

Cumann na dTuismitheoirí Scoil Aonghusa Scoil Aonghusa Parents' Council

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Miontuairiscí CCB 3 Deireadh Fómhair

Minutes of meeting held on 3rd October 2022.

1. Leithscéalta: Apologies

Susan Carr, Yvonne Walsh and Denise Sinnott offered their apologies.

2. Fáilte ó Chathairleach: Chairperson's Welcome and Opening -Gareth Duffy

Fáilte Ba mhaith liom fáilte mhór a chur roimh gach duine anseo anocht chuig Comhdháil na Bliana de Chumann na d'Tuismitheoirí Scoil Aonghusa. Is mise Gareth Duffy agus is mé an Cathaoirleach.

Please excuse my pronunciations but as my old Irish teacher used to say:

Gaeilge briste níos fearr ná Béarla foirfe (Broken Irish is better than perfect English)

It is great to see some new faces and be able to welcome you all in person here tonight.

We will now run through the agenda for this evening's meeting.

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

It was confirmed that the minutes of the last A.G.M. were placed on the school website.

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

Dia daoibh go léir agus go raibh maith agaibh.

Thank you all for joining us this evening. Go raibh maith agat to all members of the Cumann na dTuismitheoirí for all your invaluable assistance and dedication for the good of our school. It is very much appreciated.

We have two VIPs here with us tonight, welcome to Amy the Chairperson of the Student Council and Leah Chairperson of the Green School Committee and we thank them for all they are doing to help make the School a better and greener School for us all.

We had the Ukrainian Ambassador visit us recently and all the children provided a very

warm welcome to her greeting her and her staff, it was a pleasure to see the children singing songs as Gaeilge and playing musical instruments and some Irish dancing also.

It is my privilege and great joy to come to School each day and listen to the children and see the great relationship between the teachers and student and to work along side such caring and dedicated staff along with the Board of Management and Cumann na dTuismitheoirí.

5. Tuairisc Bhord Bainistíochta: Board of Management Chairperson's Address - Séamus Finnegan

Dia dhaoibh go léir,

I would like to thank Cumann na dTuismitheoirí for the opportunity to address the AGM tonight. I'd like to begin by thanking Gareth as Cathaoirleach, Gillian as Leas-Chathaoirleach, Sarah as Rúnaí and Danielle as Cisteoir for all their hard work on your behalf and on behalf of the students and the school over the past year. The Board is deeply appreciative of your contribution over the past twelve months. I'd also like to acknowledge the huge level of support the school receives from the members of the Board of Management, Múinteoir Edel as Principal and Secretary to the Board, Liam and Olivia as Parents' nominees, Canon Eugene as the Trustee's nominee and Tara Walker and John Halpin as Community nominees – their service to the school ensures that every aspect of the governance of the school is in keeping with the regulations as laid down by the Department of Education and is faithful to the ethos of the school as a Catholic school under the patronage of the Archbishop of Armagh as well as promoting the school's core mission to promote the Irish language as the medium of instruction and engagement with all aspects of school life.

The Board has been engaged in reviewing or setting up reviews of various policies such as the anti-bullying policy, child protection policy, the regular Health & Safety review, looking at our Ethos, and strong emphasis on the well being of each and every student.

I would like to thank Múinteoir Edel for all she does each and every day for the good of the school and students.

I would also encourage parents to join the Parents Council to assist the existing members and to get involved in some of the fundraising events which raise funds which are then used to improve the school environment.

6. Tuairisc Chisteoir Bhord Bainistíochta: Board of Management Treasurer's Report - Liam Harbison

Our financial year ends on 31st August and these are the figures for the last 2 financial years so you can make a comparison. As you can see the total income for the year was €176,099.84. The average monthly expenditure is €15,201.

There was an increase of 40 to the capitation grant.

Total grants received for the academic year 2021/2022 was €124,235.00 Minor works €13,384.00 and Covid 19 cleaning and Covid 19 PPE/Hand Sanitiser €11,655.00 and €9250.00. ICT/Digital Divide €17,604. 00. Capitation €35,432.00.

The donation from Cumann na dTuismitheoirí was €3,685.00 - Christmas Raffle, Lotto Jackpot and contribution to retirement gift. The total cash to carry forward at the end of the year was €63,299.64. The figure Way to Pay is money from parents for school books, activities, etc. We don't class that money as useable or allocated by the Board. The parents donations and Credit Union account is about €6,795. That is our reserve and we use this as and when required if we run short of funds at any particular time. Also, if we need some short term finance, the Credit Union is used to obtain a short term loan. The finances are in relatively good shape.

