



## Greystones Educate Together Parents Committee meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2011

**Attended by:** Pat Cusack, Barbara Campbell, Lynnea Connolly, Dave Malone, Garrett Phelan, Niamh Collins, Aran McMahon & Evan Furlong

**Apologies:** Sara Fontannaz, Vladimira Strnadova and Katarzyna Nikonowicz

**Chaired by:** Pat Cusack

**Minutes:** E Furlong

### **Agenda:**

Election of new members

Race night/fundraisers

St. Patrick's day parade

Get Busy Kids – future

Volunteer vetting

Communications with board/Catherine

Team building workshop

AOB

### **Election of new members**

PA welcomed the new committee members Aran McMahon (3<sup>rd</sup> class Catherine) and Katarzyna Nikonowicz (SI Geraldine).

### **Race night fundraiser**

Pat investigated the GAA as a possible venue for the event but it has been ruled out as there are no bar facilities. The target for the event is to raise €2000 for funding transport and extra-curricular activities. Through the sponsorship of horses in advance of the evening it is hoped that parents who will be unable to attend the event will also be able to get involved, it is also hoped that races can be sponsored through corporate sponsorship. Admission to the event will be €5 euro which includes the 'racing form'. Barbara is to put together a sponsor form for the school bags and further communication so teachers and parents can sponsor the horses and name their own horses. Barbara has agreed to get these printed. Lynnea has volunteered to put together the booklet – printing of the booklet has to be confirmed. A subcommittee

comprising of Barbara, Lynnea, Niamh and Aran will taken responsibility of the event and are due to meet this Sunday.

### **St. Patrick's day parade**

Following discussion with staff it has been agreed that the theme for our school's St Patrick's day parade 2011 will be 'Healthy Eating'. Ideas discussed; children to creating a fruit or vegetable of their choice which can be used to decorate a school banner and/and dress up as fruit/ vegetables. The entry form needs to be submitted by 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. PA will send out a bag note to seek volunteers and suggest a half day workshop for parents and children to make the costumes on the first weekend of March.

### **Get Busy Kids – future**

27 letters were submitted by parents who expressed their concerns regarding the future of the Get Busy Kids Club and there were many parents that made additional representations to the PA committee. This is an issue which has evoked the most communication of parents with the PA. PA would like to express our strong support towards the success of our onsite afterschool club and the issue will be raised with Catherine (via Pat) and the Board of Management (via Garret)

### **Volunteer vetting**

The PA have raised concern about the lack of information /guidelines given to parents who are assisting at the classes.

ET policy with regard to child supervision states; No volunteer should left unsupervised or have one on one contact with children. Currently under GETNS policy we have a policy that; any volunteer who has regular contact with children must be Garda vetted, currently this is not being enforced. It has yet to be decided by The BoM if this current policy is to be amended or enforced - Garret will bring this up to the BoM meeting next week.

### **Communication and Team building**

The team building idea has been brought to discussion with principal and BoM as of yet no decision has been made.

The PA is delighted that both Conor and Aoife (teachers) have joined the ICT subcommittee. Teacher's feedback is invaluable to the improvement of the school IT infrastructure. Pat is to follow up a discussion regarding the rota of two teachers attending PA's events with Catherine (Principal).

### **AOB**

#### **School closures due to snow**

The PA and BOM have discussed the matter and agreed that we will get snow spreader and salt to help with prevention of school closure during snow days in the future. This will be at the BoM's cost.

## Music Generation Programme

Catherine Boothman whose daughter is in Junior Infants has produced a briefing note about Music Generation Programme and proposals as to how GETNS could get involved. Consideration required on making this available for all parents to review.

The Music Generation project is led by Rosaleen Molloy and by U2 and the Ireland Fund. It is seeking to support a number of 'Music Education Partnerships' around the country with a view to seeding the establishment of long term performance music education in Ireland. The deadline for application for the first round is 31 March 2011. PA has agreed to seek the MEP funding. Niamh and Aran will be working with Catherine to form a subcommittee.

## Fundraising idea

A recipe book fundraiser idea has been mentioned by Lynnea where children and parents provide a page of homemade recipe with colour & pictures. PA will collect and produce the recipe book and sell it back to parents. Pat can bring sample of a similar book to next meeting. PA will keep this in mind for the next fundraiser.

## Secondary Level Action Group

The North Wicklow Educate Together 2nd Level Action Group will be holding an information and expression of interest day on Saturday the 19th of February from 11am until 3pm. This information has been up on PA website too.

## **Next meeting**

Monday, March 7th @ 19.45 - Subject to change – please refer to website for any updates.