St. Patrick’s National School

Parents’ Association

Annual General Meeting

***Minutes from Meeting – 21st January 2025***

1. **Welcome from Chairperson, Kevin Blessing.**
2. **Chairperson’s Report read by Kevin. This included:**
	* Outline of fundraising events carried out since last AGM.
	* Outline of upcoming fundraising events: Table Quiz (Feb.7th @ 9pm), Bingo for students (21st March).
	* List of activities or events that benefited from the funds raised over the past year (eg. Subsidy for panto, gymnastics, ice-cream van etc.).
	* Thanking members of committee.
	* Thanking members of the community who helped to run the fundraisers – John and Maureen McKeon for use of shed during cash for clobber. Adrian Flood, Stephen Reynolds and Fergal McPartland for their help with Jingle Ball run. An Tóstal Committee for the use of a table at their Christmas Market.
	* Thanking Berni Lynch and Allen Gaels for the use of the clubhouse for Parents’ Association Meetings.
	* Thanking Caroline Flynn for the huge amount of help given with every fundraiser/event.
3. **Principal’s Report read by Ruth McLoughlin. This included:**
	* Details of enrolment and staffing.
	* Thanking staff who do so much for the students of the school.
	* Thanking Parents’ Associaion.
	* Thanking parents for money raised.
	* Plans for expansion of school – planning approved for 2 new classrooms + storage area.
	* Planning sought for pitch – funding will be needed.
	* Outline of various activities students get to sample in the school. Swimming mentioned as being a huge success and is very inclusive.
	* A possible June activity mentioned for younger classes – mobile unit with play activities that can be rented by the school and paid for by the Parents’ Association.
	* Thanking people who helped with activities over the past year – John Casey and Tess Cullen (Badminton), Cabrini Nolan (Pilates).
	* Update on Hot Lunches – application has been accepted. 3 options available for procurement. A lot of research has been done. 3 pitches will be made to staff and then to student council.
		+ Awaiting final permission; once this is fully signed off on, hot lunches will be implemented as soon as possible.
	* Mentioning 50th Anniversary Celebration and its success. A lovely atmosphere over the weekend, a community event. Great praise received for the book published to mark it.
4. **Treasurer’s Report read by Edel Spark. This included:**
	* Income from Cash for Clobber: €1944 and €1300.
		+ Note made on the fact that the price per kg has dropped meaning that the same weight on both collections resulted in different amounts.
		+ 5th Class commended for helping to load the Cash for Clobber truck. Ruth said this can continue to happen each time.
	* Income from Jingle Ball Run (after prizes) = €5265.
		+ Expenditure: Communion Party expenses.
5. **AOB**
	* Ruth queried possibility of publishing minutes.
	* Kevin mentioned upcoming election of new Parents’ Association members.
		+ Ruth described process involving Google Forms.
	* A question was asked re.timeline for hot lunches being made available.
		+ Ruth reminded that first permission given but awaiting final permission. Every effort will be made to bring hot lunches in as soon as possible after final permission.
		+ A discussion ensued re.hot lunches and logistics involved.
		+ Waste an issue – how it would be disposed of. Issue with food being brought home and re-heated.
		+ Food hot on arrival or heated up onsite?
		+ Students to eat at desks.
		+ A question was asked re.teachers reminding students to note in journals regarding the portion of food eating. Discussion came back to teacher time being limited – food to be given out, desks to be cleaned etc. Logistics will have to be worked out – a learning curve.
		+ Query re.variety – lots of food offered, the options will rotate. ‘Fast-food’ type dinner not available every day. If a parent forgets to order ahead, student’s menu should revert to previous week rather than student having no lunch.
		+ Query re.being tied to one company for 3 year contract – no, it is possible to change after 1 year if there is a problem.
		+ Issue with staffing around lunch time – better to have someone hired through company who can help with passing out food safely.
		+ Suggestion made that during break students could have play time first, followed by hot lunch. This has proved successful in other school and lead to more food being eaten.
6. **Paul Martin thanked Kevin for his contribution as Chairperson.**

**The meeting came to an end.**