



St. Munchin's College Parents' Council
7.30-8.30pm on Monday 10th October 2022
College Boardroom
Minutes of Meeting

Attendance:

Present: Kathleen Daffy , Carmel Naughton, Jamie O'Sullivan, Maria Jean Geary, Valeria Fahy, Cynthia Hassett, Michael O' Reagan, Anna Butler, David Quilter (Principal)

Apologies: John Moloney, Jennifer McGrath, Sinead Nolan

Minutes of last Meeting:

Kathleen Daffy (Chair) opened the meeting and queried any matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting. No matters arising

Meeting Extended Sympathy:

-To the family of Phil McAuliffe (Chairperson of our BOM 2015-2021) on his very sad passing over the summer.

-To the family of Fr. Joseph Noonan (College President and Principal 1993-98) on his sad passing last weekend after a long illness.

Principal's Update

David Quilter gave the following updates to the meeting.

Post Covid-19 Protocols

The Department of Education has advised that there are no new requirements in respect of managing Covid-19. It is however important to remember the key messages:

- Stay at home if feeling unwell and until symptoms have substantially resolved for 48 hours
- Maintain a good standard of hand hygiene
- Adhere to good respiratory etiquette
- Ensure good ventilation arrangements
- Continue to maintain good levels of cleaning.

Covid-19 Grants: Will continue to cover enhanced cleaning & PPE will be paid to schools for Term1.

Masks: There is no requirement to wear masks, but masks should continue to be provided to any staff member or student who wishes to wear them.

Corridors: Two-way system remains in operation.

Classrooms: All students sanitize on entering and leaving rooms.


Split Lunch breaks: To continue

After School Study: After school study facilities are available once again in the school this year but the school have decided to extend afterschool study by one hour each day (3 hours Mon-Thurs, 2 hours Friday). There will be no Night Study.

ASD Special Unit Plans

- Formal sanctioning for the opening of 1 x ASD Special Class to cater for students (3 in total to date) with appropriate reports.
- Provisionally located in C4 opposite ASD Sensory Room. Now called the “Torch” Class.
- The school BOM will continue with its plans to the Department Building’s Unit for the full development of a Special ASD Unit in the “old Nun’s Wing”. This will contain 2 Special Classes (max 6 students in each) + a substantial amount of additional resource rooms, amenities and equipment.
- Additional ASD Special Class Staffing: Karen Fahy (ASD Co-ordinator), Olivia Cumiskey (Resource Teacher), Yvonne (SNA). Other teachers on the College Staff List will be teaching certain L2LP courses, while others will dip in and out where the needs and resources are required.
- Timetabling and suitable programmes will evolve over the year.
- Additional Furniture, Equipment, IT Facilities & Materials have been installed

New St Munchin’s College APP

The New St. Munchin’s College App  (created in conjunction with Unique Schools App) provides the school with a single point of engagement on school related matters (including VShare). It is now the school's official platform for parents, students and teachers.

-All published school news, notifications, calendar events, photos and videos will be published through this App.

-Attendance Forms, Absence Forms, Late Notes and Permission to Leave Early Forms are available in the App.

-Payments: The App will allow Parents and the school to move to cashless payments with pop-up alerted notifications on their phone screen when a payment is due. It will also allow flexible payment options to pay in instalments throughout the school year or pay in full by debit or credit card.

-Cashless Canteen: Over the summer months, the school has linked up with CARAMBOLA SCHOOL FOOD COMPANY to manage, staff and supply all of our school canteen requirements for both student and staff from September '22 onwards. Our new App allows everyone to view and pre-order meals, set up a top-up payment account which will then facilitate a simple swipe card payment thus reducing collection queues and speeding up collection times.

Intake 2022 -23

At present:	113	in 1 st Year
	112	in 2 nd Year
	120	in 3 rd Year
	84	in TY
	121	in 5 th Year
	127	in 6 th Year

Total = 677 Students

Intake 2023 -24

Open Night took place on Wednesday 21st September at 7.00pm – Liz O’Donoghue (Co-ordinator).

