

Cumann na dTuismitheoirí Scoil Aonghusa

Scoil Aonghusa Parents' Council

ScoilAonghusa, Geata an Domhnaigh, Droichead Átha. 041 9832531

Cathaoirleach: Yvonne Walsh, Leas Cathaoirleach: Gillian Burke Faulkner

Runai: Brenda Uí Mhaitiú, E-phoist: tuis.scoilaonghusa@gmail.com

Clár Oibre

Cumann na dTuismitheoirí CCB

22ú Meán Fómhair 2019

Parents Council A.G.M. 22nd September 2019

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Miontuairiscí CCB 25 Meán Fómhair 2019

A.G.M. Minutes 25th September 2019

1. **Leithscéalta: Apologies:** Natalie Redmond and Rachel O'Sullivan

2. **Fáilte ó Chathaoirleach: Chairperson's Welcome and Opening - Yvonne Walsh**

Ba mhaith liom fáilte mór a chuir roimh gach duine anseo anocht chuig Cruinniú Cinn Bliana de cumann na dTuismitheoirí Scoil Aonghusa. Is mise Yvonne Walsh agus is mise an Cathaoirleach. Tá an áthas orm an oiread duine a fheiceáil anseo anocht. Bhí bliann an gnóthach ag Cumann na dTuismitheoirí ag eagrú imeachtaí agus tiomsú airgid don scoil. I'd like to extend a warm welcome here to everyone tonight to the Parents' Council AGM. My name is Yvonne Walsh and I am the Chairperson. We had a very busy year for the Parents' Council with the organisation of events and fundraising for the school. It's our pleasure to present to you what we did last year and fill you in on how we manage the Parents' Council. I would like to hand over to Múinteoir Edel who will open with a prayer.

Edel - Tá cead fáilte romhaibh ar fad. This is probably the first time that many of us have actually sat down and had time to gather our breath. So we'll just take a second just to think. I was very mindful of a conversation I had this morning with one of our children. It is my great privilege to have many wonderful conversations with the children. I presented a fairy sticker to a child, and after that, ensued a conversation about the difference between a fairy and an angel. I was reminded then of our guardian angel and the lovely comfort that it is for children to know that Jesus, our best friend, has given each and every one of us a guardian angel. Paidir.

3. Miontuairisc an A.G.M. deireanach: Minutes of last A.G.M.

The minutes of the last A.G.M. were placed on the school website and they are also pinned to the notice board at the back of the hall. So if anyone hasn't had an opportunity to read the minutes of last year's meeting, they are available to read at the end of the meeting. I would now like to hand over to Múinteoir Edel for the Principal's address.

4. Aitheasc an Phríomhoide: Principal's Address - Edel Ní Bhrion

Fáilte anseo innu, ar an chéad dul siar, is mian liom ar mbuíochas a gabháill le Coiste na nDaltaí mar d'oibrigh siad go dian dícheallach i rith na bliana seo caite. So first of all I think it is important that we introduce our Cumann na dTuismitheoirí. So, Rúnaí ná Brenda, an Cathaoirleach Yvonne agus an Cisteoir Susan , an Leas Cathaoirleach a bhí againn ná Miryam agus ansin tá tuismitheoirí anseo a bhí mar bhall den coiste. First of all it's very important that I thank sincerely the officers and members of Cumann na dTuismitheoirí who worked really, really hard for the good of our school and the children over the last twelve months. I am very mindful that we welcomed fourteen new families to our school. It's so nice to see so many of our new members of the school community and I hope that the last few weeks have been a nice introduction for you and your family, and for your precious son or daughter, here in this school. So, tá cead fáilte romhaibh ar fad. We had a visit during the week from a TG4 researcher. Now, as to why a TG4 researcher was visiting the school you can keep an eye on newsletters in the coming weeks. But the researcher came in and she stood in front of the children from rang 5. She said this is a lovely school and I have heard a lot about this school, can you tell me what makes this school special?, what makes this school different?. I was so happy I was in the room and I was wondering what were they going to

