

# PTA MINUTES

## Meeting 30 January 2013

### Present:

Lorraine Ward	Chairperson
Shane O'Mahony	Treasurer
Jim Keating	Secretary
Ashling Dyson	BOM Rep
Ciaran Grey	Teacher Rep
Tom O'Donnell	

**Apologies:** Lynn Jackson, Deirdre Murray,

### Treasurers report

- Shane has been actively investigating the feasibility of receiving monies from the 'Dormant a/c' in Bank of Ireland. Bank of Ireland has apologised for the delay in issuing funding. The amount received will be approximately €300.
- Difficulty has been experienced in identifying the source of monies lodged, and some expenses incurred. This highlights the importance when lodging money, and incurring expenses to ensure receipts are kept for the treasurer.
- Two clubs (Art and Drama) are overdue to submit their accounts, coordinators will be reminded.

### BOM Report

- Ashling enquired about the school utility levy from the various after school-clubs.  
**Decision:** This is being dealt with by Shane.
- Some supervision issues have arisen:
  - Supervision for Dance between 2.20pm -2.30pm, as supervisor / teacher may be late arriving in turn this leaves the children unsupervised in the hall. This results in both a noise disruption issue, and insurance issue.
  - the inability of some supervisors to maintain order in the dance club which causes noise intrusion on other community members who may be working elsewhere in the school

### General discussion

It was felt a more proactive approach needed to be taken, and while Ciaran has kindly volunteered to speak to the children once again. However, it was felt that for Ciaran to have to do this on a continuous basis would be unfair.

## Decision

- Lorraine to raise awareness of this issue with the dance teacher (Jill) co-ordinator and supervisors stressing the importance of having supervision begin at 2.20pm.
- Practical advice will be given to the supervisors on how to maintain order in the club.
  
- Height adjustable tables for the shared area and chairs are being purchased at a discounted price, these can then be easily utilised for various events.
  
- Difficulties appear to have arisen about parents who are supervising bringing young children / toddlers with them, as they have been allowed to run/roam around.
  - **General discussion**
    - The issue of stopping parents from bringing their young children with them obviously engaged people. It was felt that if this was enforced a number of parents would stop supervising for practical reasons because they may have no choice but to bring the children with them.
    - **Decision: No.** Ashling is to convey the very strong objection of the PTA to this proposal back to the board.
    - Issue is for further discussion with a view to resolution.
  
- A Health and Safety audit is being conducted in the school.
  - **General discussion**
    - A question was raised if the after school clubs require both a fire marshal and first aid person? A suggestion was made that a number of people would get basic first aid training.
    - **Decision:** Issue under review.
  
- Public minutes on website.
  - Sally is to liaise with Ciaran about placing the public minutes of the Board and the financial statement on the school website.
  
- School utility levy – committee members.
  - The proposal that individual members of the board (and other members of committees) contribute €1 each for using school utilities for meetings was buried. As the school is providing a 'service' to the after school clubs and therefore they will pay for the utilities required. It was also felt to be inappropriate to ask volunteers to pay when they give of their time and effort freely.
  
  - **General discussion**
    - The PTA committee believes that no member of the school community would join a committee if they had to pay for the use of the school utilities to have their meetings.
    - **Proposer:** Fundamentally it is about how a 'service user' is defined.

- **PTA Decision** to pay for using school utilities for meetings - **No**.

## Teachers Report

- Ciaran outlined a presentation the teaching staff have received from a group called
- 'Front line Defenders' ([www.frontlinedefenders.org](http://www.frontlinedefenders.org)) the international foundation for the protection of human rights defenders. This organisation was founded in Dublin 2001, and has as its motto 'Protect One, Empower a Thousand'. Among other initiatives, they offer immediate support i.e. emergency 24 hour phone line for human rights defenders available in Arabic, French, Spanish, Russian, and of course English.
- As an educational initiative for the children and as a way of raising funds for this organisations, children will be encouraged to participate in an art exhibition in the school. This exhibition will culminate on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February, parents and guardians will be invited to attend a celebration of their children's art work between 2pm – 5pm and donate to this cause; the donation will be to purchase their children's art work. Ikea have generously donated frames for the paintings. PTA has offered to make teas/coffees for the event.
- **General discussion.**
- Exploration took place around this with a question; could some of the money raised go to the school?
- These and other minor issues remain to be finalised.

## Patron Report

Not available.

## A.O.B. – speaker for AGM

- Date for AGM: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March.
- Speaker for AGM eSafety or NPC-Primary.
  - General discussion:
  - It was generally felt that eSafety ([www.esafety.ie](http://www.esafety.ie)) was too expensive at €250 plus fuel for about 1 hour.
  - NPC-Primary was costing just €50; however, there presentation takes about 2.5 hours and therefore does not lend itself to an AGM format.
  - **Decision** – no to having eSafety presentation (see addendum below)
  - Any suggestions on a speaker / topic are welcome.

## Next meeting

- General discussion took place no definite dates finalised. Proposed dates to committee shortly.
- Lorraine, Shane, Jim to meet up and finalise schema for AGM.
- New Chairperson.

- Lorraine is stepping down at the AGM.
- **General discussion**
- Agreement is that due to individual time constraints, a rotating chairperson may be the best option.
- **Decision:** agreed on rotating chairperson.
- **Meeting ended.**

### Addendum

- Following reconsideration and text from Lorraine to committee. The speaker for the AGM is eSafety. Start time AGM 8pm
- Both the Patron and Board have requested the PTA to allow them to input after the AGM, this has been agreed.

### Committee dates

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April - just after Easter
- Wednesday 1 May - just before midterm.
- Monday 10 June