

Minutes 05/09/2023

05 SEPTEMBER 2023 / 7:30 PM / ROOM F2

ATTENDEES

Clare Copeland Heeney, Anita Brophy, Magda Chereune, Tracy Colopy, Julianne White, Leyla Simsek, Claudia Mc Namara, Deirdre Conway, Marta Cieniuch, Carmel Murray, Geraldine Lavin, Siobhan Mc Neela, Christina Donnelly, Principal Diane Birnie.

Apologies: Jaime Desmond, Emma O Connor, Lesley Dupont.

AGENDA

Last Meeting Follow-up

1. Vote on 9 extra teacher jackets was passed. Marta C., Treasurer will issue the cheque.
2. Vote on having €500 petty cash, to be held by the treasurer was proposed by Leyla S., seconded by Julianne W. and was passed by vote.
3. Minutes from May 2023 were proposed by Leyla Simsek and seconded by Carmel Murray.

New Business

1. Welcome to the new parents joining the school; we were delighted to have some of you attend the first meeting of 23/24. We trust you will find a warm welcome in the PTA and settle in well.
2. The AGM will take place on the 10th of October 2023 at 7.30. The guest speaker on the night is Paula O Connor from 'Don't be mean behind your screen' who will give a talk about online safety and helping students develop good online habits.

Although 3rd years will also have talks from Paula, all parents from 1st to 6th year are encouraged to attend the evening talk for parents. Tickets are free but may be booked on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dont-be-mean-behind-your-screen-tickets-714847035727>

Speaker is to be paid (€850 for all 3 talks) by cheque on the night.

A new committee will be elected at the AGM. Please consider expressing your interest even if you don't have previous experience. You won't be left to carry a task alone; many hands make light work!

3. Glebe Builders has secured the contract for the school extension and we welcome the news that it is expected that work onsite will start during the academic year.
4. Also, the new school website is nearing completion and we look forward to its launch.
5. The text of the Principal's Report is attached at the end of the minutes, please read through at your convenience, to catch up on all the school news.
6. Information night for First Years: Leyla will check with Mr. Carey what is needed on the night - a short talk by PA and possibly tea and coffee.
7. We hope to have an opportunity to link in with Mr. Brannigan who now has Wellbeing as part of his post.
8. We as the PA send our heartfelt condolences to the school staff on the loss of their colleague Frances Murphy. Our thoughts are also with the students with whom Ms. Murphy worked, and all who will miss her support and her smile. We will draft a letter of condolence to her family this month.

Ms. Birnie spoke of school plans to add a remembrance for Ms. Murphy in the school's memorial garden.

9. Leyla S. proposed a float of €500 for petty cash. Seconded by Julianne W. and agreed.

10. Crested jackets: a proposal for 9 extra jackets for teachers going on school outings was made by Geraldine Lavin and seconded by Leyla Simsek and agreed.
11. A reminder was made by the Chair that committee members need to use the PA Gmail, not own email accounts when communicating on behalf of the PA. All documents are to be uploaded to the PA Google Drive.
12. Hardship fund for supervised study: Carmel M. enquired whether a lower rate would be acceptable for each student sponsored. Ms. Birnie will consult with Mr. Foley about this.
13. As the committee will renew at next month's meeting, volunteers are invited to join; vacant posts are treasurer, vice-treasurer, secretary and vice-secretary as well as Debs and Fundraising sub-committees.
14. Treasurer's Report: The current total held is €30,554.22 from which the payments to the Red Cow and to Photographer Pat Gorman will be made on Friday night.
15. Debs: Siobhan Mc N. reported that 137 Debs tickets were sold. 10 tickets have been fully paid, but not collected. 10 students paid, but not collected their tickets. 3 paid the €50 deposit but have not responded to follow-up attempts by Debs committee and Mr. Carey. Update: two students have been in touch about collecting tickets.

Tracy Collopy and Deirdre Conway volunteered to attend the Debs as PA presence with Emma O Connor, Debs committee. Update: Clare Copeland Heeney and Jill Bird will also attend.

Leyla, Tracy and Emma will help on the bus and Geraldine and husband will do traffic control at St. Thomas's gates.

Mr. Carey will confirm final numbers of teachers attending and Mr. Brett, Deputy Principal will represent the school.