say. The answers came like this. Music, we have lots of music and singing and that's really good about our school. She went onto the next child, and she said ... sport, there's lots of sport. But she said you don't have any field, and the reply was, it doesn't matter cause we go to the fields across the road in Boyne View and we go to the running track and sometimes we go down to Greenhills secondary school, they have a huge gym and we use that. She then moved onto the next child and he said ... work, we do really good work. And I thought, this is going really well, and then he turned to me and said Múinteoir Edel "cad é an Ghaeilge ar really high standard and execution of work ?" I said obair an-mhaith. The next child said we have really good fun days and my favourite day is pancake day, I knew that was going to come somewhere along the line. Then she came to the last person and the girl thought and she said comhoibriú, co operation. And the lady said, cad is brí leis sin ?. She said, tá gach duine sa scoil seo an-mhaith ag comhoibriú agus tá gach duine sásta, and everybody is really happy as a result. And I thought, in those six children it was summed it up so nicely what we are about. It is such a privilege and an honour for me to be leader of this school. The biggest honour I have is that I get to see the big picture, I can see all the different parts of the jigsaw. So when we talk about comhoibriú. First of all, I attend the monthly meetings of Cumann na dTuismitheoirí and I meet regularly with the officers in between meetings. We are really lucky and I am privileged to work with a really dedicated staff who have the children's needs and what they require, to the full, as their number one priority. We are really lucky to have a Board of Management, who bring their expertise, and take their role very seriously. We are very lucky to have a very strong Board of Management. Then you probably noticed we have a VIP amongst us, Emilia. And Emilia is newly elected Vice Chair of our Coiste na nDaltaí. So she has been recently elected as a member of our student union. I think we should give her a little bualadh bos. And her partner, who was going to join us, is Ciarán he is the Cathaioirleach, but he also has a football match. So it was really important for me that Emilia would represent the boys and girls of our school, because at the end of day every time I sit down with the staff, every time I sit down with parents, Cumann na dTuismitheoirí and the Board of Management it's all about the páistí. And I always say "páistí na scoile, seoid na scoile". The children of our school are the jewels of our school. It is for that very reason, Emilia, because of you and the other buachaillí and cailíní that we gather here tonight. It is for all those reasons that all these Mams and Dads are so generous with their time and so generous with their talents, because they know they are making a difference. It is all those little things that the boys and girls mentioned that are special about our school. It all comes back to that word comhoibriú, co operation. So thank you very much for your co operation

and I look forward to the year ahead and to working with the new members of Cumann na dTuismitheoirí. The other phrase that is coming to mind is circle of life. It's so nice to see two past pupils amongst you sitting here tonight. It's always so nice for us to have our past pupils coming back to us and sending their own children to the school. In our case we have Ivan Feran who is a past pupil of the school and who is now the Community Rep on our Board of Management. So I will hand you over to Ivan. I just want to say that Rhona Uí Cheallaigh is our Caitheoirleach. She has been Chairperson of our Board of Management for the last twelve years. This is the very first time in the twelve years that she had had a work commitment clash. So she is passing on her apologies, tá an-bhrón uirthi nach feidir léi a bheith anseo anocht, ach tá Ivan anseo ar son Rhona.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

**5. Tuairsc Bhord Bainistíochta: Board of Management Chairperson's Address -
Ivan Feran**

Dia dhaoibh go léir, Ivan Feran is ainm dom agus tá mé ar Bhord Bainistíochta na scoile seo. I am also, as Edel was saying, a past pupil. I was here when the school first moved into this building. I was in rang 4 or rang 5 in 1991. It's a real privilege and a pleasure to be here. It's a pleasure to be on the Board of Management and my role today is to give people a bit of a flavour, a bit of a background and a understanding of the Board of Management and what goes on. It's very much, it would be fair to say, in the background. Obviously, the day to day running of the school and the teaching you are all familiar with from coming to the school. But, the Board of Management is in the background and ultimately the role of the Board is to manage the school on behalf of the Diocese and also on behalf of the Department of Education. We have plenty of rules and regulations, I think they are available for all parents to see. I suppose our two main bibles, if you will, are the Governance Manual for Primary Schools, which sets out the Department of Education rules and regulations and also the Catholic CPSMA (Catholic Primary Schools Management Association) Handbook. So they are the two documents which set out the details and workings of the Board. Plenty there for us to look at and to guide us on our decision making and our discussions. We meet twice a term, the recommendations are once a term, but we meet twice. Sometimes we meet if an urgent matter needs to be discussed, but generally there aren't too many matters that arise throughout the year. For possible future or prospective Board members, I understand it is an

