**NKETNS PTA AGM**

**Minutes**

**25th April 2018**

Present : Maria Kane (Chair), Gordon O’Connor (Treasurer), Jean Auden, Wayne Stanley, Maria Alcazaar, Arlene Higgins, Audrey Philips, Enda Martin, Sarah Caldwell, Ciara McCarthy (Minutes)

In attendance: Please see separate attendance sheet that was circulated at the beginning if the meeting.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Maria welcomed all Parents and Teachers present to the meeting and noted it was the 2nd PTA committee AGM. The agenda, minutes of the previous AGM and the Treasurer’s report were

1. **Review & acceptance of minutes of last year’s AGM**

The minutes were accepted by all present.

1. **Chairperson’s Report**

Maria noted that the PTA was first established in February 2016. The PTA remains a member of the National Parent’s Council to ensure best practice, guidelines, structure and reduced insurance costs. The main priority of the PTA over the past 2 years has been fundraising activities to raise money for the ongoing running costs of the school.

Maria thanked all the committee members for another successful year and reviewed the fundraising events that have taken place over the past year:

* April 2017: Cookery Demonstration organized by Michael Swan and Maria Alcazaar
* May 2017: “Swim a mile” National Aquatic Centre. Jsenge in Sixth Class and her mum Ssuza participated in this sponsored swim.
* June 2017: Women’s Mini Marathon. Arlene, Elaine, Celine and Suzanne all participated in the 10k race.
* June 2017: NKETNS Children all participated in the sponsored walk.
* September 2017: Stationary Cycle in Supervalu. Supported by John Cradden and all the staff from Supervalu in Celbridge.
* October 2017: Midterm Cake Sale
* November 2017: Cash for Clothes; Cookery demonstration organized by Michael and Maria. Storytelling social night with Niall De Burca.
* December 2017: School Calendar, thanks to Michael Grubba for his photography and creativity. Christmas Raffle, thanks to Catriona O’Connor for organizing and presenting the prizes.
* January 2018: Reflexology sessions organized by Marta Lacerda
* February 2018: Table quiz organized by Paul and Julie Melia.
* April 2018: Cinema club organized by Terri

Maria also mentioned that a survey was sent to parents in June 2017 to explore Parents ideas for fundraising activities. 50 were returned and Maria described the three main questions and responses from the survey.

The results revealed that 62% preferred multiple events throughout the year rather than one single event. 28% preferred a single event while 10% suggested mixed.

Parents were asked to identify their most popular activity. The cake sale, cinema club, cash for clothes and school calendar emerged as the most popular.

Finally, Parents were asked to make suggestions for future fundraising events. A table quiz was one suggestion which was organized as stated earlier and a culture and diversity night which is currently been organized for May 25th 2018 by Karen Caffrey.

Maria also noted that there have been several non- fundraising events organized recently: the John Lonergan talk on parenting was held last week and there were 45 parents at this event. As mentioned above the celebration of cultures and diversity is being held later this month.

Maria mentioned some more upcoming events in the coming months including the book fair, mini marathon, cake sale for Bloom, and the sponsored walk.

She concluded the report by thanking all the Parents, committee members, staff board of management and local businesses who have consistently supported all the events to date. Maria acknowledged the considerable team effort involved.

Questions were invited from the audience but there were none. Maria Alcazaar acknowledged Maria’s great leadership as PTA committee chair. Sinead Clarke, Treasurer BOM, acknowledged the significant commitment of the PTA and the subsequent amount of funds raised.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Gordon circulated a copy of the current Income and Expenditures sheet to all present. He explained that the account reflects income since June 2016 and that all money over 3000 is transferred to the BOM account.

Gordon noted that the total income is 26, 408.63, expenditure is 3,772.77 leaving a profit of 22636.06.

He also acknowledged the team effort in raising these funds and highlighted the accumulative impact of regular events.

Gordon noted that the back costs have been reduced due to lodging notes only rather than coins.

There were no questions when invited. Sinead Clarke was invited to say a few words as treasurer of the BOM.

Sinead acknowledged the recent media coverage in relation to the shortfall of school funding nationally. She noted that while two thirds of the necessary funding comes in grants there is a pressure on schools to raise at least a third to ensure the running costs are met each year.

Sinead highlighted some of these running costs such as general maintenance and noted that they are not always predictable such as a boiler breaking down. Sinead noted the need to ensure learning opportunities for all NKETNS children and that funds are needed to pay for additional IT resources.

Sinead explained that 20% of the shortfall comes in through voluntary contributions and room rental. She described the importance of ongoing fundraising activities to meet all the costs and some of the benefits of these events in relation to involving the whole community including our children.

Sinead acknowledged the frequent questions from Parents regarding the frequency of having to contribute to fundraising activities. She highlighted that the main reason for this is due to the Department of Education not stepping up to fund sufficiently and emphasized that the school uses all funds wisely. She described some of the essential costs such as insurance, health and safety standards, and servicing charges e.g. the necessary additional equipment for the lifts. Sinead highlighted how the list of running costs goes on and reflects unavoidable costs.

1. **Principal Address**

Rita acknowledged how it was lovely to see Parents and Staff present tonight. She thanked all the PTA for their commitment over the past 2 years.

Rita also noted the media coverage during the week and mentioned that Parents in Ireland are currently supplementing their children’s free education by 46 million per year. She suggested that while the department appear to exploit the dedication of Parents to their children’s education, this is reflected in the fact that Ireland is one of the highest performing educational systems. Despite the reductions and lower rates in funding when compared internationally.

Rita noted that all schools are underfunded, and that Parents work hard to the meet the costs.

Rita acknowledged the work of the PTA committee and especially Maria’s great work over the past 2 years as Chair.

She went on to highlight the role of non-fundraising activities in relation to creating a sense of belonging.

Rita thanked all the staff and particularly Arlene and Audrey who are currently on the committee. She thanked Adrienne for all her hard work and support to the committee and school.

She encouraged Parents to contact local TD’s to raise concerns about the lack of Department funding and wished the whole community well with the new Principal in the coming months.

Maria acknowledged that this would be Rita’s last official meeting with the PTA committee and made a presentation of a bouquet of flowers.

1. **Election of New PTA committee.**

The current committee members stepped down and Enda sought nominations from the floor.

Two members of the committee stood down: Gordon O’Connor and Wayne Stanley.

Two new members joined: Karen Caffrey and Catriona O’Connor (not present but nominated by Gordon)

All other parent members agreed to remain with Jean taking over the role of treasurer and Ciara agreeing to co- chair.

Staff members are to be confirmed.