

ST. PETER'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting - Minutes

10th October 2024/ 8:00-9:00 PM / St. Peter's National School Hall and online via Zoom

AGENDA

1. Chairperson's Address - Ms. Tanja Whelan

Tanja welcomed all in attendance, in particular Mr Ray Ryan (Principal) and Mr Gerry Davis (Chairperson of the Board of Management). She outlined the purpose of the Parents' Association and benefits to children's learning and to the whole school community. Tanja thanked the PA committee members for their dedication and hard work over the past year. A special thanks was given to Ciara Barnes, who stepped down from the committee in June. Tanja welcomed new volunteers to join the committee and outlined our vision to have representation from all class groups, all cultures and backgrounds.

Proposed changes to the PA constitution were discussed (a full draft copy was circulated to all parents in advance):

- Introducing regular open meetings for parents in the school
- Aiming to have parent representatives from each class
- Inviting a teacher representative to join the PA
- Allowing every parent or guardian to volunteer for the committee – no elections needed
- Officers to be elected during first meeting after the AGM
- Adding two new officer roles – Arts and Sustainability Officers
- Making the AGM accessible via an online option

Amendments to the constitution were passed by a majority show of hands.

Officer roles for this year's committee will be discussed at the next PA meeting (1st Tuesday of the month).

2. Principal's Address - Mr Ray Ryan

Mr Ryan thanked all in attendance and to the PA for all their hard work to-date. He reiterated the benefits of developing a strong community and the importance of a collaborative relationship between school, pupils and parents/guardians.

3. Chairperson of the Board - Mr Gerry Davis

Mr Davis briefly introduced himself and his professional background. He outlined his role on the Board of Management and his vision for St. Peter's. He thanked the PA and looks forward to working together for the year ahead.

4. Secretary's Address - Laura Kelly

Laura discussed the PA's activity over the past year. Meetings were held every 6-8 weeks over the course of the year. Meetings were closed to committee members only, but plans to open meetings to parents for 2024/25 were highlighted.

- Results of the "Parents' Survey" were briefly discussed:
 - After-school activities and sibling hour (priority for 75% of respondents) - The PA worked a lot with Mr Ryan and thankfully have seen quite a lot of activities return this year. Will continue to work on this.

- Other issues highlighted in the survey responses:
 - Bullying and Mobile Phone use
 - Traffic and safety outside the school
 - Uniforms
 - Homework
 - Want more social events for parents
- The committee wrote letters and contacted local TDs and representatives regarding school building issues.
- The committee supported many social events during the year:
 - Painting of the front railings in rainbow colours (thanks to school for supplying the paint)
 - Coffee mornings for new junior infant classes, which were a great opportunity to mix and setup whatsapp groups.
 - Organised a Halloween costume swap
 - Organised a uniform sustainability drive
 - Hosted World Book Day
 - Hosted tea and coffee at Communion and confirmation

5. Treasurer's Report:

- There were no fundraising events held in 2023 and no funds held by the PA. Therefore, there was no treasurer's report.

6. Priorities and Activities for 2023/2024 - Maeve Bray:

PA's priorities for the year ahead were outlined:

- Social events
 - Coffee mornings for incoming Junior Infants
 - Table Quiz in November (Save The Date: 21st November in The Bohemian Pub, Phibsborough)
 - End of year social event
- Regular Newsletter and events calendar
- Input on School policy
 - Homework
 - Uniforms
 - "Gen Free" project - Mobile phones
- Sustainability initiatives
- Explore ways to support more Arts and cultural initiatives/ trips
- Work with school to organise guest speakers and talks

Members of the audience were then invited to add suggestions or discuss concerns, which included:

- A group of parents highlighted challenges they are facing with long commutes to school. They discussed issues securing a private bus hire company and sought the support of the school in progressing this.
 - Agreed that this is a complex issue which will need to be discussed further outside of the AGM.
- The need for "Sibling Hour" to bridge the 1.30-2.30 pickup times was highlighted. Mr Ryan discussed challenges with teachers providing this at present. Suggestions made to explore a service supported by parents (would need to consider Garda Vetting, Insurance, facilities)
 - This will be discussed at PA committee meeting and explored further with the school.
- The need for "Breakfast Club" to support working parents and those commuting from a distance (to get ahead of traffic)
- Requests to increase the Afterschool activities offered (Athletics/Cross Country running, Martial Arts, Art, Music) and offering a standalone "Homework Club" for the full year. Requests were also made to have more

advanced notice and more structure to the booking of activities to support parents in planning work/childcare arrangements.

- Mr Ryan welcomed these suggestions and will work, with the support of the PA if needed, to explore further.
- Requests were made for support with Irish language skills for parents.
 - PA agreed this would be a worthwhile support, especially for non-Irish speaking parents.
- There was 1 suggestion that the AGM be held at an earlier time.

7. New Parents' Association Committee Members

Maeve gave a brief outline of the role of PA committee members/ class representatives.

Gaps in current membership were highlighted and new members were encouraged to join.

1 new member volunteered to be the Junior Infants class representative. Welcome Anca to the committee.

The committee plans to send another call to the wider Parent community seeking volunteers to join the committee as class representatives.

8. Date for next meeting:

Tuesday 5th November: Committee only business meeting (venue TBC)

Tuesday 3rd December: Open meeting for all parents (likely in the School Hall, subject to approval from Mr Ryan)

9. Close: Tanja thanked everyone for their time and for attending this evening.