Irish school and Ggaeilge is the main focus, but our management meetings generally are conducted as béarla. The Board of Management comprises of eight members. It's effectively four groups of two. It's divided into the teacher representatives including an Príomhoide and Múinteoir Cairtriona. There are two parent representatives, including Olivia who you will hear from later about the finances, also Joe McArdle. I am a community representative, and the other community rep is Turlough McKeivitt. Then there are the patrons representatives. They are Cannon Eugene and Rhona Kelly, who Edel was saying unfortunately, cannot be here tonight. That is how the Board is made up. The point of having different members of the community and facets of the school involved is that everyone can give their own perspective. Obviously, parents have a particular perspective and have a good handle on the needs of the children. The teachers are on the ground dealing with the children and any issues that arise in the school. It's a Catholic school with a Catholic ethos, so the patron's reps bring in that element. The Canon, and historically Monsignor Carroll, have been very involved on the ground in the school. The community reps are local members of the community in business and we bring a particular local perspective to the Board. What does the Board do?. We meet twice a term and we discuss and plan for the year ahead. Very much guided by an Príomhoide in terms of what's on the curriculum and what important events are coming up. The day to day running of the school which is the responsibility of an Príomhoide and na Múinteoirí. We have discussions about upkeep and management or important issues or changes that might happen. Such as, the chlós, when work was undertaken outside and the painting and decorating during the summer. You will appreciate the school looks very well and that is a situation that is managed day to day on the ground by an Príomhoide, but also the Board. Importantly, we review, discuss and update various policy documents and have best practice policies in place. These are there in the best interests of the children. We have policies on health and safety, child safety policies, anti-bullying policy and various other policies that we review, discuss and update depending on different legislation and changes in best practice. I want to make sure that everyone is aware that they are in place and available. Within the Board there are different roles. Olivia is the Treasurer, so she looks after the finances. My particular role is as Health & Safety Officer. For example, I report back to the Board on any health and safety issues that might arise during the year in the school. I work closely with Edel on, for example, the fire drill, and updating the Health & Safety Statement. Or if there was something of concern, from a health and safety perspective in the school or building, I discuss that with Edel and bring it back to the Board and it is addressed. All decisions by the Board are made by discussion amongst

ourselves. The main focus of every decision made is child centred and what's in the best interest of the children and what's in the best interest of proper management and running of the school. All decisions are not taken lightly and considered carefully and ultimately in the best interests of the páistí. So, I hope that gives people a bit of a flavour and background. Ultimately there are a lot of people involved, Cumann na dTuismitheoirí, na Múinteoirí, the Board and parents, of course. The main focus for everybody is creating an atmosphere where the children can receive the best education. The Board of Management is a small cog in that wheel in the background. I would like to pay tribute on behalf of the Board to the parents and the Parents' Council. Olivia reports back to us about the hard work done throughout the year. It is a credit you and it filters down to the children when parents and others are involved in the school. It gives rise to a real good community atmosphere that I think everyone appreciates and recognises. So, I am here afterwards if anyone has any particular questions on the Board, it's management and its function, please don't hesitate to ask me any questions.

Go raibh maith agat.

Edel informed the meeting regarding the formation of a new Board of Management:

I just want to inform you that every four years a new Board is elected. So, as of the 30th November this current Board will come to an end. The Board of Management and the Patron will be in contact with the school community to inform you of the steps and stages that will follow and ensue to ensure that we have our new Board up and running, if not for December then definitely January 2020. The new Board will then run from 2020 to 2024. At the moment we are waiting on the Department of Education and the CPSMA to release our new governance manual. When we receive the new governance manual we are then able to initiate the election process. We will inform you of each stage. So, just to give you an idea and so you are aware of what that involves. Initially, you will receive a letter from the Board of Management saying the Board has come to an end and it is now the Patrons responsibility to set up an new Board. For the Parents nominations, the way it has worked and the reason I'm saying the way it has worked, is because it may be subject to change. You will appreciate there are new rules and regulations due to GDPR and data protection since the last Board was formed. We won't know for sure that this is the actual process until we receive the governance manual. So, the Board members will inform you that the Board is coming to an end. Then parents have the option to inform the school if they are not interested to put their

