

1. In attendance

Jill Foley	Gary Harte
Reena Mc Carthy	Rosaleen Fitzgerald
Mary O Connor	Pawel Switaj
Aoife O Herlihy	Sarah Cooper
Louise Crowley	

2. Apologies

Gemma Lyons
Helen Walsh

3. Treasurers Report

Reena Mc Carthy presented a copy of account statement and balance and copies were circulated of same at the meeting. Present account balance stands at €5397.34
Jill Foley furnished Reena with a receipt for the purchase of 12 Easter Eggs for school raffle, to the value of €60.
Louise Crowley furnished Reena with €311.99 (cash) from the proceeds of the Book swap event.
Reena confirmed that a meeting with TSB Douglas, has been arranged for April 1st to add Gary Harte as a signatory on the cheque book.

4. Update on success of book swap event

Louise Crowley reported that the book swap event on March 25th was a great success, even though the Bishopstown GAA Club was quieter than usual, due to the fact that several underage teams were playing elsewhere on Saturday morning. It was a very sociable event for both parents and children and a total of €311.99 was raised. A special word of thanks to Pat Collins for providing us with posters for the event and to St Catherine's school, who donated several boxes of books. Louise Crowley extended her thanks to all the parents that helped out on the day.
There are quite a few boxes of books still remaining so Louise suggested that a book sale be held in the school hall towards the end of May/ June. It is envisaged that this would be held on a Thursday and Friday from 1.30-2.30 each day, to maximise footfall. Gary Harte will discuss this with Brian Cuthbert.

5. NPC Update

Sarah Cooper confirmed that registration has been completed at a cost of €100 and 2 talks have been arranged for May, at a cost of €50 – Internet Safety and Anti bullying. Gary Harte will confirm with Brian Cuthbert if we may have use of the hall for both talks and will enquire as to what facilities are required by the NPC presenter. Gary Harte suggested that the Internet Safety talk be held first as this was the topic that most parents expressed an interest in from the recent survey.

Pawel Switaj suggested “creating an event” via school website thereby giving an idea of potential numbers attending both talks. He will consider developing this idea in conjunction with Gary Harte.

6. Confirmation & Holy Communion events

Mary O Connor confirmed that all Confirmation boys have been fitted for the jackets for this week’s ceremony. Rosaleen Fitzgerald confirmed that Catherine Frahill from SSN(C) has bought and paid for, supplies for both schools for the party in the hall on March 30th.

Jill Foley confirmed that she would collect balloons from Heaton on the morning of the Confirmation.

Mary O Connor and Rosaleen Fitzgerald confirmed that they would set up hall the day before, along with SSN(C) co-ordinator.

Gary Harte confirmed that there were approx. 20 volunteers from both schools to help with the event. Mary O Connor confirmed that she would text each volunteer after to express the thanks of the Parents Association.

In relation to the Holy Communion on May 6th, Gary Harte will speak to Brian Cuthbert re sending out an email to all current 1st class parents to seek their help as volunteers for that event. It is envisaged that this should be sent out before the Easter break and perhaps a reminder text would be then sent out the week before the Communion.

Aoife O Herlihy, Sarah Cooper and Jill Foley confirmed as being available to volunteer on the day.

Jill Foley confirmed that she will collect balloons from Heaton on the morning of May 6th.

7. Bag Packing Event

Gary Harte will get contact details for Elaine Hatton from school, in order to get details from her as to what has been planned in terms of volunteers etc. The dates are confirmed as being April 29th and May 12th & 13th. Gary Harte confirmed that he will coordinate event if Elaine is no longer able to do so.

8. Easter egg raffle

Jill Foley confirmed that 12 medium Easter eggs were purchased for raffle at a cost of €60.

Reena Mc Carthy will check if PA are in possession of raffle books and if not Gary Harte agreed to buy same this week. It is proposed that tickets (€1 per strip or 3 for €2) will be sold in school hall from 8.30-9am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning April 4th – 6th and that the raffle will take place on Friday April 7th, at 9am. Gary Harte, Mary O Connor and Jill Foley volunteered to sell the tickets on these days. Gary Harte will ask Brian Cuthbert to send out email to parents to inform them of this event this week.

9. Survey results

Gary Harte confirmed that the NPC talks in May, have been arranged in response to the parent’s survey.