16. The school website update was presented, including drone footage of the school by Fintan Hanley. It is currently being populated and will be launched in the next few weeks. The post-holder in charge of maintaining the website is Ms. Mulhern.

17. PRO: Geraldine Lavin reported that the best way to access all parents is directly from the school and queried whether Facebook and Twitter could be linked to the new school website.

Jullianne W. will add new PA members to PA Whatsapp and email lists.

18. Fundraising - A calendar of events for the year was distributed and is attached.

19. Board of Management: the first B.O.M. meeting of 23/24 will be held on the 18th September.

20. Principal's Report: Ms. Birnie updated the meeting on the recent news from the school. The text of the Pricipal's Report was circulated before the meeting and is available here <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ttbFTHB1fgfkeRByKLS00bJ2odwxo6eq/edit> We extend our thanks for this, as it helps parents address any related issues promptly in the PA meeting.

Some highlights given by Ms. Birnie:

“Tus maith leath na hoibre”.

RIP: Ms. Frances Murphy is remembered with love by the staff, students and parents who met and worked with her over her years in Lucan CC. The school has plans to remember her in the school's memorial garden. Ms. O' Grady, a former teacher at the school, has also sadly passed away in recent weeks.

New teachers are joining the school staff and the appointments are currently being processed.

Leaving Cert and Leaving Cert Applied results were excellent. In LCA ten of the twelve students achieved distinctions, with two students achieving perfect scores.

LCC staff have sent care packages to the staff of the Clonmel schools affected by the tragic loss of three Leaving Cert students on the day they received their results.

In welcome news Glebe Builders (Donegal) have been appointed as contractors on the new school extension. Mechanical and electrical contractors will be appointed by the 3rd of October. It is expected that building will commence this school year.

Parents and the PA are asked to continue to link with local representatives to help keep the project.

There were no transfer places available in the school this year, and this will be the case unless numbers fall below 920. The total number of students currently is 930.

Ms. Vivienne Conway is leaving due to a new appointment. We wish her well in her new post and appreciate all she has done for our students.

21. Leyla S. enquired about renewal of Garda vetting. Ms. Birnie confirmed that vetting is valid for three years and that Ms. Malone can be contacted about vetting for parents who would like to be vetted for volunteering in the school. It was confirmed that vetting is not required for those attending the Debs.

22. The Business Studies teacher has requested funding for a class set of 30 Financial Literacy books to use with TY students.

The prequest was proposed by Geraldine Lavin and seconded by Leyla Simsek and agreed at the meeting. Geraldine Lavin knows the author and will request a discount. Marta Cieniuch will issue a cheque for €300.

23. Geraldine Lavin enquired whether students doing state exams could have the option to wear their school tracksuit instead of full uniform. Ms. Birnie will follow up on this issue.

24. Carmel Murray asked if it would be possible for the school to run a non-uniform day to raise funds for the homeless charity work by local woman Bernadette Fagan, in light of the need for a new van for the soup runs. It is in conjunction with PATH Portlaoise. Ms. Birnie will follow up with this.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Cheques for debts: (Red Cow and Pat Gorman, photographer) and for Paula O Connor, speaker at AGM - Treasurer.
2. Request the Principal's Report a week before each meeting and add any consultations or decisions to the agenda - Secretary.
3. Check with Mr. Carey if refreshments are needed for 1st year night - Sec.
4. Arrange PA member to speak to 1st year parents - Chair.
5. Contact Mr. Brannigan re. how we can link with Wellbeing - Sec.
6. Upload minutes to Google drive - Sec.
7. Upload relevant documents to Google Drive - all committee.
8. Add new parents to Gmail and WhatsApp group - Sec.
9. Upload minutes of AGM 2022 - Sec.
10. Unclaimed deposits to be held in school in case students request - Debs.
11. Draft a letter of condolences to the family of Ms. Murphy. Ask parents for contributions - Chair, Sec. and all committee.
12. Contact Grainne Malone to arrange Garda Vetting for any new parents who would like to volunteer in the school - Chair.
13. Follow up with school about non-uniform day and tracksuits for exams - Chair.
14. Thank you cards. Terms and conditions for raffle to be updated - Fundraising.

NEXT Meeting is the AGM followed by guest speaker Paula O Connor.

7.30 pm 10th October 2023. Room to be confirmed.