



Draft Minutes of GENTS PA Committee
15th February 2012, 8.15pm

Attended by:

Fiona Nic Choiligh (Chair), Sarah Kernaghan, Fiona McCarthy, Katarzyna Nikonowicz, Mona McCrea, Susan Battah, Catherine Boothman, Niamh Mac Cárthaigh.

Apologies:

Eimear McCarthy (Tres.), , Peter Bishton, Jane Browne, John Callaghan, Karen Flynn, Evan Furlong, Aran McMahon, Barbara Campbell, Pat Cusack, Fiona McCarthy, Garrett Phelan.

Parade

Fiona Nic reported from her meeting with Principle Catherine (PC). PC and the teachers were very positive about the parade and have offered to help out during school time where possible.

Sarah telephoned the Council with regards our participation in the parade. They said anyone who participated last year will automatically get an application form for this year. They will send the form to the school. Sarah left another message with the school address. As yet no application form was received.

ACTION:

Fiona Nic Choiligh (Fiona Nic) to talk to PC regarding parade application form and post in general. Check with Eimear for €80 towards the parade, need to establish if we need to a pay fee.

There were two main themes for the parade, We Love Books and the Olympics. Each theme was outlined and voted upon among the members present.

Olympics theme

Fiona McCarthy (Fiona Mc) and Fiona Nic outlined the plan for the Olympics theme. They discussed how we could incorporate the ethos around sport, fair play, having a go, being a good winner and good loser. Costumes would be simple and easy for parents to put together, e.g. goggles and hat is a swimmer etc. We could have a torch and each child would get a chance to hold it during the parade. Five coloured rings that the children could carry. At the many intervals during the parade the children could do jumping jacks etc, make lots of noise with whistles etc. We could also invite members of the Irish Team to visit our school and talk to the children. It

was highlighted that it would be a good follow on from Healthy eating parade last year.

We Love Books theme

Sarah outlined this theme. Children could dress up as their favourite character from a book, make a cardboard book with drawings of their favourite characters, cardboard figures of their characters e.g. Little Red Riding Hood, or scenes from a book. Sarah brought along a cardboard book that she had made. Catherine discussed the link with World Book Day on the 1st March.

A vote was taken amongst the PA members present on the theme of the parade. The We Love Books theme had the majority. Sarah suggested the possibility of having a sports theme next year when we will have a new hall and can offer sports. It could also act as an advertisement for our new facilities.

A discussion of the parade followed.

Sarah offered to make up a step by step guide for parents detailing plan, materials to use, paint, etc. It was suggested that a few large placards could be made for parents to hold and that the PA can make these.

Suggestions were made as to what to do during the many stops along the parade and in front of the judges. One was to carry a book and read when the line stops of show off their book to someone. To play a story or music, although this may be hard to hear. Or a simple chant that the adults can teach to the children on the day.

We also discussed the practicalities of the parade and that we need a lot of parents to help out. A ratio of one adult per ten children is required. We need to make it clear that it is not a drop off for children. All adults must wear an Educate Together t-shirt and the children should wear hoodies /t-shirts if they have them.

ACTION:

Sarah to make up a template for parents and children by 1st March.

Fiona Nic to email PAC and Board with decision.

PA to make a few large placards.

PA to come up with a chant.

PA or PC to write a note to parents re. rules of the parade.

Fund raising

There was a general discussion over the use of funds raised. If monies were collected for a certain purpose then we need to ensure it is used for that. However, if funds are needed elsewhere in the school perhaps we should reword future fund raising as "most of the funds raised will go towards...a portion will go to the general running of the school.

ACTION:

Fiona Nic to get clarification from Michelle on allocation of funds raised.

School Calendar

There was a brief discussion about the school calendar and the difficulty in planning fundraising and other events because of collaboration with school. The possibility of planning a calendar for Sept 2013 now was discussed as it would be good for parents to get an overview of fund raising events proposed for the year. Fundraising target for the year €10000

Hoodies and t-shirts

131 hoodies and t-shirts ordered and will arrive after midterm. Twenty extra of each in the most popular sizes were ordered so the school can sell them on at a later date.

Titanic

ACTION: Fiona Nic to put Titanic on agenda for next meeting.

Ceili

Catherine outlined plans for the Ceili. Suzanne is very optimistic about the dances and participation of the children, she suggested different dances than those in the notes. PC reported that the teachers are very positive about the event and have agreed to teach classes a song or poem for the 'open mic' session. Fiona Mc suggested both classes learn the same song , eg both junior infant classes, etc. so that if only a few out of each class were there, that they could sing together. Catherine wants to encourage different languages to participate at 'open mic' session.

We still need to get musicians for the event. Anne Marie contacted Comhaltas, Bray but they are too busy at that time of year.

Advertising the Ceili was discussed. The idea of designing an invitation to the children to come to the Ceili and asking the teachers to hand them out was favoured. In addition a few large posters to hang up around the school would advertise it well. Niamh offered to design the invitations and posters. The Invitations will detail how to purchase a ticket; at tables outside school on specific dates, at the door or to ring Catherine. We hope to sell majority of tickets before the event.

It was also highlighted that it would be helpful if teachers could announce the Ceili to children to encourage them to come.

The option of face painting at the Ceili was discussed. It was thought best to keep it simple and only give the children three options, eg. A flower, shamrock etc and charge €1. Need to ask Norma, Aran, Rebecca if they can do it.

There will be a raffle at the Ceili, two or three good prizes are required. Katarzyna will write up a task list for people to obtain donations. Small prizes will be given to all

the children for participating. Catherine is trying to obtain some gifts from Foras na Gaeilge.

ACTION:

Katarzyna to send out an email notifying parent of the three upcoming event in March.

Katarzyna writing up a task list for people to obtain donations for the raffle.

Fiona Nic to check if PC talked to Principal Owen with regard to possible collaboration with Ceili.

Catherine to find out capacity of hall.

Niamh to design posters and invitations.

Catherine to organise musicians.

Ask Norma, Aran and Rebecca if they will face paint.

Fiona Nic to discuss invitations and teachers talking to children about Ceili to PC.

**APPENDIX 1
LIST OF ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN**

- 1. Fiona Nic Choiligh (Fiona Nic) to talk to PC regarding parade application form and post in general. Check with Eimear for €80 towards the parade, need to establish if we need to a pay fee.**
- 2. Sarah to make up a template for parade for parents and children by 1st March.**
- 3. Fiona Nic to email PAC and Bord with decision of parade**
- 4. PA to make a few large plackards for parade.**
- 5. PA to come up with a chant for parade.**
- 6. PA or PC to write a note to parents re. rules of the parade.**
- 7. Fiona Nic to get clarification from Michelle on allocation of funds raised.**
- 8. Fiona Nic to put Titanic on agenda for next meeting.**
- 9. Katarzyna to send out an email notifying parent of the three upcoming event in March.**

10. **Katarzyna writing up a task list for people to obtain donations for the raffle for the Ceili.**
11. **Fiona Nic to check if PC talked to Principal Owen with regard to possible collaboration with Ceili.**
12. **Catherine to find out capacity of hall for Ceili.**
13. **Niamh to design posters and invitations for Ceili.**
14. **Catherine to organise musicians for Ceili.**
15. **Ask Norma, Aran and Rebecca if they will face paint at the Ceili.**
16. **Fiona Nic to discuss invitations and teachers talking to children about Ceili to PC.**