10. Future fundraising events

It was agreed by all that a loose change drive would be a novel and lucrative fund raising option without the need for “man power” so a discussion was had on the best way to organise same.

Gary Harte spoke to Pat Collins re printing a template which could be used for the coin drive....e.g. school crest/ coat of arms/ map of the world. Unfortunately, Pat didn't have such a template but on further discussion it was suggested that it might be too difficult a task. Mary O Connor suggested filling 5 gallon drums (which Mary will kindly donate) with coins. On further discussion, it was proposed that we use 5/6 drums, and have a competition for the children to guess how much money is in the drum, thereby generating a bit of excitement for them, with a prize for the winner! Gary Harte suggested doing this over an extended period of perhaps a month, but this will need to be discussed with Brian Cuthbert first.

Rosaleen Fitzgerald confirmed that local businesses are always happy to accept bagged coins from school in exchange for notes, thereby alleviating unnecessary bank charges! Further discussions will be had at the next meeting.

Gary Harte discussed that possibility of another fundraising event before the end of school year...? Bingo ? quiz. He will discuss with Brian Cuthbert first on what events he may be planning so as not to have any clashes!

Mary O Connor outlined her plans for the sponsored school calendar. However due to time constraints this will be discussed in further detail at the April meeting.

11. Financial report

Starting Balance	€5030.34
Clothes recycling fundraiser	€ 517.00
National Parents Council Registration Fee	- € 100.00
Internet Safety Course fee to NPC	- € 50.00

Closing Balance March 28th 2017 €5397.34

12. AOB

Rosaleen Fitzgerald asked Gary Harte to remind Brian Cuthbert re hanging of a mirror in the ladies' toilet in the school hall.

The next meeting of the Parents Association will be on April 25th at 8pm

Jill Foley

Secretary SSNB Parents Association

Several parents suggested in the survey that a Sports day be held in the summer in the GAA, however due to insurance reasons, this is not permitted. Rosaleen Fitzgerald suggested that parents should be notified of this reason in correspondence from Brian Cuthbert.

Mary O Connor suggested a sponsored calendar as a fund-raising option, whereby "advertising space" is sold for €50, to local business, with a potential market for up to 50 businesses. This is to be discussed in greater detail at March meeting.

13. NPC Update

Unfortunately, Sarah Cooper was not in attendance at the meeting but she has applied for membership to the NPC. The cost of same is €100, which Sarah will pay directly herself and Reena Mc Carthy will reimburse her after receipt has been issued. Gary wishes to discuss further the possibility of the NPC hosting talks within the school.

14. Internet safety talk

It is understood that SSNC are holding an Internet Safety Talk on March 6th so Gary Harte will discuss with chairperson of the girl's school, if it is possible for parents of the boy's school to attend as well. If not, Gary is happy to present a similar talk himself to the school in the coming weeks.

15. Secondary School Transition

Following the success of last year's talk to both 6th class children and their parents, it was proposed that a similar talk be arranged again this year. It was suggested by Jill Foley that such a talk should take place later in the term...May/June to ensure relevance.

16. School Website

Gary Harte has been working on the school website over the last number of weeks, with especial attention to the Parent Association section. He has posted the dates of all Parent Association Meetings until the end of this school year. He will discuss with Brian the possibility of posting photos of various fund raising events etc. and whether Brian would include a section on the Parent Association activities in his biannual newsletter.

17. Easter Eggs

It was proposed by Donal Murray and seconded by Jill Foley, that €200 be approved for the purchase of Easter Eggs, for the school raffle. It was suggested that tickets be sold by PA committee members in the school hall, in the week leading up to the Easter Holidays. Gary Harte will discuss this with Brian Cuthbert.

18. Financial report

Starting Balance 10/10/16	€6020.21
Nov. Quarterly Fee	-€ 6.13
Allianz Insurance Cheque	-€ 319.20
Halloween Candy Cheque	-€ 155.80

Nov. Quarterly Fee	-€ 8.74
Communion & Confirmation Supplies cheque	-€ 500.00
Closing Balance February 2017	€5030.34

AOB

Rosaleen Fitzgerald asked Gary Harte to remind Brian Cuthbert re hanging of a mirror in the ladies' bathroom, in the school hall, prior to March 30th event!
The next meeting of the Parents Association will be on March 28th at 7.30pm.