

Minutes of PA Meeting 11th September 2024

In attendance: Laura M., Deirdre J., Emily Jeanne H., Jade O'L, Fiona C., Fiona K., Paula D., Emer R., Carol-anne H, Edel F., Ihor P., Rebecca J., Kathleen C., Lisa F., Phillippe P, Sarah O'C, Caroline O'S, Lisa O'L.

Apologies from: Julie Wood, Eilis Kavanagh, Annie Kinsella, Sinead Fanning, Alison Grace

Committee Roles

- Existing committee members happy to stay on
- Caroline O'S and Carolanne happy to help out if needed
- Officers thanked by Emer for their work

Minutes from previous meeting

- School lunches- Emer to talk about it later in the meeting
- School sports kit to be sponsored by Lisa and Brian Shannon (BET). Thanks goes to Lisa and Brian for this contribution
- Everyone happy with the graduation cake

Finances

- Jade went through the financial report that was given to everyone at the meeting.
- 2551 euro in the bank
- No cut backs planned
- The nurturing room has been a large expense from last year. Emer spoke about how the students love using it and there are more plans for its use in the future.
- Thanks from Emer to the PA for their support

PA Experience

- Idea for a wellness and meditation coach as this years project
- Teachers to benefit also as they can get ideas to reinforce in their classrooms according to Emer.
- Cost of 350 per day-approved for booking

- Emer hopes to get the coach in three times in the year but will review after the first session and decide then.

Tennis

- Tennis coaching to continue this year as it was such an enjoyable experience for the students with good feedback.
- Money from the Christmas concert **raffle** (17th Dec) to go towards funding this activity. Please give your support.

Class Rep Update

- Laura explained the role of the class representative to the new members
- Laura requested that reps attend as many PA meetings as possible
- Phillippe suggested that the rep get a replacement from their class if they cannot attend themselves
- Laura to update rep group for year ahead.

Paired Reading/ Maths4fun

- Laura explained the concern over dwindling numbers
- Emer emphasised the importance of reading aloud for the students and the wonderful benefits of paired reading
- All are welcome
- Maths will be on the last Friday of every month and paired reading to move to the first Thursday of every month for now.
- Jade to do a refresh on the recruitment campaign into the group
- Volunteers must be garda vetted. Laura will make forms available.
- Caroline suggested encouraging vetting first
- Rebecca suggested printing forms and giving them to the students to bring home

PA Kit

- The PA have a supply of mugs, burco, etc but need to restock as some have gone missing
- PA will purchase new 5L hot drinks dispensers
- Possibility of storing the kit in the new food shed

Hot Lunches

- In the process of tendering. Emer is waiting on two more companies to come back to her but so far 'Fresh Today' are the most proactive and would possibly have the capacity to roll out after Halloween.
- Emer approached local man Donal Molloy but he was unable to fulfill.
- Fresh Today are willing to pay for a new Adman shed to store the hot cookers and provide an operator to hand out and manage the daily operations. They will be in charge of recruitment but are happy to hire local people.
- Fresh Today will meet many dietary requirements, e.g gluten free, nut free, etc and will have apx14 different choices of lunches per day.
- Fresh Today also pay for the ESB and buy their fruit and veg from local company Cullens
- They use recyclable materials.
- Fiona C. suggested the school could use this as an opportunity to build leadership capacity among the senior students if additional tasks come up.
- Emer confirmed there would be no contract and the school can change companies as they wish

Fundraising Plans

- Halloween disco has been booked with Eilis and DJ has been booked. This will be on the Friday before school finished from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. Thanks to The Golden Anchor.
- Rebecca has kindly taken on the task of the new calendar fundraiser. There were no objections from parents.
- Rebecca explained the idea to the group. Group picture of children on the month of their birthday. Each month to have a theme. Rebecca to approach companies for sponsorship and offer them space in the calendar in return and possibly a Dojo post. **€150 for half of the calendar and €250 for the full calendar.**
- Aim for sale of upwards of 100 units
- Price to be decided
- Phillippe suggested a presales model

- Caroline suggested that Rebecca approach Sports Active
- The date of photoshoot decided, Thursday 3rd October
- Deirdre suggested that all students wear the same uniform in the pictures
- A notice will be sent out to parents in advance about what props etc students should bring

Bottle Bins

- Re-turn have supplied 3 large wheelie bins to facilitate the bottle return fundraising. Jade, Laura and Phillippe to manage the putting out and bringing in of the bins.
- One bin to be put out for the community to use. Lisa O's will send out a text to the community group once it has been confirmed where the bin will be placed.
- Lisa F. to ask John Kenny if we can use the inside of the gate at the Parish hall. Laura has reassured us that it will be secured to the gate.
- Fiona K. suggested that Jade hold on to the receipts and deposit them together in order to avoid bank charges

Summer Disco

- Positive response on last year's summer disco but this will be discussed again later in the year.

