



Greystones Educate Together Parents Committee meeting, July 6th 2011

Attended by: Niamh Collins, Garrett Phelan, Katarzyna Nikonowicz, Lynnea Connolly, Aran McMahon.

Apologies: Pat Cusack, Barbara Campbell, Dave Malone, Evan Furlong, Tanya Cawley Leahy

Chaired by: Lynnea Connolly

Minutes: Katarzyna Nikonowicz

Agenda:

1. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising
2. Feedback from BoM re our list and matters arising
3. Teddy Bear's Picnic
4. Committee for 2011/12 and AGM
5. Calendar of PA activities 2011/12
6. Contact list directory 2011/2012
7. T-shirts
8. Tesco bag pack
9. School clean up
10. AOB

1. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes were approved and published on the PA website.

2. Feedback from BoM re our list and matters arising

2.1 Extra Curricular Activities

There must be a contract between the school and each provider clearly stating who has responsibility for the children participating and covering school policies/procedures. A standard contract will be approved by the Board to be signed by ECA providers. It is intended that each provider will be responsible for the group they are teaching, including emergencies – this will need to be confirmed by the working group and approved by the Board.

Vice-principal Geraldine (school staff post-holder responsible) has a Junior Infants class next year, and will therefore be on the premises until 2:50pm. This means she can supervise ECA during Infants hours in 2011/2012. The issue of supervising of older children (second hour) if a provider doesn't arrive has yet to be resolved.

The Board's position is that all on-going activities should be the responsibility of staff rather than parents (with operational support from volunteers).

Action: Janet, Geraldine and Katarzyna will meet as soon as possible to go through all the documentation and come up with a workable plan that can then go to the Board for approval (next BoM meeting 29th August).

2.2 Child Protection Policy

The Board's decision is that all parents who would like to volunteer have to fill in a Garda vetting form before starting in their volunteer role(s). They can begin their duties before cleared, but they can't have one-to-one contact with a child before getting a certificate.

The PA finds this plan acceptable but does not agree that it is an implementation of the current policy, so request that the policy should be change accordingly.

Action: Lynnea will contact the Board regarding changes in the Policy.

It would be practical to ask all parents to fill Garda vetting forms in September.

2.3 Swimming Classes

Both the Board and the PA are in favour of Infants classes taking part in a swimming programme. Jessica is preparing guidelines for parents who volunteer to help. She will also prepare an extension of the existing Child Protection Policy to cover swimming.

Infants classes will have swimming classes in the final term, when they will be a little older and more used to the school environment.

Action: PA to review draft guidelines/policy when available.

2.4 School Building

Niall contacted the Department of Education and there is no plan for our school - even for an extension. The Board is putting an action committee to work over summer on some immediate imperatives and is looking for representation from the PA. This group will need to meet in the next week.

Action: We try to have as much representation as possible. Aran and Katarzyna already confirmed.

2.4 School Website

Hopefully the school website is going to be developed in September.

Action: Aideen is to be kindly asked to email all the bag notes to Katarzyna (for the PA website or forum).

2.5 Outside Notice-board

Garrett hopes it will be sorted over the summer and is in contact with a parent who will make the board.

2.6 Football pitch

This plan still has to be clarified, depending of results of the campaign for the new school building or extension.

2.7 Calendar of Ethos Events

It was noted that a bag note was sent in advance of Buddhism and Freedom topics being discussed with children in June. This was very much appreciated and we hope it will be an on-going project.

3. Teddy Bear's Picnic

Monies were advanced by the Board to the PA for organisational costs, so these will be covered by the PA on an invoice/receipt basis.

Money raised from the face painting will be kept for the PA operational purposes as in previous years (depending on the amount collected). The rest will be used for the school purposes in these difficult times.

Action: Katarzyna will contact Catherine re: a key to the storage room where items for the picnic are kept.

4. Committee for 2011/12 and AGM

Pat and Barabara will be resigning from their officer positions of Chairperson and Fundraising Liaison Officer respectively. A big thank you to both of them for their hard work.

It is assumed that Vladimira is not a PA committee member as she has not participated in meetings or activities to date.

Aran, Barbara, Evan, Katarzyna, Lynnea and Niamh already confirmed their interest in continuing on the PA committee for the next year.

The election must take place at the AGM which is planned for 22nd September, 7.45pm in the Rugby Club.

Action: Lynnea will book the venue.

Pat to confirm whether he is interested in continuing on the committee.

The information about the AGM accompanied by election forms must be handed out to parents early September. The PA committee meeting must take place within 2 weeks after the AGM.

Katarzyna will prepare a power point presentation for the AGM.

Catherine is to be invited to speak at the AGM.

5. Calendar of PA activities 2011/12

Will be discussed at the next meeting as per Barbara's draft plan.

6. Contact list directory 2011/2012

Incoming Junior Infants parents have already received forms. The PA would like to provide forms again for older classes, as data collected two years ago might not be up to date and more parents may like to be included at this stage.

Action: The bag note must be prepared for early September.

Katarzyna will prepare an on-line form.

7. T-shirts

The PA agreed to arrange production of a new batch of t-shirts to be bought by parents (established green school t-shirts with the school logo). Orders will be taken from parents and t-shirts will be ordered by the PA. The PA is also going to buy some adult and children's t-shirts for PA purposes (e.g. fundraising events, school photos).

Action: Katarzyna will contact some providers (one of the school parents might be interested).

A bag note/order form must be prepared.

8. Tesco bag pack

It is very difficult to get a time slot. As we would like to include a bag pack in the forthcoming fundraising schedule, this needs to be progressed as soon as possible.

Action: Katarzyna will contact Norma for help and advice.

9. School clean up

If it is needed, the PA will help with clearing the storage room and the books left after the Book Fair.

10. AOB

10.1 Coffee mornings

Coffee mornings were successfully held by Aran who kindly confirmed she can continue them next year.

10.2 Sports Day

The PA would like to point out that the situation which arose at the end of the Sport Day was dangerous and should be avoided in the future. Children were left unattended and there was no supervision with respect to who was collecting them.

Some children also were expecting medals or any other form of reward (for winners or for all). Whatever is agreed for future years should be clarified to all those taking part.

Action: Garrett to pass on the PA concerns to the Board and PA to feedback to Catherine re same.

10.3 Parental Involvement Policy

Jessica is drafting a new Parental Involvement Policy and Lynnea is to input. This policy will then feed into the parental involvement survey to take place in the new school year.

Action: Lynnea will prepare the survey to be hand out next year. Clarification required on whether the Board has approved a Parental Involvement Pledge, and if so how this will be implemented.

Next meeting

3rd August 2011 @ 19.45 - Subject to change – please refer to website for any updates.