school formed in order to foster better understanding between parents and the school and to organize activities on behalf of the school

Election of Officers:

Chairperson: Kathleen Daffy was re-elected for another year.

Secretary: Cynthia Hassett was proposed and elected

Treasurer: Valerie Fahy was proposed and elected

Covid 19 Updates

The Principal gave the meeting a full report. While there is an easing of the current COVID restrictions for some sectors, there is no change to the guidelines in place for the education sector at the moment. The guidelines pertaining to social distancing, hand hygiene, mask wearing, and general respiratory etiquette continue to apply to all school communities, and this is expected to continue in the medium to long term.

The Department is looking at current guidance regarding school transport (moved from 50% capacity back to 100% capacity on buses with the full wearing of masks), Parent Teacher meetings (must be held virtually online and not in school face-to-face) together with other related matters (full resumption of school sporting activities and extra-curricular events) and will continue to issue updated guidance in the weeks ahead.

The Principal advised that, currently, regarding Parent Teacher Meetings, priority was being given to exam years which will go ahead virtually on 02nd December for 3rd year and 07th December for 6th year students.

The Principal also outlined that the school had recently undergone a Covid Inspection on the previous Thursday and has passed all checks. The current arrangements in relation to the different break times for the Junior School and the Senior School are working very well. A brief overview was also given in relation to costings related to Covid such as masks, additional cleaning and supervision required.

Draft Assessment and Reporting Policy

The Principal previously issued a draft copy to all members of the PA committee. The rationale, purpose and types of Assessments were explained as was the importance & relevance of proper Reporting on improving student results and outcomes.

Fundraising

Over the years, the PA has organised many fundraising activities on behalf of the school which have contributed to the many improvements carried out by the school over the past few years (e.g. Coffee Mornings, Clothes Collections, Fashion Shows, Dog Nights, Strictly Come Dancing, etc.....)

However due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, the PA are not in a position to do so this year but will keep this under constant review.

AOB

TY Musical

It is hoped that the TY School Musical will go ahead this year in April/May '22. Also, the school will review the possibility of Home Economics being offered to our TYs by Ard Scoil Mhuire girls' school after the Christmas break.

Night Study

The school will look at the resumption of Night Study after the Christmas break

Ag Science for Leaving Cert Level

The PA asked if it were possible to offer Ag Science at Leaving Cert level- It was stated that it was offered in the past but due to small numbers, it was discontinued. However, the school may look at the option of offering a module in TY to promote interest in the subject. The Principal advised that a threshold of 10 is required to offer the subject.

Cycling and the wearing of helmets

The PA enquired if the school could ensure that all students cycling to school could wear helmets and high-vis jackets. The Principal stated that it was up to individual parents to encourage and insist that their son's wear these each morning.

Remembrance Mass

The Principal advised that the Remembrance Mass would go ahead on Friday 26.11.21- however, the offer of coffee afterwards to everyone attending will not now take place- only parents and grandparents of recently deceased relatives will be invited to keep numbers small.

School Bus

The PA queried the operation of a bus service for Clonlara/Ardnacrusha/Parteen area. Efforts were made by the school to organize such a service but as this would be private, it has proven to be not cost effective and so will not now be running. The Principal advised that you must be 4.5km from the school for a bus service to operate. The Principal also outlined that the school are liaising with the Local Authority in relation to the development of a cycle path for students.

Date of next meeting

The date for the next meeting is provisionally booked for Monday 13th December.