



## Greystones Educate Together Parents Committee meeting, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2011

**Attended by:** Principal Catherine, Pat Cusack, Niamh Collins, Garrett Phelan, Katarzyna Nikonowicz, Lynnea Connolly, Aran McMahon, Dave Malone & Evan Furlong

**Apologies:** Barbara Campbell

**Chaired by:** Pat Cusack

**Minutes:** E Furlong

### **Agenda:**

- Meeting our principal
- School photo
- Parents survey
- ECA for last term
- Update on Garda vetting and policy
- Boxtops4education book token
- Coffee morning
- Decision on text to parent service
- BoM joint meeting
- Clear out the books in Wicklow room
- Decision on funds raised from race night
- AOB

### **Meeting our principal**

Principal Catherine briefed the PA on the following items:

Members of staff have proposed discontinuing swimming lessons for Junior Infants, the reason given was concerns regarding child protection issues. This issue has also been raised with the Board. This issue was discussed later in the meeting and it was decided that the PA committee are in favour of continuing swimming lessons for JI, provided that a clear vetting policy is implemented and that simple guidelines are provided to all volunteers for all swimming classes (perhaps a Dos and Don'ts sheet to be handed to all volunteers on swimming days).

School's sport day will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> June weather permitting. Staff are working on a plan and venue. Details will be sent to BoM and PA once available. Plenty of volunteering parents and help will be needed on the day. First aid and drinks stations need to be organised.

The school play will take place at the same venue as last year on 28/29<sup>th</sup> June. Total cost of the play is about 850 euro. Help needed for video photographer & raffles. The PA has agreed to fund the school play if funding is not available from BoM (from the extra curricular funds risen).

A book rental allowance is available from the Dept of Education. Geraldine is developing the school's book rental project further for 2011/12.

Principal Catherine asked for the PA view on a proposal from Conor and Emmett to bulk buy school books for parents. The PA supports this idea and suggested investigating discounts/free book covering etc. from suppliers.

The ant-bullying policy will be sent to PA and BoM for review once it is available.

The principal asked about the staff dishwasher. This was discussed later in the meeting and it was decided that the PA will purchase same as soon as there are available funds (all funds are currently ring-fenced).

Principal Catherine is interested in creating a football pitch and is seeking advice from Dave.

It was agreed that Lynnea would get back to the Principal on these and any other outstanding issues as soon as possible.

### **School Photo**

Some parents weren't happy about the photography company who did the school photos last year. Dave and Lynnea will look into other local photography companies and get sample work/quotations.

### **Parents' Survey**

Lynnea has suggested carrying out a survey on Parental involvement with a possible view to a volunteering pledge asking parents to commit a certain number of hours each toward the school per year. Lynnea will consult with Principal Catherine and seek approval for this project.

### **School Trips**

The PA would like some or all of the funds raised from the Race Night to be used to subsidise this term's school trips (figure will depend on whether the school play requires funding or not). Garrett will bring this up at the next Board meeting and feed back to PA as soon as possible.

### **ECA for Last Term**

PA did not discuss this so it will be deferred until the next meeting. Needs further discussion with the Principal and Deputy Principal (who is responsible for this area or activity).

### **Update on Garda Vetting and Policy**

There was no update available from BoM yet. Garrett to update PA after the next Board meeting.

### **Boxtops4education book token**

The deadline for this has passed. May be worth looking into for next year if the selection of books is suitable.

### **Coffee Morning**

Aran would like to hold weekly coffee morning after drop off on Mondays. This will need to be approved by Principal Catherine. IT is hoped to start on Mon 16<sup>th</sup>, Pat will write to Principal Catherine to confirm her approval. Aran will look after the groceries and the poster. Email and bag notes will be sent once this has been approved.

### **Decision on Text to Parents service**

This will not go ahead at this time, as PA has no funds to cover the cost. It is hoped to start this service after the next fundraiser.

### **PA and BoM joint meeting**

Garret to confirm the date and time for the joint meeting.

### **Clear out the unsold books in Wicklow Room**

PA will help in clearing the room out and making it available for full use in September.

### **Decision on Funds Raised from Race Night**

As above, the PA committee considers the school trips and school play to be extra-curricular activities and would like the funds raised from the race night to be used to subsidise them. It was decided that these activities are particularly suitable as they are all-inclusive (rather than

after-school activities that may only be attended by a smaller number of children). Dave and Lynnea will sign a cheque to transfer all of the Race Night funds to BoM, with a request that the money be used in this way.

## **AOB**

Green school project still has 200 euro available to spend.

Finance issues and updates will be given to PA by Janet (BoM) at the joint meeting.

A GETNS market (home grown harvests, home baked goods and etc) will be held on Fri 10<sup>th</sup> June as a PA fundraiser, subject to approval from BoM. Garrett to let PA know decision asap.

The venue for the PA AGM venue needs to be decided and booked. Shoreline is 35 euro per hour. Ramanda hotel is 20 euro per hour. Church hall is 16 euro per hour. Dave will look into the Delgany golf club.

The ET AGM will be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> May.

## **Outstanding Matters**

Pat will invite Tanya, our new Parent rep to our PA googlegroup and ask her to attend the next PA meeting.

Garrett will re-visit the cost of getting the outdoor parent's Noticeboard.

It is hoped there will be one more PA newsletter before the end of this term.

## **Next meeting**

**1<sup>st</sup> June 2011 @ 19.45** - Subject to change – please refer to website for any updates.