name forward to be a Board member. From those then who have said "yes, we are interested" (we take it that you are interested if you don't inform the school), a list of surnames and the classes that your son or daughter is currently attending will be sent to the parents body. Each Mom and each Dad has the opportunity to nominate a parent that they think would do a good job and represent the parents perspective on the Board. Before you nominate somebody it is very important to ask that person if he or she interested. From those nominations there is a strict timeline and from those who are nominated we have an election process whereby another letter is sent out to each Mom and to each Dad. Then every Mom and Dad has the opportunity to elect a Mom and a Dad. On a given day at given time we have a public counting of the votes. The Mom and Dad who get the most votes then become the Parents Nominees on the Board. We do something similar in the school for the Teachers Nominee. The Patron nominates two Patrons' Nominees. Myself, the teacher, the Mammy, the Daddy and the two Patrons' Nominees meet. When we are at that meeting we look at and discuss the needs of the school. We look at the expertise, as there are certain experts around the table, that are required for a really good effective Board. Following a discussion we nominate two Community Nominees and the Patrons Rep or the Chairperson go and invite those people to be part of the Board. That is how the Board is formed. As a process this can take 6-9 weeks to go through all the different steps and stages. This is initiated when we get the manual from the Department and the CPMSA that gives us the go ahead. We are really hoping by January 2020 we have the 8 members of the Board.

6. Tuairsc Cisteoir Bhord Bainistíochta : Board of Management Treasurer's Report - Olivia Shiel

Is mise Olivia Shiel. I am the treasurer and the parent's representative with the Board of Management. Tá truir páistí agam, one of whom is in rang 6. I have been here for quite a few years and I am 6 years on the Board of Management. I remember like yourselves coming here when my eldest starting in infants. All I can say is that you are very lucky to have your children enrolled in such a beautiful school. There is such camaraderie between the children and it's lovely that they are learning Gaeilge. They are learning it as a natural language. There is a fantastic Cumann na dTuismitheoirí in the school. I would like to thank the parents here for their hard work. They work very hard all year and the children have brilliant days because of their hard work and dedication. It is lovely when your child is in school to

see the Mams and Dads coming in and helping. For example, the Holy Communion celebrations when everybody is invited back to the school for cupán tae, including your own families. Also, the Confirmation celebrations, and pancake day is like Christmas morning. The smell of pancakes around the school gets the children really excited. I would like a bualadh bos please for the Parents' Council.

Now I have to talk about the numbers. We have to follow policies and procedures from the Department of Education. We are obliged at the AGM to publish our accounts each year to show where all the spending has come from. The Government gives us money each year to run the school and we are obliged to make sure that every penny is accounted for. Also, if you send in any money, whether it be for guitar lessons, swimming lessons, etc. every penny of that money has to be accounted for. I have a huge folder here filled with invoices and statements. You are more than welcome to have a look at. All of these accounts will go locally to Callan Stringer & Co to be certified independently. We are obliged to have the accounts audited independently. It is compulsory that we run through the accounts as it is public money. If there are any questions at any stage please feel free to ask.

See attached Teach Isteach agus Caiteachas don bhliain 1 Meán Fómhair 2018 - 31 Lúnasa 2019:

Firstly, the money that comes into the school.

- Department of Education grants. This year there was an allocation of €144,800, which was a bit more than previous years, but we had to upgrade our fire safety systems in the school. That took a significant amount of money. We applied to the Department of Education for grants.
- Part of the fantastic work of the Parents' Council is holding a Christmas Raffle every year. The kids love it because the winners get selection boxes. We also have other fund raising activities like flag day. This year a colossal €10,378 was donated to the school from fund raising.
- Extra curricular income refers to any money that you send in. For example, in September you send in monies for art and photocopying. Also, monies for turas scoile, swimming lessons and music lessons, all goes through our books.

