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Strandhill National School Parents Association Annual General Meeting 2023

Wednesday, 27.09.23

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

“Strengthening the link between Strandhill National School and the Strandhill Community by supporting activities that are inclusive, environmentally friendly, and sustainable.”

2022/2023 Committee Member Attendees

Ciaran McCauley - Chairperson

Rosaria Kunda Marron - Secretary

Niamh O'Sullivan

Laura McHugh

Pamela McDaid

Jaime O'Dwyer

Apologies: Jessie McKenna Smith, Claire Mitchell, Colin O'Hare

Agenda

1. Opening remarks by Parents Association Chairperson
2. Welcome remarks by School Principal
3. What is PA and how does it work
4. PA Committee Report and response to matters arising from last academic year
5. Presentation on events and priorities of PA for new year
6. Presentation and adoption of Strandhill School Parents' Association Constitution
7. Vote on type and level of activities to be supported by the Parents' Association
8. Request for volunteers to join PA Committee
9. AOB and matters arising
10. Close

1. Opening remarks

- The PA (Parents Association) would like to extend gratitude to all the parents and supporters of Strandhill National School who were involved in raising over €9,500 as part of the €10,000 target for the school 2022/2023 year. This

money was raised to help develop and make a child friendly play area on the new tarmacadam hard court area.

- We would also like to acknowledge the 'Warriors Run Committee' for their contribution of €1,500 towards the new school playground in Strandhill National School.
- We the PA are very grateful to Dr. Rosaria Kunda Marron for delivering a blueprint for the PA in our path forward, namely the new working document the constitution.
- Gratitude to Sarah Middleton for organising and kindly donating all proceeds of the Halloween disco to the PA fundraising cause.
- Many thanks to all involved in last year's Table Quiz in March 2023, which will hopefully run as an annual event, going forward.
- Also thank you to Niamh O'Sullivan who organised the inaugural Cake Sale & Uniform Swap Day. Hopefully this can develop with a little more help over the next few years to include more input from the children involved.
- Other fundraising events such as Grandparents Day, including the sale of a printed booklet giving the history of the local area. This booklet can be sold at future events for fundraising purposes.

The PA would like to extend gratitude for the involvement of all sub committees that were a part of the wider PA activity in 2022/2023.

- Neurodiversity
- Fundraising
- Garden
- Events subcommittees
 - Sacraments - under resourced with volunteers - more needed for 2023/24
 - 5th & 6th Class leaving party
 - Grandparents Day

2. Address by the Principal: Mr. J. Fogarty

Thank you to everyone for attending the AGM. Thank you to the PA committee for their volunteer time and effort.

Status of the school:

- The school is in a good place at present, and in a good position financially. The recent building works are also finished and the basketball court is now open.
- There were 42 Junior infants accepted into the school this year.
- The school has a mission statement. However, the teachers and board of management of the school came together to develop a vision statement which highlights the school's catholic ethos, as well as the safe and secure environment to nurture our children.
- Mr Fogarty reminded the parents that while learning is a shared enterprise between children, parents and teachers, the school continues to support the children to help themselves learn. He also recognised the broad intelligence spectrum that makes up all humans, and reassured parents that the school will continue to support the children to develop all the aspects of their strengths including in sports, music, academia and otherwise.
- He encouraged the wider community around the school to continue to give back/contribute to our community.
- Mr Fogarty noted that multigrade classes are here to stay, and will be a feature of the school going forward. All reports show that the multigrade classes have been working well and appear to be well accepted and liked by both teachers and children alike.
- The current Board of Management will be stepping down in October and a new board of management will be elected. There will be elections of two parent nominees - one mother and one father. The board of management parent nominees once elected will sit on the BoM and will be duty bound to that board.

Ms. Doyle - Retirement:

- Ms. M. Doyle is due to retire. Principal J.F. requested a parent to say a few words at her retirement celebration, and also requested the PA to give a token of appreciation on behalf of the parents. We are thankful to Claire Kelly who gave a wonderful speech to thank Mrs Doyle, and a token of appreciation was presented to Mrs Doyle during the mass.

Parent Teacher meetings

- Parent teacher meetings will now be booked online via Aladdin. The first slots released will be for parents who have more than one child in the school. The next wave of slots will then be released.

Child protection review:

- Child protection policies and risk assessments related to children attending the school are now complete.