A 6th Class (incoming 1st Year) Activity Day took place on Thursday 29th Sept- Eric Nelligan (Co-ordinator).

Both were hugely attended and successful.

Admissions Policy: The Board agreed that the number of first year places to be offered in September 2023 was to be 112 + additional 3 places in our Special Class (Torch).

Flood

It was very upsetting to see the school in such a desperate state, following a burst water pipe, on the morning of Thursday 22nd September following the school's Open Night the previous night. However, with the help and support of the school's wonderful teachers and ancillary staff, the school made great headway very quickly in relation to the clean-up. There was an army of teachers & tradesmen on campus, working on the electrics, alarms, plumbing and building repairs.

There were two floors damaged particularly bad (A+B). With the help of industrial dehumidifiers, all damaged areas were quickly dried out, cleaned and reassembled for school reopening on the following Monday 26th Sept. The damage to the canteen and kitchenette deems that these will be inaccessible for the foreseeable future as the ceiling more than likely needs to be replaced.

The school wishes to thank everyone for their support, help and the genuine kindness and concern that they witnessed during this ordeal. There are very few schools that would have teachers, parents & students arriving at the door willing to help out in a crisis, like the school have had over this experience and for that the school are very grateful.

Parents' Council WhatsApp Group

It was agreed that a Parents' Council WhatsApp Group would be set up after the AGM in the event that there are additional members to the Council. For GDPR purposes a note will be inserted to the group advising that those who are members of the group are willing to have their details shared.

TY Foreign Trip

The PA queried if there would be a TY trip this year. The Principal advised that there was a bit of difficulty with arranging trips this year but as far as he was aware the TY trip would be going ahead around March.

School Shoes/Coats

The school policy around school shoes and coats was raised by the PA. The Principal advised that there would be no change to the existing school shoe policy.

With regard to the school jacket and in particular Leaving cert students a query was raised as to whether it would be possible to wear a dark jacket. The Principal advised to contact the school as they do have a number of school uniform items available that are given into the school.

The PA queried if there was an area that school jackets can be stored as they are very bulky for school lockers and particularly if the morning is wet. The Principal outlined several areas within the school that the jackets can be stored.

Proposal for Swap/Donate School Uniform Evening

The PA proposed setting up a swap/donate school uniform evening similar to an existing event that takes place in Scoil íde. It was agreed by all that this would be very worthwhile and the proposed timing of the event to take place in June. The option was also looked at in relation to book swapping but with new editions, workbooks having to be purchased with books etc, it was decided it was not an option

Additional Sporting Options for Students

The PA queried if there were other sporting options for the boys that do not play rugby, basketball or hurling. The Principal advised that there won't be soccer in the school because of a clash of timetables but other activities did take place such rowing and cross country with a total of 22 staff involved in sporting activities. A specific query was raised in relation to football where the Principal advised that this could be looked at.

Michael O' Reagan to liaise with David Quilter

Ukrainian fundraising Appeal 2021/22 – Additional Funding Request

A discussion took place with regard to the possibility of additional Ukrainian fundraising with a decision made to now focus on more local Ukrainian needs.

It was agreed to hold a coffee morning in December.

Fundraising Event(s) for 2022/23

The following fundraising events were agreed:

Coffee Morning- Friday December 09th for parents and grandparents followed by each school year. This is to be held as a local Ukrainian fundraiser.

The Principal to follow up with Keith Earls in relation to the possibility of having it as a 1411 coffee morning.

School APP to be used to advertise coffee morning.

Bag packing in Dunes Stores

Michael O' Reagan to follow up to see if any dates are available in December. TYs to assist with bag packing.

Clothes Recycling – Coppertail Clothes Recycling to take place around February Mid-term to run until Easter

The PA also advised that Texaco Tokens are also back

AOB

The Principal confirmed that the TY Musical will take place on Friday 02nd December with two shows.

The PA asked if the school would support Lighting Up Gold next September which is to highlight awareness of childhood cancer Ireland. The Principal agreed

Date for next meeting

The Date for the AGM for the Parents' Council was set as Monday 14th November 2022