PARENT’S ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

7th FEBRUARY 2018

Call to order

Date and time 7th February at 20:00

Location: Caherleaheen National School

Facilitator: Caroline Lynch

Members present: Caroline Lynch, Patrice O’Neill, Cathy Williams, Padraig Sugrue, Kerrie Long, Margaret Lynch, Una Moynihan, Noreen Noonan, Tara Cullinan, Mary Connolly.

Apologies: Sarah Fitzgibbon, Michelle Fleming, Aisling Foley, Clodagh Murphy

Members absent: Anna Marie O’Connor

Additional parents present: Carol Crean

Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from the 10th January 2018 were read by Caroline Lynch all members approved same.

Agenda

*Item one Bingo*

All feedback from bingo bonanza positive. Padraig Sugrue presented breakdown of costing and profits with a total profit of €5040 noted. It was agreed that either an email or a letter should be given to all contributors of cash donations and spot prizes, which Cathy Williams will oversee. Another email will be sent to all parents recognising all sponsors.

Members discussed where/how the money raised could be spent to benefit the school. Ideas noted was OT equipment to be replaced, Mary informed us that the OT equipment does not require updating. Padraig proposed playground equipment to be purchased, Mary advised that the ground underneath the playground is unstable and requires constant unblocking of drains, she also mentioned that the children are given skipping ropes, hoola hopes etc. to play with. Mary proposed the literacy lift off programme to be purchased for the school, but a donation from parent’s association is required.

Conclusion: The parent’s association will contribute the remaining funds required for the school to purchase the literacy lift off programme.

*Item two Bag packing*

Caroline asked have we received a date for annual bag packing in Dunnes.

Conclusion: Tara will contact Dunnes for a date.

*Item three Sports day*

Tara confirmed John Mitchells GA ground has been booked for 15th June 2018 .

Conclusion: No further action required at present.

*Item four Cash for Clobber*

Mary asked could local area be included to maximise profits, which was agreed. Noreen recommended a note be included in parish newsletter. A proposal was made to drop flyers into neighbouring houses, a second proposal was to ask if Lidl, or Gallys would let us use their carpark for an hour as a dropping area. Initial collection dates proposed Thursday 19th April, Friday 20th April and Saturday 21st April.

Conclusion: Mary will contact Cash for Clobber and confirm dates.

*Item five Credit Union*

Uptake of all parents volunteering to help with credit union was very poor with 2 additional parents volunteering. Caroline proposed that Credit Union be stopped after Easter.

Conclusion: Credit Union saving scheme will be discontinued at Easter holidays.

*Item six Active Flag Donation*

Caroline informed all that Ms Anne has requested a donation is made towards the active flag committee. The money will be used to purchase clothing for the 6 children in the committee making them easily identifiable. There was three options t-shirts €10 each, baseball cap €14 each and €24 hoodie each.

Conclusion: It was agreed the parents association will be a €60 contribution.

*Item seven AOB – School Opening Early*

Carol advised all that several parents have approached her expressing concern about children being left outside on a morning in the current bad weather because school doors were closed. Discussion held around same with Mary voicing that the shelter at the front of the school holds approx. 60 children and she opens the doors when she sees that is becoming full, however some children have been sent to school without coats, and children have been observed to be dropped to school from 8:15 onwards. Mary also voiced that teachers are not insured until the bell signals school beginning at 8:45am. Tara commented that other schools do not open school doors until the bell has signalled regardless of weather. Cathy voiced that as parents it is our responsibility to ensure our children are dressed correctly for the weather and to remind them to use the shelter. Kerrie stated that she leaves her house later on days weather is bad.

Conclusion: Mary advised that any parent with concerns can talk to her regarding same.

*AOB Healthy lunches feedback*

Padraig voiced that parents have informed him that they feel the new healthy lunches policy is too strict with children coming home starving. Caroline stated that she felt the policy was a good thing. Cathy recommended having a nutritionist and or a cooking demonstration to help children understand the benefits of healthy eating.

Conclusion: All agreed nutritionist talk or cooking demonstration would be beneficial.

*AOB Mary Collins*

Tara recommended asking Mary Collins to host a parenting workshop at the school. Kerrie supported the idea.

Conclusion: Kerrie is to contact Mary and ask will she do same.

Announcement

The next parent’s association meeting will take place on 7th March 2018 at 20:00. Principal Mary Connolly invited to attend. Meeting open to all.