

Parent Association Meeting Minutes for the 3rd of October 2022

St Brigid's Primary School

In attendance: Niamh Cullagh (chair), Donal Fleming, Mary Wilson, Tara Carroll, Ailish Murphy, Claire Hall (minutes)

Apologies: Linda Lambert, Lorraine Moran, Brenda Byrne.

Chairperson's address:

Niamh welcomed those present. She thanked and acknowledged the dedication of the previous Parent Association Committee.

Treasurer's report:

Mary provided the report as Vice Treasurer.

The opening balance is €3269.17

No income this month

Expenses amounted to €11.85 for refreshments at the Junior Infants teas and coffee event.

Closing balance: €3257.32

To Note:

The National Parent Association Council membership is not due until March 2023.

In line with the Credit Union Charter, the PA Committee is required to furnish a letter detailing the Association and its purpose and functions. Claire to complete this letter for Committee signatories to present at Credit Union.

Upcoming Fundraising Events:

- Niamh noted the Clothes Recycling Event will be held on Friday 3rd of February 2023. Drop Off dates will be finalised and circulated in due course.
- Christmas Cards – all classes have received the templates to be completed by the 7th of October. Ordering via Aladdin will occur the week of the 21st of October. We expect to receive them by the 18th of November 2022. The charge is €6.80, and we will sell a pack of 10 for €9.50.

Seasonal Events:

- Witches Walk will occur the last Friday before the October Midterm.
- Santa Visit is also expected to happen. More details to follow.

Mr Fleming Address:

- Mr Fleming thanked the previous Committee for their hard work and dedication over their tenure. He welcomed the new Committee.
- Mr Fleming noted the challenge of the recruitment crisis. One of the knock-on effects *might* be that the Fun Run will not go ahead as there are a set number of marshals required for supervision and to ensure the health and safety requirements are met. This will be kept

under review and speaks to the importance of having volunteers to bolster supervision/numbers.

- He echoed the Committee's desire to 'jumpstart' the Parent Association after the lull of the pandemic. The outcome is for the Parents Association to be a meaningful platform for all parents.

Communication

- One of the main tasks is to review and improve our communication channels with Parents.
 - Niamh will undertake housekeeping for the WhatsApp Volunteers Group. A new Group for this academic year will be developed with the current members of the previous group to be invited to join the new one. The statement to be posted on this WhatsApp group explaining this development was agreed. This will also be posted on Facebook.
- To ensure that the Parent Association remains a meaningful platform, it was discussed to encourage parents to volunteer and identify events of interest to them.
 - In the identification of events, it was agreed that the Committee would undertake research considering the National Parent Council Association resources and events, those held by the library and local associations. An event mooted was to run an international day or a picnic.
 - It was agreed that it would be best to find a different angle on everyday parental topics for speaker sessions/workshops. Issues explored by attendees were –
 - guide on how to use and safety advice on social media applications such as TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, etc.
 - coparenting
 - anxiety
 - wellbeing
 - nutrition
 - budgeting
 - All agreed that a survey could be devised by the school in consultation with the Committee to send to parents requesting suggestions of topics, identification of speakers they have seen, or indeed if they have expertise in an area they would like to share.
 - It was noted that parents are time-poor, may not know the function of the Parents' Association, and do not realise what it means to volunteer at school events. They usually require only 1 – 2 hours max, and it is an excellent opportunity to be involved in fun and entertaining events, which allows parents to see their children in their school environments and also a chance to meet fellow parents. It was agreed to utilise upcoming events to spread the word about volunteering and to answer any questions.
- One upcoming event agreed upon was to hold coffee mornings from 8.45-9.45 in each school buildings over the coming Thursdays and/or Fridays in October. Mr Fleming agreed to circulate this notice on Aladdin.

AOB:

- Agendas will not be printed going forward for meetings. Circulated via email will suffice.

- Mr Fleming reminded parents to review their children's lunch choices regularly. To also cancel a big lunch option or fruit choices if they send in lunch/fruit as there is a high level of food waste.

We look forward to seeing you all over the coming month, take care and stay safe.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday the 14th of November at 7.30 pm in person, in the Presentation Building.

If you would like anything added to the agenda, please email the parent association, ideally a week beforehand.

Please email your interest if you want to volunteer and are not on the WhatsApp group or Facebook. Many thanks.

Contact: parentsassociation@sbps.ie