

St Francis Xavier National School, Coolmine, Dublin 15
Minutes - AGM 10th October 2019

Documents circulated: Agenda, Minutes of AGM from 2018,
'What We Do' document, PA Constitution available on website.

□ **Welcome Address & Introductions**

The Chairwoman opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. She noted that the purpose of the Parents Association was to enhance and improve childrens experiences in school and she thanked both the school Principals or their support.

□ **2018 AGM Minutes**

These were proposed by Elaine McNally and seconded by Aine Fader.

□ **Parents Association Overview & Treasurer's Report**

The Chairwoman noted that the PA currently had 22 members that it organised fundraising events for the school including a big fundraiser at Christmas. There was a table with a variety of different leaflets from activities and supports in the area and attendees were invited to review same over tea and coffee later in the meeting.

The Treasurer went on to give the Treasury report - where the money was spent and on what. He noted that from the smallest item - say a second-hand uniform sold - to the largest item - the Christmas Fair could yield up to 19k - that every penny went back into the school. The current balance stood at approximately 27k and the accounts were available for all to review.

□ **Volunteers**

The Chairwoman noted that volunteers were always welcome and needed. That those who were interested could become a volunteer with the PA rather than a full member.

□ **St Brigid's GAA Castleknock**

A representative from the above explained how important sport is in childrens lives including combatting childhood obesity, making friends, improving reactions and taking part in memory games.

□ **Ms Adrienne Darby, School Principal Senior School**

Spoke of how valuable the PA was to the school, how extra-curricular items could be expensive, like buses, ovens and school trips. How all children across the schools benefit as needs can be different depending on the ages of the children.

□ **Ms Heidi Collins, School Principal Junior School**

Spoke of how in an early childhood setting, children could be so proud of their parents participating in the PA. There was a benefit for children but also for adults with many friendships formed over the years. The PA spirit was about community, school and family support and it modelled that to the children. From the Christmas Fair to the Junior Infants Welcome Day to the 'Fun Run' - it was like that 'special sauce' on the school menu said Ms Collins. She thanked the PA particularly for the investment in reading materials this year.

□ **Hibernia Music**

Gerry from the music school spoke about what an advantage it can be to children to have music in their lives, even improving their academics. There was a rental scheme with the group and also discounts for children of the school. He noted that all of the teachers were Garda vetted and that the company had also introduced singing classes.

- TEA/COFFEE BREAK

□ **Mark Smyth, Clinical Psychologist**

Mr Mark Smyth gave a brilliantly informative talk about children and anxiety.

□ **AOB**

None