

Scoil and Spioraid Naoimh Boys Parents Association
Minutes of the meeting of 24 May 2016

In Attendance: Mary O'Connor, Donal Murray, Sarah Cooper, James McKeon, Rosaleen Fitzgerald, Susan O'Shea, Louise Crowley, Aoife O 'Herlihy, Rosa Maria Munoz, Terri Kruschke, Gemma Lyons, Sharon o Neill, Patel Switai.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were presented for approval and were agreed by all those present, save for the issue of the Christmas party finances. Mary O'Connor again expressed concern about the figures presented at the last three meetings, and wanted it minuted that she was unhappy with what she regarded as the still uncertain finances. It was noted by the Chair that the discrepancy stood at €36 and the majority of the meeting again confirmed its acceptance of this minor discrepancy.

Correspondence

Aoife O 'Herlihy, PA rep on the School Board of Management presented the meeting with the certification of the Board Of Management regarding the BOM Annual Review of the school's anti-bullying policy which was welcomed by the meeting, as was the fact of the school's commitment to this important issue for all the boys.

Confirmation/communion school receptions

The meeting expressed its thanks to those members of the Parents' Association who helped to make both the Confirmation and Communion day celebrations so joyous. Special thanks were conveyed to Rosaleen for her trojan efforts on both days; and for her team of volunteer parents. Those present who attended the teas/coffees noted the really lovely occasions. Also Mary O'Connor, who did great work in fitting and providing the blazers for the boys, together with her team of volunteers, were commended for all their work.

Book swap

Terri Kruschke informed the meeting that she had followed up on the approval at the previous PA meeting to use some of the funds raised at the book swap to invest in books for the school library. Upon approval by the meeting of the expenditure of €220, Terri presented a collection of books for the school library, Terri's great efforts were acknowledged by the meeting.

National Parents Council talk on bullying

Teri Kruschke informed the meeting of the recent talk presented by the NPC and welcomed the interest, albeit limited, by those parents who attended. She informed the meeting that the NPC provide a lot of free information and talks upon demand and hoped that another parent might pursue this option in the next school year.

Class Reps

The Chair informed the meeting that for data protection reasons we need to secure buy-in from parents to provide their consent to receipt of communications for their class rep. Given that we are close to the end of the school year it was agreed that this consent

document might be best circulated in September, and it is hoped that existing class rep volunteers might agree to transition to the school year 16/17.

Bag packing

Elaine Hatton has kindly agreed to take over responsibility for this fundraising event. It was noted that given the time lag between the previous incumbent and Elaine's offer to assist, we have missed our chance to secure a date in Autumn/Winter 2016. However Elaine has made contact with all local supermarkets and SSN (B) is on the waiting list for any available dates that might arise. Failing that we expect to get this fundraising event back on track in 2017. Although concern was expressed that we had missed this opportunity equally it was suggested that given the huge effort it takes to convince parents to assist, we might consider alternative means of fundraising in future years and not feel entirely wedded to this one fundraising opportunity.

Thanks were expressed by the meeting for Elaine's commitment to this.

Uniform swap

Terri Kruschke reported on the recent uniform swap that was held in the school library, which was run by Terri, Louise, Susan and Mary. The parents who attended expressed gratitude for organising the event and hoped that it would be held on a more regular basis. It was noted that there was a shortage of contributions and it was suggested that future uniform swap days be preceded with a call to parents to donate uniforms that were no longer needed. In particular there is a big demand for school tracksuit tops.

Website and PA Blog

Colin Manning continues to provide invaluable support to the new school blogs and parents attending the meeting reported great delight at being able to access details and images relating to recent class activities. It was also noted that the PA blog is being updated as events occur and parents are encouraged to access it.

PA Constitution

The new draft PA constitution was circulated and the joint efforts of Sarah Cooper and Louise Crowley in drafting this document were acknowledged. It was very much welcomed given the unknown status of the supposed existing Constitution that had been circulated at previous meetings and the introduction of a new document, tailored to suit the needs and the long-standing practices of the existing PA was welcomed. Mary O'Connor expressed concern about the lack of detail concerning the role of the officers but Sarah Cooper explained that those details are in fact included, to the extent that is common practice and necessary for this Association, and this was accepted by Mary. The draft Constitution will be voted upon at the PA AGM in late September/Early October 2016.

Traffic Management

The previous PA plan to 'man' Avendale Avenue was discussed and the challenges to such an approach, including the need for significant parent presence were noted. An alternative less demanding approach was suggested; it is now proposed that a communication be circulated from Mr Cuthbert to all parents in the last week of term, and again in the first

week of September, to be accompanied by a detailed map, to be provided by a parent, Tim O 'Herlihy, which will outline best practice for parking/dropping at that side of the school.

AOB

The meeting was asked to consider financing the transition to secondary school talks for 6th class boys and their parents at a cost of €450 and there was unanimous agreement that the PA should pay for this important event.

Additionally the meeting was asked to consider financing the end of year school books, also at a cost of €450 and the meeting was very happy to pay for these.

New fundraising events were suggested, including a night at the dog track – concern was expressed in relation to this given the number of tickets that would need to be sold to make it a financial success. Following a lengthy discussion it was suggested that we might consider a joint fundraising event with the girls' school in October/November, and we might also consider an outdoors cinema evening.