

Minutes from Kinsale Community School Parents association AGM 9/10/2018

In attendance:

Principal Fergal McCarthy; Deputy Principals Kathleen O'Brien, Claire Sheehan and Ger Hogan; Chairperson of PA Tom Brennan; Chair of PA Fundraising Eddie Kelleher; Secretary Helen Hynes; Treasurer Rachel Casey; PA Committee members Breda Harrington, Tracey Murphy, Colleen Walsh, Donna O'Conner; and parents

Apologies: Parents Reps on Board of Management Chris Cronin and Liz Timmons; Hillary McCarthy; Siobhan Keogh; Mary Hayes; Owen Wills; and Sheelagh Gill

Welcome from Chairperson: Tom Brennan welcomed all present and invited Principal Fergal McCarthy to address the meeting.

Mr McCarthy outlined the relationship between the PA and the school highlighting the following:

- Féilte Scoile – this is a teaching and learning conference held annually in the school with workshops given by teachers to their peers. The PA are invited to send representatives to this on an annual basis
- Visiting educationalists – from time to time the school invites visiting experts to address the teachers. Parent representatives are invited to attend
- The PA have been involved in working with the school to ensure that we get the best value and facilities from the building works and Mr McCarthy commended the PA for their fundraising activities.
- The PA were consulted about the menu in the school canteen.
- The PA are consulted on an ongoing basis about updates to school policies.
- An evening was held in the school for the parents of all first year pupils to show case how students are integrated in to the school.
- The school is working with the local primary schools on a "Maths Enrichment programme", to ensure that 5th and 6th class pupils will all have the same maths preparation before they begin in secondary school. Parents are invited to be part of this process.
- Following on from recommendations made at the PA AGM in 2017, the school worked with website developers to on a new school website. The website has a notice board which is updated regularly and a Newsletter which is sent weekly to parents who are subscribed. The PA now have a page on the school's website and can upload content and notices as needed.

Mr Ger Hogan, Deputy Principal for the Junior Cycle gave an overview of Years 1 to 3 in the school. There are now almost 600 students in years 1 to 3. There is a Year Head and 2 Deputy Year Heads for each year, in addition to a class teacher for each class group. The Junior Cert results this year were very good, with particular mention for English.

Ms Claire Sheehan, Deputy Principal for the senior cycle, outlined the progress of Year 4-6 so far this year. The TY students are well engaged in their programme with regular event ongoing. All TY students have experienced a professional interview. This year TY students have begun their Leaving Cert curriculum in Irish, English, Maths and their language. They will all complete the Differential Aptitude Tests (DATS) on Nov 7th.

The 6th years had a motivational visit from Ultan O'Callaghan during their first week back. They also completed personal target sheets where they analysed what results they hope to get in the Leaving Cert to allow them to pursue their chosen pathway when they leave secondary school. These sheets have also been used with the 5th years.

The Leaving Cert results this year were very good. 15% of students achieved between 500 and 600 points which exceeds the national average of 11.9%..

Ms Kathleen O'Brien, Deputy Principal, outlined the role of the PA in policy developments. This year the school plans to review the following policies:

- Bursary Policy
- Dignity at Work Charter
- School tour policy
- School awards policy
- Job sharing policy
- New staff induction policy
- School uniform policy

The PA will be invited to review the amended policies, and any parents with a particular interest in any of the above are invited to make contact with the school.

Ms O'Brien outlined the following:

- Care classes given in First year and the STEPS A programme delivered in TY which are designed to teach skills for emotional effectiveness.
- The new Junior cycle recommends a maximum of 10 subjects, and also issues guidelines on how many hours are spent at any subject. There are a number of short courses on offer, which can be combined in to a Junior Cert subject.
- PE is now offered as a leaving Cert subject. The first group of 30 students are in 5th year

The minutes from the PA AGM 2017 were circulated to all present. These minutes were uploaded to the school website, as will be the minutes from the AGM 2018.

Tom Brennan then gave the Chairperson's Report. See separate document for details. Eddie Kelleher, Chair of Fundraising, then addressed the meeting. He outlined the considerable work done by members of the committee and other volunteer helpers.

Questions / comments from the floor:

Liz Creed commented on the difficulty for students with the Classroom based Assessments which are a part of the new Junior Cycle. Ms Kathleen O'Brien accepted this comment and acknowledged that continuous assessment is a huge shift for all involved.

There was a query about use of the new sports facilities. Tom Brennan clarified that the pitch had been in use last year. The track is almost ready to be laid and it is hoped that it will be in place by the end of the October mid term break. The plan is to maximize the rental of the facilities to help pay back the loan.

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Election of the committee for 2018/19.

The following committee members have agreed to stay on:

Tom Brennan, Eddie Kelleher, Helen Hynes, Rachel Casey, Hillary McCarthy, Breda Harrington, Colleen Walsh, Donna O'Connor and Owen Wills.

The following parents agreed to go on the committee: Tracey Murphy, Samantha Bowen, Debbie McCarthy and Sonia Fernandez. These were proposed and seconded from the floor.

A number of parents volunteered to help with specific PA activities such as the School Book Rental and making teas and coffees for school events, and this the committee are very grateful for this.

Tom Brennan thanked all those who attended and drew the meeting to a close.