

Minutes of PAC meeting 20:00PM 9th Sept. 2014

Attendee: MMc, AK, FNc, JD, JCD, Principal, JC, BC, EF

Apologies: AW, GL

Principal update

1. Deputy Principal's position will be advertised.
2. Yard proposal project is ongoing. The school will get quotes from let's play in early Oct. A parent has volunteered to paint the ground and school is looking for extra volunteers to help out for some weekend. Please get in touch with school if you can spare some hours.
3. Due to the extra classes the school were required to by the DES to facilitate we have been granted a school extension. The architect is currently looking at possibilities in terms of where to put the extension without affecting the yard space.
4. Charity policy is still under discussion, we all agreed that three charities should be decided for our school each year by these groups: BoM/Teachers, student council and PA body. Teachers would like to vote for MS Readathon this year. Feedback is welcome from the committee.
5. The school has a Garden committee set up by staff and the school is looking for parent volunteers. Plants and basket.ie could be a fundraising event for consideration.
6. Green school flag and Active flags are still not up yet as the school is waiting for a guest VIP. We all agreed that would be wonderful to have Katie Taylor to raise our Active flag.
7. There will be two parent curriculum meeting nights on 29/30th Sept. Anne suggested to have a volunteering information stand on both nights as the Volunteering committee are compiling list of volunteering jobs with help from Hana. We all agreed that it's a good idea. PAC will hold the AGM after these meetings on Monday 29th. The school is looking for volunteers to help with coffee and tea on those nights. (AP: Evan has volunteered to help with coffee/tea. Anne has volunteered for the volunteering info stand)
8. The election for female parent representative on the Board of Management will follow by AGM. Information about nomination and election will be sent home by Fri 12th.
9. Ethos resources room will be set up for parents and teachers beside the new music room.
10. The school encourages our children to book – a most peculiar wintry thing by The Music Network and The Ark at Mermaid Theatre.
11. A parent and school organised the internal book fair last year was a great success and the school is looking for volunteering parents to organise the event again.
12. Art day proposal was very positively supported by all but it has been decided not to proceed with it this year as there will be a strong art focus through the % for art project
13. The new ET school in Balinteer has posted very clear guidelines on their FB page that Teachers or Students can never be named or identified on FB. Everyone agreed with this approach. The school concerned parents should not be naming teachers, comparing teachers, cyber bullying teachers, referring any individual teacher's class, any incident (both personal and class), any complaints or general comments that can identify the teachers or students. If parents have concerns or issues the school office should be their first port of call not Facebook. The NPC guidelines state that a PA is set up to support the school community. The school is still working the anti-bullying policy and is looking into cyber bullying in more details. Principal is looking for feedback from PAC.

Last Minutes of meeting approved.

AP: Barbara will follow up re 2 main amendments on homework policy.

The school's 6 years plan is commencing this year.

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AGM

AGM is on Mon 29th at 8:30 after the parents curriculum meetings.

Welcome letter will be emailed to parents shortly. (AP: Fiona to circulate to all)

The AGM speakers are BoM chairperson Liam, PA Chairperson Fiona, PA treasure Mona, nd Fundraising & Events Jackie

Treasure report

The balance of PA account is €557 after paying for the wishing tree project. PA treasure will transfer the balance to school and will receive a new balance of €800 in Sept each year. AP : We are all agreed that we will get Geraldine a present.

Ethos Forum Update

Ethos forum volunteering committee met in June. The team has been working to get the "volunteering job list" from the school and proposed to coordinate this in the future.

We all agreed that the PAC will have a new separate role called Volunteers coordinator and Events coordinator and constitution is not required to make changes. (AP: Jackie to circulate job description to all)

Charity policy update

JC reported there're 3 main questions that need to be answered and finalised, the committee are getting feedback from BoM, parents and PAC. We all agreed that the school community should run 3 events for the 3 chosen charities spread over to 3 terms.

(Jackie suggested to send a list of charities we are aware of to class coordinator, BoM, teachers and notice board)

AB Update

The committee are still working on the policy and it's close to final stage. There're issues re cyber bullying, plague and etc. (AP: JC will send out remaining questions to all to get feedback)

Welcome morning for jr infants (volunteer)

We all agreed this is a wonderful idea and the school has the curriculum meeting for parents in place.

Halloween Disco preparations

PA would like to invite 6th class pupils to do research for some traditional games for younger children and ask the teachers could they work on some artwork with the children to display in the hall for the disco. PA would be looking for volunteering parents to help to run this event and more discussion over emails. (AP: Fiona to get approval to use the hall)

Craft fair update

The school's craft fair is on Sun 16th Nov. We felt strongly that there should be no outside vendor to provide food and parent bodies should be invited first if anyone wanted to set up a food stall and sell. Evan can't run the craft fair cafe this year. Anyone would like to volunteer on the day please do get in touch with the craft fair team. (AP: JC to draft the letter about food providers to send to the Craft fair committee)

Minutes of PAC meeting 20:00PM 9th Sept. 2014

Art Day Proposal

This has been covered in Principal's update.

AOB

1. PAC agreed that the ECA was organised efficiently although some concerns were raised about the first come first served system. PAC would like to know more about ECA i.e. how and what activities get approved etc. We are also concerned about the continuity of some ECA's
2. PAC also happy to see the improvement in Communications in the school community and we're delighted with the Aladin emailing, texting and online payment system.
3. Xmas cards project will be back in Oct/Nov and thanks to Barbara for taking on the project again.
4. Breakfast club has been cancelled due to poor update however concerns noted that all parents may not have known about it
5. We think a formal communication about the delay to the yard should be sent to parents to keep them in the loop (AP: Fiona to talk to BoM)

Meeting closed at 22:16PM.

Next meeting 04/10/14