- The use of school premises is payment for the use of, for example, the school halla for elections. The donation for this is €200 for the day. We also received a donation this year from Fleadh Ceoil na hEireann because comhra competitions were held here.
- Some parents will give their own donations to the school for the upkeep and the running. This year we were very lucky and got €1,472.50.
- Last year some parents paid directly to the Board for art and craft, this year is slightly difference as we have the "Way to Pay" system.
- We have a repayment of a loan to a member of staff who was waiting on the Department of Education to approve her wages. So that was paid back.
- We also have a Credit Union account in the schools name. We set this up a few years ago purely in case something were to happen requiring funds. We save regularly into the account. If something unusual were to happen, like damage to the school roof, the Department can take time to approve grants. Having access to the Credit Union account means we can fix any problem that arises while waiting on grant approval.

Spending:

- Auxiliary spending of €30,712.88 for staff who are not paid directly by the Department of Education.
- Water charges
- Insurance
- Cleaning and waste disposal
- Classroom equipment and furniture
- Electricity
- Heat
- Repairs and maintenance - that looks very high at €43,543.30, but it does include the extra work done with the fire safety upgrade. New smoke alarms, strip lighting, etc. It was a huge project.
- Printing, postage and stationary
- Telephone
- IT & Internet expenses - we also had some IT equipment bought by the Parents' Council directly.
- Security

- Travel - this is for buses for children going to gaelic matches or to represent the school.
- Recruitment & interview expenses - none this year.
- Audit fees are the fees to Callan Stringer & Co. who independently verify everything is above board with our accounts.
- Bank interest and charges.
- Educational activities should be one of the highest spends, as it is monies spent on the children.
- Revenue Commissioners is for staff taxes and also if there are any repairs or maintenance on the school we have to pay the VAT on that.
- The Credit Union is the regular saving we make every month.
- Sundries include:
 - first aid supplies
 - IPPN - Irish Primary Principals Network
 - Catering
 - Advertising
 - CPSMA membership as we are a Catholic school.
 - CPD - continuing professional development training for teachers.
 - Gifts - donation for rang 6. Rang 6 held a margadh and raised money, they gave it to the Board of Management and we write a cheque for them.
 - Glan Bia is for children who receive milk every day. We pay them through cheque.
 - The Grants this year included capitation grant, and an ICT grant of €10,000. Auxiliary services grant, school books grant, standardised test grant, firework grant.

On the back of the sheet there is a breakdown of how the money is managed. The Parents' Council have a meeting at this time each year. After this meeting, at the next Council meeting we will discuss what we think the school needs. So, as parents if you think that something should be bought for the school or if we should fundraise for it, please bring your ideas forward. We have a discussion about what we think are the most important things. This year we decided school ICT, continued update of the library facilities and upgrading of classrooms and classroom resources. Over the summer five of the classrooms had wooden floors sanded down and resealed. Painting is undertaken on a regular basis to keep the school fresh. It is a very old building, and as a result our lighting and heating costs are a lot more than some of the newer schools. Because it's a listed building everything costs that bit more.

Transfers were made twice to the Board of Management last year during November, €378 for the Cór Náisúnta, which is the National Children's choir. That was a brilliant occasion and experience for the children.

So I think that is it.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

7. Tuairsc Cisteoir Cumann na dTuismitheoirí: Parents Council Treasurers report - Susan Carr

Dia dhiab go leir, is mise Susan Ní Chara. Tá truir páistí agam sa scoil ach nil ach beirt acu fagatha sa scoil anois, i rang a do agus rang a trí. Why did I get involved in the Parents' Council?. The previous Chairperson Miryam asked me and I was very reluctant at the start as I didn't know what it was going to involve. But I have to say I haven't looked back once since getting involved. Talking to one of the parents as we came in tonight, she said I wanted to come tonight to get involved because I realise how much joy it brings to the children. The First Communion Day, the Pancake Day, the children adore seeing parents around the school. For the Christmas Raffle we set up in the halla, the classes are brought in and the excitement is unreal. They love to see a parent helping out. We fundraise to help Edel and the school to make improvements in the children's lives and bring to a bit of fun and sproai as well.