Neurodiversity group:

Work has been completed in conjunction with the neurodiversity subcommittee to produce a one-page information leaflet - to help parents understand the national psychological assessment process when assessing neurodiversity. This is currently a draft information leaflet, and work on it continues.

Events:

The various social events during the year will aim to enhance the school within the local community. Grandparents' day, Sacrament Day are all part of that tradition. The school hopes to continue with these events in the calendar.

Fundraising:

The school would like to prioritise the various targets that it would like to fundraise for. For example, the PA has traditionally given money towards music generation running in the school each year.

Mr Fogarty requested the PA to prioritise procurement of soccer jerseys for some of the boys' and girls' teams during the year.

3. PA financial Report 2022/2023

- The PA raised €12,000 total during the 2022/2023 academic year. €10,500 was raised directly by the PA, and €1,500 was donated by the Warriors Committee to the school.
- Music generation was supported last year by the PA. €1,000 was contributed toward it from PA funds.
- Expenditure this year has included bank fees, tea/coffee, biscuits, etc:
- The PA has secured its own SUM UP for contactless donations.
- The PA does not hold large sums of money in its bank account. All sums raised (for a specified purpose) are transferred to the school in a timely manner.
- Currently there is: €159.00 in the bank account.
- The PA would like to express gratitude to all the parents who donated to the PA fundraising causes last year.

4. What is the PA? How it works:

- The PA is everyone who is a parent in the school, and should have between 5 to 9 committee members, including a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications officer etc.
- It relies on open communication, and has an AGM every September
- There are approximately 3 committee meetings per academic year.
- The PA is supported by various sub committees. Each of these sub committees has an area of focus. Some may be temporal and formed as needed for a specific event. Some may have a longer-term focus. The idea of the subcommittees is that people can get involved in an area of interest to them.

5. PA Constitution:

- The PA constitution was presented and adopted as the guiding document for the Strandhill School PA. It is available on the PA page of the school website
- It was highlighted that the constitution is a live/working document. The idea is to keep modifying it and progressing it forward as needed to respond to change in our school and its environment.
- The constitution can be amended by vote at an AGM or EGM.

6. Priorities for the PA in 23/24

Event	Tentative Date
PA General Fundraiser: Halloween Disco	October
Open Day for Junior Infants	February/March
Grandparents Day	April
Table Quiz	April/May
Post Sacrament Celebrations: First Holy Communion	May
Post Sacrament Celebrations: Confirmation	May
Sports Day	May/June
5 th and 6 th Class Bake Sale	June

Uniform Swap/Fundraiser	July/August
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- The PA suggested that it would like to address possibly more than one area of priority for the children attending Strandhill National School in each academic year, as it would be too narrow to focus on just one area each year.

7. Sub Committees

1. Homework
 - a. The PA would like to see if a school policy on homework can be developed as it is unclear at the moment.
 - b. The intention is to survey the parents, teachers and students to get input into the school's homework policy.
2. Neurodiversity
 - a. This arose from an identified parental need
 - b. To provide information and support to all parents
 - c. Examples of focus include development of a sensory garden within the school grounds for all children to access
 - d. The subcommittee holds information nights / events for all people who would like to attend.
 - e. It also helps the school focus on areas of improvement / lends support for the child's journey through the school.

8. National Parents Council

It is suggested that our PA should maintain membership to the national parents' council. Many good resources available from the NPC and membership each year is nominal at approximately €20.

9. Committee Members

Resignations of 2022/2023 PA committee members:

1. Laura McHugh

2. Jaime O'Dwyer
3. Rosaria Kunda Marron
4. Pamela McDaid
5. Jessie Smith McKenna
6. Colin O'Hare

Remaining on the 2023/2024 PA committee:

1. Niamh O'Sullivan
2. Ciaran McCauley

New Volunteers to the 2023/2024 PA committee:

1. Grace Elliott (Children in junior infants)
2. Charlotte Probst (Child in junior infants)
3. James Glynn
4. Pat Fox (Child in junior infants)
5. Fergal Nealon (Child in 2nd class)
6. Anna Faye Vahey (Child in 1st class)

Officers for the 2023/2024 committee will be elected at the next committee meeting.

8. Closing comments on PA commitments

Approximately x3 meetings per year.

Various sub committees will need to be formed eg. the first-class support for post communion celebrations or 5th class support for post confirmation celebrations.

The vision for the PA in Strandhill National School is to involve the kids in the running of the school, for example in the uniform sale and cake bring and buy sale at the end of the year.

Meeting ended at 9pm.