

Our Lady's Grove Parents' Council Annual General Meeting - Thursday the 20th of October 2016

Minutes of Meeting

Chairperson's Report

The AGM opened with Deirdre welcoming everyone and introducing herself. She explained that we had changed the location and format due to previous year's numbers attending and also we wanted to make it more of a social event. All feedback on these changes are very welcome. The meeting began with a review of the year. She firstly listed our aims this time last year which were

- Finish Library fit out
- Purchase Lego for all classes
- Investigate and resolve the acoustic issue in the Hall.

All of these goals were achieved. She also listed all of the other events which we ran throughout the year.

- Organising events e.g. communion and confirmation receptions
- Running fundraising activities e.g. Christmas Fair, Raffle, Sponsored Walk, cake sale etc.
- Extending the extra-curricular sports available
- Introducing extra-curricular language classes
- Traffic and Safety review
- Active week fruit platters
- 6th class yearbook
- Participation in drafting/updating school policies

Deirdre then put a list of the current members of the Parents Council who helped make all the above happen. She explained that also Elaine Quinlan is the Board of Management representative, Anne Hutchinson is the teacher's representative and Anne Kernan in the Principal and these people also attend all Parents Council Meeting and play a huge role in helping us with the above.

Sports Committee Update

Denise Drudy went through a list of all the sports which we currently offer and how many students take part in each activity. The total number of places filled including the language classes is 564. Next term we will be offering the tin whistle and fiddle to help expand into the area of music. Denise thanked all current and outgoing co-ordinators and put a list of all of their names and what sports they are/were responsible for. Denise then went on to encourage all parents to help where they can. We now have a buddy system where two people now run a certain activity together. It means that they get extra support but also if one is working and can't be at the school they can still help by doing the admin etc. We always need support to run these sessions and most parents find that they get a huge amount back from supervising. The Parent's Council is now running the hockey and it is a huge success with 86 students signed up.

Treasurer's Report

Current Account

Opening Balance 1/9/15	€16,704
Income	€31,001
Less Expenses	<u>€36,215</u>
Closing Balance 1/9/16	€11,490

Sports and Cultural Account

Opening Balance 1/9/15	€2,791
Income	€24,337
Less Expenses	<u>€19,096</u>
Closing Balance	€8,032

Deposit Account for new school building has remained at €506. Cash in hand which is maintained as a float is €203. Closing Balance for all accounts as of the 1/9/16 is €20,231. Tom summed up by saying that we have maintained our cash position from last year even though we have achieved all our objectives which is an amazing result.

New Constitution Approval

Deirdre firstly explained why we felt it was important to work on our old constitution. She explained how the education system as a whole is organised. She knows that it can be confusing for parents to know where they fit into this. We are working to rebrand as a Parents Association where all parents/guardians are deemed to be members of the Parents Association. This is a positive step and is much more inclusive. Over the coming weeks we will roll out our new logo and email addresses.

The following are the main aims of the Parents Association under the new constitution.

- Promote and foster cooperation and communication between home and school
- Organise sporting and other activities and events
- Represent parent's views within the school
- Assist with drafting of policies
- Raise funds for all the above

The new constitution was emailed to all parents last week to look over. Deirdre asked if there were any questions. None were asked. The next step therefore would be to take a vote. Just before a vote took place a person asked that the constitution be put up on the screen. Deirdre did this and went through the document whilst it was on the screen. She explained that nothing has changed dramatically as we still have the same numbers on committee, monthly meeting etc. but last constitution was only 1 page long and didn't include areas such as sub committees.

Deirdre then asked for a raise of hands for the new constitution. All hands went up. Deirdre then asked if there were any objections and no one objected.

Approval of Prior Year Minutes

Minutes approved by Eve Bolger and seconded by Jane Dunne

Election of New Members

Deirdre asked for nominations for new parent's council members. A question was asked if you had previously served on the council for the full 3 years could you run again and Deirdre answered yes they could. As there were sufficient places for all nominees, the following were deemed elected.

Carol O'Buachalla, Laura Edgeworth, David Field, Sinead Cosgrove, Anthony Cronin and Fen Shong.

Deirdre then extended best wishes to the incoming officers.

- Caitriona D'Arcy and Eve Bolger – Co-Chairperson
- Colin Fuller – Secretary
- Tom Noone will remain as treasurer

She finished up by saying that all volunteers are welcome for all events especially the Christmas fair which Laura Edgeworth and Suzanne Cotter are organising this year.

Deirdre then looked toward the year ahead and the upcoming classes and events which we will run. She finished up by thanking sponsors and displaying all logos from company who donated to our Christmas fair and raffle. She also thanked Anne Kernan, all the staff, Board of Management, Trustees, Grove Aftercare and all volunteers for our various events.

Principals' Address

Anne Kernan thanked us all so much for making her feel part of a wonderful team over the past year. She has really enjoyed her time in the school and is looking forward to what this year will bring. We are all together giving the kids such fantastic opportunities and really preparing them to face the outside world. She would encourage parents to help where they can and she will support you in any way she can too. She then addressed each outgoing member individually and thanked them all for all the hard work they have done. She also thanked Deidre, Jackie and Tom for all their work over the past year too.

Deirdre then put up a picture slideshow to sum up the events of the past year. She thanked everyone for coming and was thrilled by the great turnout.

The meeting concluded.