We split the finances into two parts. Part one are the finances we raise from fundraising. We choose what we are going to use the monies for. The second part is the book scheme. We keep everything itemised so we know how much is for books and how much we can invest back into the school. At the start of the year the first item we look after is the pupil insurance. You got text last week for €9, it's voluntary, the Parents' Council organise this. We make a return to the insurance brokers and we receive a small fee and commission for looking after this. Following that is the Christmas raffle. A huge effort goes into this. Parents go out to local businesses for sponsorship for prizes. In general most of the raffle prizes are sponsored. Local business have been amazing over the years and it's a credit to the parents who go out and look for that sponsorship. Last year we raised €4,886 and there's a lot of work that can be done in the school with that money. The next day after Christmas is the school flay day. We had a really good day this year and raised €1,677. It was a sunny day and a lot of the children went out with their parents, had a bit of fun and came back and counted the money. Sometimes it doesn't work so well when it's raining. It a big effort to organise, parents come

into set up in the school and go out to collect. We have parents here all day as there is cash coming in. The last event is the book scheme. A huge amount of work goes into this. Spreadsheets are drawn up, orders are placed. Yvonne spent a lot of time going through existing books checking that they are ok to reuse. She then placed orders for any books to be replaced. There was a huge replacement exercise done this Summer. You'll see this in the quality of books going home in the children's bags. There is an administration fee and we get a commission from Book Haven, the school book suppliers. They give us the commission as a Parents' Council for organising all of this. All of those events together give us the monies to invest and run some of fun days during the year.

See attached Income & Expenditure Year End 31st August 2019:

On the bottom half of the sheet you will see the items we have paid for:

- The pupil insurance
- Oga Yoga in conjunction with the school organised yoga classes for the children.
- Trophies, medals
- School diaries
- The payment to Cór Náisiúnta
- The replacement of books
- The purchase of flags
- The Gaiety Workshops. Four classes were involved in workshops this year.
- The CTI technology is the interactive projector bought from fundraising.
- The First Communion and Confirmation. The flowers, sandwiches, cakes, balloons, vouchers for teachers, photographer and Mahers Chemist kindly printed a group photograph for every child. The children in 6th class got their fainne at the end of the year in recognition of their ability to speak Irish.

€13,162.97 is a lot of money to take in and we are very conscious that we spend that wisely. You can see we transferred €10,000 to the school plus €379. After this meeting we all meet again and, as Olivia said, we sit down at the start of the year and work with Edel to find out what the school needs and what are the key areas for funding. Last year there was a big focus on IT. Yvonne has been amazing in her role as Chairperson this year bringing lots of fun events which she will talk you through, from Christmas storytelling to pancake day, to the

Valentines breakfast, which got the kids very excited. So the accounts are there for all to see, they are available. The accounts are also audited following this meeting. For anyone who is thinking of getting involved, don't be afraid, we speak as bearla at the meetings. It's a very relaxed atmosphere. It's literally a group of parents sitting around a table trying to work out how can we bring some fun activities into the school, lend a hand and do a bit of fundraising to help out. So don't be intimidated, come along and try it out. Even to be a helper at events would be great. It takes a lot of people to set up and organise, for example, the First Communion and Confirmation days. I had both this year, and it's really lovely to have your family back at the school afterwards for cúpan tae.

Go raibh mile maith agaibh, and I'm available for questions.

8. Aitheasc an Cathaoirligh: Chairperson's Address - Yvonne Walsh

I've just listened to everybody talking off the cuff, well done, but as this is my first year as Chairperson I have my speech prepared. I probably will go through a lot of the items that have already been mentioned. It's nice just to give an overview of what we did during the year as a Parents' Council. So is mise Yvonne Walsh, I'm the Chairperson of the Scoil Aonghusa Parents' Council. I have one daughter in the school in rang 1 and my youngest will enrol next September. My niece and nephew are also pupils in the school, so out of six grandchildren, four will be attending Scoil Aonghusa next year, something their Grandad is very proud of.

