

The High School Rathgar, Parents Association A.G.M. 24.09.18

PA Officers	General Committee	Apologies
Nigel Donovan (President)	Steve Wilson	Evelyn Foley (Treasurer)
Arthur Barlow (Secretary)	Vincent Landy	Elaine Costello
	Malcolm Boyd	Joyce Farrelly
	Linda O'Connor	Brigitta Lee
	Melody Chadamoyo	

Attendees on the evening numbered approx. 50

Nigel welcomed the parents, outlined the Agenda for the evening and described the purpose of the evening and the agenda. He outlined that Arthur Barlow and Malcolm Boyd had served their terms and were stepping down at this meeting and that he would be seeking two male parents/guardians to replace them. Vincent Landy, Linda O'Connor, Steve Wilson and Evelyn Foley are putting themselves forward for re-election having completed their two-year term. All other committee members are remaining in place.

Nigel described the objectives of the PA;

1. Promoting Effective Communication –
 - Change of approach whereby the school is now the sole source of parents contact details and PA will use their data base to contact parents on any group matter
 - PA Facebook & Twitter A/C's will be used going forward.
 - Subscribe to the Weekly School Newsletter sent via e-mail as PA use it for communication in association with the school
 - PA will circulate a parent e-survey to gauge what areas the parent body want PA to focus on this school year
2. Support of wider interests of pupils.
 - Studyclix initiative explained and commitment for a further year of funding outlined
3. Activities and Events
 - These include the Junior Cert. Paintball event, Parents Term-End Summer BBQ, 2nd hand book & uniform sale, invited experts for Parent talks, 1st Form social evening in term 1 to facilitate 'getting to know' each other
4. Liaison with the School on Policy Matters
 - Nigel outlined how the School functions via the Sub Committee structure. The PA has a voice on all five of the sub committees as outlined below. This affords the parents via the PA to advise and influence policy matters as they related to the School.
 - Finance – Evelyn Foley
 - Property & Grounds – Steve Wilson
 - Education – Melody Chadamoyo
 - Sport & Recreation– Vincent Landy
 - Student Council – Elaine Costello
5. Promoting parental involvement in school
 - The Parent Teacher Meeting evenings
 - 5th Form Mock Interview evening

Work of the Committee members –

Nigel expressed his thanks and appreciation to all the PA committee members who made the work of the association possible last year and looked forward to working with them again this year. He noted the departure of Malcolm Boyd after a two-year term and Arthur Barlow after a six-year term and thanked them for their work and commitment in previous years.

Treasurer's Report – Nigel outlined past years finances in the absence of Evelyn Foley, Treasurer. A deficit of €2,528 was incurred in the year leaving an overall surplus of €9,249. Studyclix and the year-end summer event were the main uses of funds. -We also stressed our primary goal of transparent and robust accounting here. No questions arose.

Secretary's Address:

Presentation of previous year's meeting minutes taken as read having been posted on the PA website since Dec-17 – no questions arose, and Arthur asked for a proposer and seconded to accept minutes. Linda O'Connor proposed and Melody Chinenyanga seconded

Election of committee members for 2018/2019

Vinny, Linda, Steve, and Evelyn were standing for re-election were proposed and seconded by Nigel and Arthur.

New members elected:

- Gavin O'Duffy, (1st year parent), proposed by Nigel and seconded by Linda O'Connor – deemed elected
- Ray Stewart, (1st & 3rd year parent), proposed by Jennifer Geraghty and seconded by Melody Chinenyanga – deemed elected

AOB

Questions from the floor:

1. Studyclix Initiative – Are all teachers aware of its capability as some still require the purchase of exam papers when they are available online. **Action - Nigel to raise with School**
2. Parental Talks – Request that they seek to capture issues around diversity, sex education and consent. **Action – PA to discuss and revert**
3. Query does PA coordinate with school to maximise effect of talks to both parent and pupils – **Nigel – yes, we do, but we can probably do more here, so will consult with the school. Study skills session was cited as an example here**
4. Request that parent talk cover study methods and skills and advise when the school is running study skills for pupils. **Action – PA to review with school and revert**
5. Query is PA taking a position opposing new bus route timetables? This is matter more appropriately handled by individual letters of concern **Action – Nigel to consider potential issues**
6. **Mobile Phone Policy** – currently a low restriction approach is in operation. A number of parents expressed concerns of phones being accessible in classroom settings. It was pointed out the DoE circular No. 38/2018 requires the school to engage with the parent body when setting mobile phone policy, **Action – Nigel to discuss with school and reflect the concern of parents voiced at the AGM.** A motion that the school agree to review the current mobile phone policy was passed by the majority of parents at the AGM
7. Query raised that the School does not currently offer Irish at Junior Cert. taught and examined orally, and is there another parent seeking this option? No parent at the AGM indicated this was a preference. Action – Nigel to follow up for wider reference
8. Uniform quality and single supplier. Feedback around jumper quality, service provided by the supplier (no competition) and opportunity for an iron on crest option going forward

Commitment given by the PA Committee to ensure we obtain a full response for follow up and publication

Close

The meeting then concluded. The committee thanked parents for attending and retired for refreshments in the dining hall.