



Meeting Of Parents Association 21st November 2019

A meeting of the Parents Association took place in the school on Thursday 21st November 2019

Attendance:

Patricia Orsi, Lorna Kemp, Noreen Mills, Margaret Black, Helen Cannon, Grace Shiels, Susan Patterson, Thomas O Brien, Eileen Mc Ateer, Sally Ann Mc Fadden, Eileen Lockhart, Clive Doherty & Helen Hayes Sweeney.

Margaret O Connor (Principal)

John Lynch (Staff Member)

Apologies:

Fiona Herbst, Aoife Allison, Tara Fletcher

Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed

All minutes are available on the school website.

Matters Arising:

Junior Cert Mock exams- these will continue. Fees for both Leaving & Junior Cert Mocks will be €120 per child/€180 for 2 children. The school will pay the remainder of the cost.

3rd Year school Tour will take place due Easter Holidays. All issues with the tour have been resolved. No decision taken yet re a 3rd Year School Tour for 2020/21 school year.

Parents who are still not receiving emails can change email address on Compass.

There had been an issue re a student's email account being accessed as it had inadvertently been left open. It was suggested that a time-out setting be used in future if possible to improve security.

In 6th Year PE classes, students were being asked, in pairs, to take the class. In doing this teachers were trialling content from the new PE curriculum for Leaving Cert.

The Career Guidance teacher had sent details of College Open Days & importance college deadlines to parents. It was suggested that Transition Year students could travel to Open Days to help them decide on college courses & choose Leaving Cert subjects relevant to their areas of interest.

The attendance of 6th Years at recent Parent/Teacher meetings has been a success & staff were now considering the possibility of extending the practice to 5th Years.

Correspondence:

A letter had been received from Ms. Gillespie & Ms. Nee re the school's participation in the 'Well Read Awards' initiative which encourages the promotion of reading throughout the school community. Two parents were sought to be members of a steering committee, funds were requested from the Parents Association to provide new library books & donations of books were also needed. There was broad support for the initiative & further information was to be sought from the teachers involved.

Ms. Mc Daid had been in touch re the provision of refreshments at the Christmas Craft Fair.

Christmas Craft Fair:

Parents had been contacted re providing refreshments & serving teas & coffees & several had already volunteered.

Relationships & Sexuality Education Programme:

The policy was being updated & parents were asked to consider which areas might be included. There was a general consensus that the topic of 'consent' should definitely be included.

Girls' Soccer:

Though there were soccer teams for older girls there was none for 2nd Years. Ms O Connor would take this back to staff.

New Parent Rep. on Board of Management:

Thomas O Brien, new Parent Rep on the Board Of Management, was welcomed to the meeting.

Parent Association Bank Account:

The Parent Association would now be required to provide monthly bank statements as part of the school accounts.

Any Other Business:

The sinks in some pupil bathrooms were blocked. The Principal noted this & promised the issue would be dealt with.

Lockers had been changed & now the locks were integrated & €5 would have to be paid for lost keys.

Concern was expressed at the number of 'free classes'. Parents felt that there had been an increase in the number of 'free classes' across all years. In many cases work had not been left by teachers & in some cases, classes had been left unsupervised. It was acknowledged that teachers accompanying classes to extra curricular activities, substitute teachers for particular subjects being in short supply & the increased availability of leave such as Parental Leave & Job Sharing exacerbated the situation. However it was felt that in light of an increased focus on student attendance this matter be investigated as a matter of urgency, as teaching & learning would be negatively impacted should this continue or worsen.

No date was fixed for the next meeting.