Other spending plans

- 6th class graduation gift. Laura gave a survey to the 6th class students and she waiting for their response. Thanks to Laura from Emer.
- Deirdre polled 6th class parents and all agreed they were happy to contribute to the gift
- Suggestion of 20 euro from parent and the PA subsidise the rest. All in agreement.
- Ukulele lessons to continue from 3rd class to 6th (3 groupings). PA to sponsor one group, BOM another and donation to cover the third. **If**

anyone would have the capacity to sponsor the school for this or work for a company that might like to support the music lessons please contact Emer Russell.

- Emer spoke about her passion for the ukulele lessons and how encouraging Diarmuid in Music Generation is with the students. Emer spoke of the benefits to their future education in post primary.
- Cost of **€668** to fund one third of these lessons
- Deirdre suggested we survey the students council on their appetite for the lessons. Laura mentioned the split opinion of parents she has spoken to and from previous meeting.
- Decided everyone happy to continue

Lego Kit

- Lego kit in line with STEM (DCU and Microsoft) will be purchased from Creative Hub
- The cost of the kit is 3000 euro
- The fund is at 2000 euro. Emer is looking to book an activity for Engineers/ Space week for 600 euro from this fund. Laura to ask for clarification on this as to whether it is a lego kit activity or something separate. There is a concern from the group that the fund should remain solely for the lego kit.
- There is an appetite to meet the fund target this year so the families involved in the fundraising can see the benefit
- Suggestion given to use the money raised from the calendar to the Lego kit fund. All in agreement.
- Deirdre raised a question over Ms. Penston going on maternity leave as she is the teacher trained in the use of this kit.

Uniform

- Lisa O'L asked if feedback could be given to the manufacturers of the new uniform about how the crest is causing chaffing and bleeding.
- Laura to speak to Emer

Photographer

- Fiona K. asked if it is possible for the photographer to do individual pictures of students in classes other than Junior Infants.
- Rebecca asked could the class photos of every year be taken
- Laura to discuss with Emer

Christmas Elf

- Laura asked for any replacement ideas-following on from last meeting
- Laura spoke to Emer prior to tonight's meeting about an alternative to the elf for this year but Emer said it was already booked.
- This was at a cost of 351 last year. Everyone is happy to leave for this year but want open discussion on it prior to booking for next year.

Dates for Reference

School Photographer- 23rd Sept
 Calendar Photoshoot- 3rd Oct
 Parent Teacher Meetings- Week beginning 25th Nov
 Santa Dash(5th & 6th class)- 13th Dec
 Christmas Concert- 17th Dec
 Christmas Elf- 19th Dec
 Croghan Walk- 13th June
 Active Week- 16th- 20th June

Actions to be taken

- Laura M. to send a text to the 'Class Rep' group to explain their role
- Laura M. to do a refresh on the recruitment campaign for paired reading and maths4fun. Laura will also make the vetting forms available to interested people
- PA to purchase extra supplies for the PA kit, etc. mugs, jugs, etc and also purchase new 5L hot drinks dispensers

- Rebecca to proceed with the school calendar. Rebecca to contact the Wicklow and Wexford Tourist Boards for sponsorship. Rebecca will also organise the photoshoot day with the help of Laura.
- Lisa F. to speak to John Kenny about putting the Repak bin at the Parish Hall gate
- Lisa O'S to send a text to the community group once permission from John Kenny is given. Lisa O'S to speak to Paddy Flood, Chairperson of local GAA club, about Castletown GAA using the 3rd bin and split proceeds.
- Laura M. to collate the results of the 6th class gift survey
- Laura M. to clarify with Emer if the activity planned for Engineer/Space Week is related to the Lego kit
- Laura M. to speak to Emer about the crest of the new school t shirt
- Laura to speak to Emer about the possibility of taking group photos for other classes and individual student photos.