Heating costs have risen considerably from €6290.00 last year to €17,663.00.

The School Lotto has been a great success and has generated extra funds for us. The net income is €2521.00.

7. Tuairisc Chisteoir Cumann na dTuismitheoirí: Parents' Council Treasurers report - Danielle Victory

Hi, my name is Danielle, I have 3 children here at school in Laoise Naionan Beaga, Daragh in Rang a hAon and Darcy in Rang a Ceathair. We would welcome parents to join the Cumman Na dTuismitheoiri and we would welcome any fundraising ideas.

Please find attached the accounts for the Parents Council for year ending 31st August 2022.

The accounts are split into two Income & Expenditure accounts, one for the current account and one for the Book Scheme. Funds collected annually from parents for Readers and Rentals are kept separate in the Book scheme account.

Income is normally generated from four main events:

- Pupil Insurance – The Council get a reduction for collecting and compiling all the forms for the Insurers and submitting the application online. If parents were to obtain insurance privately, they would not get this reduction.
- Christmas Raffle – The team of volunteers did excellent work getting sponsorship of prizes for the annual raffle during very difficult times. It was agreed that the council would not go door to door for sponsorship as so many businesses were closed due to Covid restrictions. Instead, it was decided to buy vouchers for the raffle from local businesses that have supported the school over the years.
- Flag Day – Flag day took place in 2022 and raised €1364.25 for the school.
- Book scheme - Revenue is generated from the administration fee. Funds collected for Rental and Readers are transferred to the Book scheme account to replenish books for class

and the library as required. The publishers then issue a discount to the school which is only available directly to the school via a bulk order. If parents were to source their own books, they would not be paying

any more than what is charged on the order form. The revenue from the book scheme for the academic year '22-'23 was not transferred until October so the revenue is not included on this report.

· Lotto- it was decided to commence the School Lotto in 2022 as a means of generating revenue for the school. €500 contribution was given by the Cumann na dTuismitheoiri for the initial set up and prize money of the school Lotto.

Expenditure

€3,485 was transferred to the Board of Management during the year, with €2,985 to cover the IT infrastructure and €500 contribution to the set up of the school Lottery. The committee also paid for the annual membership fee to the National Parents council and for Insurance for the Parents council. Due to COVID-19, many of our normal activities were cancelled. Thankfully, the new school garden which was very generously donated by Bodyright Physiotherapy to Scoil Aonghusa was used to facilitate the communion celebrations.

Total income was €12,279.82 and total expenditure was €8,712.62 for the year giving a profit for the year of €3,567.20. The opening balance in the bank account at the start of the year was €14,142 and the closing balance was €17,709. This balance is predominantly held in 2 bank accounts with PTSB totalling €17,471 and €238 only held in cash. The use of Way 2 Pay has proved hugely successful and has resolved a security issue of handling large amounts of cash in June and December.

This concludes the report of the Cisteoir.

Thank you to Susan Ni Chearra for compiling the school accounts for last year due to access to bank accounts.

8. Aitheasc an Cathaoirligh: Chairperson's Address - Gareth Duffy

Hi everyone, I am fortunate enough to have 2 pupils at the school, Laragh is in in Rang a trí and Devin naíonán sinsir. Our eldest Daughter Amelia has just started Secondary School in Our Lady's College, Greenhills. It has been wonderful watching Amelia and her friends transition seamlessly from national school to Secondary and being able to appreciate the fabulous foundation that she received here at Scoil Aonghusa.

As you can probably tell I am new to this, as this is my second year as Cathaoirleach and my first in the hot seat for an AGM! I want to thank Gillian our Leas Cathaoirleach, Yvonne my predecessor, Sarah, Danielle and all the members of the team at the Cumann Na

dTuismitheoiri for a great year. For some of you parents who are coming along to your first AGM we welcome you and I can highly recommend participating in the Parents Council. It is a fantastic way to meet other parents at the school and contribute what way you can. We meet monthly which has been online for the last few years but we hope now to be able to gather again more frequently.

The Officers of the Council consists of myself as Chairperson, Vice Chairperson Gillian Burke, Treasurer Danielle Victory, Secretary Sarah King and the National Parents' Council Representative, Sinead Townsend.

There are also two parents nominated by parents who serve on the Board of Management, Liam Harbison, and Olivia Kierans.