Last year was my first year as Chairperson of the Council. I was nominated and elected at the last AGM. Some of you may recall the shock on my face when I was elected. Just like many of you here tonight, the year before last, we were a new family to the school. I made an effort that year to attend the AGM, primarily to meet other parents and to learn more about the school community. After the AGM I put my name down for the Parents' Council Committee and also to help out at events. I attended the monthly meetings that year so I had an insight into how it all worked, and understood what a vital part the Parents' Council plays in the school community. I challenged myself to take on the role, after Miryam approached me, to do something new and different, something out of my comfort zone. I was delighted to take up the role last year. The Parents' Council meets once a month. We've already met this September and it's usually at the beginning of each month. At the moment we have planned for the next three meetings. The next meeting will be Wednesday 9th October, and following that, Tuesday 12th November and Wednesday 4th December, all at 8pm in the leabharlann.

Anyone who is new tonight the leabharlann is in the school yard. After the next meeting we will arrange the meeting dates for the rest of the year and these will be made available to all parents. The Council consists of the:

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson Miryam

Treasurer Susan

Secretary Brenda

National Parents' Council Representative Sinead

2 Board of Management Parents' Representatives, a mother and father, Joe McArdle and Olivia Shiel. They are voted in every four years. Edel mentioned previously at the end of the year there will be a new Board of Management elected.

Unfortunately Miryam has decided after three years as Chairperson and one year as Vice Chairperson to step down as an Officer of the Parents' Council. As everyone knows she contributed so much to the Council and the school over those years and I would like to sincerely thank her for all she has achieved. She will certainly help out at the events this year, so she is not going away, she'll be very much around. So go raibh míle maith agat Miryam.

In the school, we pride ourselves on our sense of community. The school, including the Board of Management, the Parents' Council, the students and every parent and guardian, even Grandparents are included. One of the stand out moments from last year was attending the Grandparents Day. Rang dó invited their Grandparents to an afternoon in the school. Grandparents were treated to a beautiful display of poetry, music and singing. The children were so excited to show their artwork and their school.

The Parents' Council works really hard to fundraise for the school. You can see from Olivia's accounts that after all the expenses there is not much left over. So if we want our children to have anything extra and have the school run as well as it does, funds need to be raised by the Parents' Council. All money we raise goes directly back into the school. We transfer funds twice a year as per best practice. We decide as a Council what we would like the money to be spent on and it's always for the good of the children. So just to give you an idea of the amount of work we put into the fundraising. The Christmas raffle is our biggest fundraiser. We hand out letter to all local businesses looking for donations. A letter also goes out the parents requesting donations. We organise the raffle cards to go out and these are kindly

donated by Emmett Steenson. This is the kind of work we need to put in, working together to fundraise for the children and the school. The day of the raffle there is great excitement, with the anticipation of who will win that coveted first prize, which is usually a voucher for a toy shop. Last year we raised an amazing amount of money, €4,800. We decided that some of that money would be spent on technology. The Parents' Council, bought directly from those funds, an interactive projector and pen which is in use today. We also have a permit for an annual flay day, which is the third Friday in February. So a date for your diaries next year is 21st February 2020. Last year it fell on a mid-term and the sun was shining. Next year it will also be mid-term so let's hope we have a good day and get lots of families helping out and collecting on behalf of the school. It was great to see so many pupils helping out on the day. The excitement of little junior infants coming in with their collection boxes and emptying money into the counting machine was just fantastic. We raised €1,677, which was the highest amount ever raised for the school flag day.

As well as the fundraising we organise the fun bits. The Parents' Council organise events for the children. In October last year the school held a Halloween themed storytelling event in the library for junior and senior infants. Following the success of that it was arranged to have a Christmas storytelling event in the hall for these classes. The children arrived to the school dressed in their pyjamas full of excitement. Even some parents came in their pjs as part of the fun. We had a fireplace backdrop and a huge blow up Santa with reindeer and snowman, which the children had great fun with. After the Christmas story told by Múinteoir Caithriona every child got a hot chocolate and a cookie. So you can imagine little children running around here with hot chocolate and a cookie. They had the best fun and then we had a Christmas carol session as gaeilge. In February, we held a breakfast event on Valentine's Day. This was the first time we arranged such an event. Sodexo donated croissants and fruit juice for every child and Meade Potatoes kindly donated boxes of apples, oranges and pears. These donations were sourced and arranged by parents of children in the school who work for these companies. Thank you to Suzanne from Meade Potatoes. The night before, the Council decorated each classroom in red. So bear in mind the children had no idea this was going on in the background. We had red tablecloths, napkins, balloons and decorations. The children got a huge surprise the next morning. On the day, parents came to the school early to cut up fruit for junior and senior infants and filled up serving trays of croissants and fruit for every class. Families were encouraged to have a family breakfast at home that week to chat as Gaeilge. As mentioned previously, in March we had our famous pancake day. It's really a

