

Minutes of GETNS Parents' Association Committee

29th March 2012, 8 – 10 pm

Attended by:

Fiona Nic Choiligh (Chair), Evan Furlong, Katarzyna Nikonowicz, Mona McCrea, Niamh Mac Cárthaigh, Karen Flynn, Peter Bishton, Garrett Phelan, John Callaghan, Fiona McCarthy,

Apologies:

Aran McMahon, Eimear McCarthy, Sarah Kernaghan, Susan Battah, Jane Browne and Catherine Boothman.

Welcome and approval of last meeting's minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

School photographs

Fiona Nic and Peter met with Principal Catherine (PC) to discuss the school photographs. PC thought it a good idea to officially photograph junior infants (JI) and sixth class, as it will be the first sixth class to leave GETNS. PC has offered to take this on.

ACTION: PC to decide on official photographs for JI and sixth class.

Junior Infant (JI) swimming

Fiona Nic and Peter met with PC to discuss an alternative to JI swimming. PC suggested tennis as an alternative. This would run once a week for a six week period at minimal cost. The funds raised last year towards swimming would go towards the cost of the tennis lessons.

ACTION: Fiona Nic to respond to PC on this.

Shoreline have offered GETNS a weekly slot at 2 pm beginning September 2012 to facilitate after school JI swimming lessons.

ACTION: Fiona Nic to ask PC to book this slot.

Coffee mornings

Going forward coffee mornings will be run once a month and will have a theme, such as the one hosted in March to make the books for the St Patrick's parade.

ACTION: Evan to organise the theme for coffee mornings.

After school club

GET Busy Kids after school club has provisionally accepted a place for next year, however space still poses a problem.

Meeting minutes

The process of the GETNS PAC meeting minutes was outlined. The draft minutes will be circulated to the PAC one week after the meeting. The PAC then have one week to revert to

the secretary with any amendments. The amended draft minutes will then be circulated to the PAC and emailed to PC. At the next PAC meeting the minutes will be signed off and can then be published on the PAC website.

Publishing photos to our websites

The difficulty of taking group photos at a fundraiser or community activity, when a parent has signed a form that they do not want their child to be photographed arose. This occurred at the St Patricks day parade when photos were posted on the PAC website. A few suggestions were made as a solution to this; the exclusion form could differentiate between photos taken during school hours and during community events/fundraisers, there could be a notice on the PAC website that if you would like a certain photo removed to contact the PAC and as part of the information about events (sent home to parents) there can be a paragraph explaining that group photos will be taken during the event for the website so any parent not wishing to participate can remove their child etc.

ACTION: Evan to talk to Catherine B about this and check the Arts Council guidelines, <http://www.arts council.ie/Publications/Guidelines.pdf>.

Ideas for alternative to Teddy Bears Picnic (TBP)

Alternatives to the TBP were discussed. Two main ideas evolved; a family sports day and a community treasure hunt. The sports day was thought to involve a lot of work similar to the TBP and to occur at a similar time to the Community Games. The treasure hunt sparked a lot of interest and was thought it could be organized with less effort than the TBP. The hunt would start in Greystones and finish at the school with a BBQ & disco.

Additional fundraising ideas were...Buy a brick -€5 a brick towards the new school, Academic year calendar that the kids design and include important school dates/holidays/celebrations etc (need to be sent to print Aug at the latest), Generic cards (similar idea to xmas cards) designed by the kids that can be sold at all fundraising events and used for thank you notes etc, Clean the beach project/community event and School walk.

ACTION: Fiona Nic to email PAC and CB regarding fundraising ideas.

Involvement in Mini Marathon and collect for school

Several parents are interested in running the Mini Marathon for the school. Ask Joe if she is interested in leading this.

ACTION: Fiona Nic to ask PC to send out bag note informing parents. Peter to ask PC to organise an official sponsorship form at the office. Who is asking Joe??

Survey Results

The final results of survey were discussed. The results were very clear, showing that weekend, daytime fundraising events that children can participate in were favoured. Music, drama and arts & craft featured as most popular after school activities and bag notes were the best method of communication with parents. It was suggested that September would be a good time of year to conduct further surveys.

School website

Parents want information of topics that the children are learning in school on so they can discuss it with them.

ACTION: Fiona Nic to talk to PC regarding putting this information up on the website.

Titanic preparations

A bag note was sent out with information on Titanic day. Parents are still needed to help out on Sunday 15th April at 3pm and also to erect the marquee. On Monday parents and children are asked to dress in Edwardian costume and assemble at the school. There will be songs by older classes.

Healthy Eating policy

BOM has emailed the PAC the revised Healthy Eating policy and has asked for feedback.

ACTION: Fiona Nic to compile the feedback from the PAC and email to Lynnea.

Outdoor play area/fencing

Due to the increased number of pupils in the school from September 2012 the current playground will be too small. As a result PC has outlined an idea to zone an area of grass beside the staff car park as an overspill to use for co-ordinated activities. PC has asked the PAC to aid her with this and get costings to fence the area.

ACTION: Niamh to get costs for fence.

PAC website and email management

Going forward all emails to the PAC and text for the PAC website will be co-ordinated by Niamh. Niamh will copy any text to Fiona Nic and Mona in advance of emailing to Katarzyna to be put on the website.

ACTION: Niamh to get password to check emails to PAC.

Craft Fair

Fiona received an email from one of the JI parents who is interested in putting together a Craft Fair in November 2012 for GETNS. She proposes to establish a Craft fair committee so that they can begin organising it now rather than wait for September.

ACTION: Fiona to forward email from parent to Fiona Nic. Fiona Nic to talk to PC to get BOM approval for craft fair.

Bullying awareness

PAC want to raise the awareness of bullying in school. With the increased number of children in school more teachers will be required in the yard during break times. Perhaps a lecture on bullying presented to parents and children would be a good idea.

APPENDIX 1
LIST OF ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

- 1. PC to decide on official photographs for JI and sixth class.**
- 2. Fiona Nic to respond to PC on tennis for JI.**
- 3. Fiona Nic to ask PC to book the JI 2pm swimming slot for Sept 2012.**
- 4. Evan to organise the theme for coffee mornings going forward.**
- 5. Evan to talk to Catherine B about publishing photos and check the Arts Council guidelines.**
- 6. Fiona Nic to email PAC and CB regarding fundraising ideas.**
- 7. Fiona Nic to ask PC to send out bag note informing parents of Mini Marathon.**
- 8. Peter to ask PC to organise an official sponsorship form at the office.**
- 9. Fiona Nic to talk to PC regarding putting information taught during school on the website.**
- 10. Fiona Nic to compile the feedback on revised Healthy Eating policy from the PAC and email to Lynnea.**
- 11. Niamh to get costs for fence.**
- 12. Niamh to get password to check emails to PAC.**
- 13. Fiona to forward email from parent to Fiona Nic.**
- 14. Fiona Nic to talk to PC to get BOM approval for craft fair.**