The main function of the Parents Council is to plan for school events and fundraise for the School. We are a community The Board, the Parents council, the Staff and you the parents.

At the end of the day, everything we do with in this community is for the children. The more involved parents are in the Council the more the children get out of it.

Our main fundraising events through the year are the Christmas Raffle and now the new school Lotto.

The School Lotto was launched towards the end of the last academic year. The Parents Council put forward the initial jackpot of €500 with 1 lucky jackpot winner already!! The draw takes place on Fridays though our partners ourfundraiser.ie with a guaranteed weekly winner of €25. We understand and appreciate the current financial position for families but we hope the weekly options of €2 for 1 line or three lines for €5, will allow all parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles join in the school Lotto and make a difference. Details on now the join can be found on the school website.

We also had another very successful Christmas Raffle for the school last year. It is fantastic to see the generosity of parents, local businesses and kind donations of prizes which helped us fundraise to purchase 3 laptops and a new printer for the school. This vital technology helps the students develop new skills to aid in their learning. Due to restrictions we could only fundraise online via way2pay which did limit the scope for the children but this year we are back with the fundraising card and this will be a priority for our first meeting on the 8th of November.

A new development last year was also the launch of An Gairdín Rúnda or the school garden. This is a new centrally located, outdoor, green and safe space for the use of the children. This gives the school a new space to use, develop green fingers and open up new possibilities, there a great crop of carrots growing as we speak! It also opens up a new social space for special occasions. Last year we had the full communion class and families back for a cupán tae and it was a great success so weather dependant we will do the same again this year.

Other events that the Parents council have contributed towards pre-pandemic and hope to do again this year are Pancake Day where each class are served pancakes in the halla a lovely treat for the kids, we also hope to have the Easter Bunny back with chocolates this

year, an ice-cream van for special occasions. Its nice that we can get back an interact normally again!

The Parents' Council also provided funding for Rang 6 for some end of primary school activities. We subsidised the purchase of school hoodies which the class designed themselves, (Amelia still wears hers nearly daily!) and bus travel for a school tour, the traditional end of year feast and Fáinne's for each student.

In May each year the Parents Council organise the School book scheme. This is a huge benefit to families and takes away the need to source and purchase books during the summer holidays! Each family opted into the book scheme by paying a €1 deposit through our electronic payments partner Way2pay, they then received their book list via e-mail and parents then advised the school which books they did not require purchased. Way2Pay is then also used for parents to pay for their book order. This removed all the risk of handling and collecting large sums of money and made the tracking and accounting of payments so streamlined and efficient. The Parents' Council supply all the other books and readers for a small annual rental fee which saves expenses on the back-to-school bill. All the books when they eventually arrive from our supplier are labelled, grouped into classed and stored in the leabharlann for the start of the new year. Thank you to everyone who helped sort out and label the books this year. The delivery from our supplier was delayed and hadn't fully arrived before the start of term. Thanks to everyone who helped out but particularly to Gillian and Deirdre in the office for organising.

I hope this give you a better understanding of what we do as a Parents Council and what we try to achieve each year. We are always delighted to welcome new members to the team. If you would like to get involved this year, please let the Deirdre or Múinteoir Edel know, and they will put you in touch with myself or another members of the Parents' Council Committee. There is also a Whatsapp helpers group if you think you are able to help at some events which we organise through the year.

Our goal is to have a have representative from each class on the Parents' Council. This year we will try to do a mix of online and in person meetings with our next meeting on the 8th of November here in the Halla. Reminders are sent out about upcoming meetings and as I said details are on the website.

If you have some ideas you might think will benefit the school, come to the Council and engage, we welcome new voices and suggestions.

I would like to thank the Board of Management for your support. To our Vice Chairperson Gillian, our treasurer Danielle and Secretary Sarah.

To Edel our school principal, Deirdre the school secretary, go raibh míle maith agaibh! You keep the show on the road!

Finally, a huge, big thank you to everyone currently on the Parents' Council Committee, who attended our meetings and helped fund raise money for the school. Without your help we would not be able to achieve as much as we do!

Again thank you all for coming tonight and I hope to see you soon.

Slán agus beannacht.

9. Aon Gnó Eile: A.O.B.

If anyone wishes to join the Parent's Council and attend the meetings how should they go about this?

Edel confirmed anyone interested in being involved with the Council should email Deirdre in the Oifig and she will send out the link for the next meeting,