fantastic day in the school. If there is any day you can take off to be, here it's Pancake Tuesday. Take that day off work and come in and help out. It's magical and it runs like clockwork. There is so much joy in the children's faces. The smell of pancakes lingers in the hall for days afterwards. I would sincerely like to thank Breda Devine and all the parents who supplied batter and pancakes, and who, on the day cooked and served what can only be described as a pancake feast. We won't mention the jars of Nutella that were demolished.

This year the school had both Confirmation and First Communion in April and May. These are very special celebrations in the school calendar. After the ceremonies the Parents' Council organise the cúpan tae in the halla. We organise sandwiches, cakes and biscuits for all families and extended families to enjoy. We also buy celebration cakes from Coulter and Black with each child's name on the cake. The tradition is that on the first day back at school after the ceremonies, each child receives a slice of cake with their name on it. Both these events require a lot of helpers. Confirmation this year fell on a Wednesday and it is quite difficult to get parents who work full-time to help. So, this year we were very grateful to have 5th year students from Our Lady's College, Greenhills, who came to help. Even their teacher was involved. They helped out in the staff room washing cup and plates. Their help was invaluable. We are very grateful for that help. The Council also organises the class group photographs and presented each family with a group photo in memory of their big day.

In May and June it was time to organise the book scheme. This is a huge benefit to families as it takes away the need to source and purchase books during the summer holiday. Each family receives their book list and parents tick which books they want to purchase. These are usually the workbooks. The Parents' Council supply all other books to rent for a small annual fee, which saves some expense on the back to school bill. An order goes to Book Haven for the entire school. When the order is received all the books are checked and bagged for collection, all before the end of the school year. This year the schools new electronic payment application "Way to Pay" was used by parents to pay for their book order. This removed all the risk of handling large sums of money and made the tracking of payments streamlined and efficient. A full review of all rental books was also conducted and many classes maths books were replaced. Also, the new curriculum for religion was purchased for a number of classes. Funds specifically for books are kept in a separate account and are available to the school for upgrades or to purchase books for the library. If there are any changes to the curriculum we also have funds ready and available.

We had yoga classes for rang 3 and arranged for the Gaiety Workshop "In Their Shoes". This workshop covered topics such bullying, for the senior classes. All the children really enjoyed these workshops.

At the end of the day everything we do as a Parents' Council is for the children. The more you are involved in the Council the more the children get out of it. The more they see you helping out around the school the more joy they get out of it. They understand the value of the time you put into the school. It is hard work but very rewarding. We always welcome new members to the Parents' Council. I brought along two lists tonight if anybody would like to put forward their name either for the Committee or as helpers or both would be fantastic. We always like to have representative from each class on the Council. Reminders for the meetings will be sent prior to all meetings. If you have ideas with come along to our next meeting and we would love to hear them. Múinteoir Edel comes to our meetings and we engage together to come up with new ideas and different ways to fundraise and plan events.

Thank you all so much for coming and thank you Edel, it has been great working with you last year. Also to the Board of Management and especially the Parents' Representatives, Joe McArdle and Olivia Shiel. Our Vice Chairperson Miryam, our Treasurer Susan and Secretary Brenda and a big shout out to Deirdre the school secretary. She does a lot of work for us in the background. Finally, a big thank you to everyone on the Parents' Council and all who helped out at the events and helped us fundraise throughout the year. Without your help we would not be able to achieve as much as we do. I would like to invite everyone to stay and have a cup of tea and a chat.

Go raibh mile maith agaibh.

9. A.O.B

The last item on the agenda is any other business. If anyone has anything they would like to raise or say please do so.

One query was raised by a member of the audience, re the pupil insurance. Is it €9 or €9 per month?. Susan replied to confirm the payment for pupil insurance is a one off payment for the year of €9 and it covers the children for any accidents. It's great, because it covers dental and it's also a 24 hour cover.