

# High School Dublin Parents Association

## Annual General Meeting

07th October 2020

### Attendees:

**PA Committee:** Nigel Donovan (Chair), Gavin O'Duffy (Secretary), Avril Robinson, Susannah Love, Ray Stewart, Elaine Costello, Evelyn Foley, Linda O'Connor, Steve Wilson, Birgitta Lee, Debo Adeduntan

**Parents:** Approximately 60 parents were in attendance.

### Minutes

The Meeting was held online due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The meeting commenced at 8pm.

Welcome by Chair, Nigel

Explanation of how Questions will be handled

Agenda overview

1. PA Overview: Representing your interests and promoting positive relationships between the school and parents
  - Promoting effective communication
    - Digital media, PA platforms, Inbound & Outbound School communication
  - Supporting the welfare and educational interests of students
    - Sponsorship & Awards, Student Council, Green Schools, Habitat
  - Activity & events/Promotion of school community
    - Parent Evenings, Speaker sessions, Book/Uniform Sale,
    - End of year Social etc.
  - Liaison with the School on Policy matters
    - Representation on sub committees
  - Participation in COMPASS, the body representing minority religious groups on the NPC
  
2. Promoting Effective Communication
  - Working to build impactful relationships
    - School mgmt. team
    - Teaching staff
  - Ongoing connection with School
    - Feedback
    - Opportunities
    - Suggestions
  - Continued focus on information cascade

- Leveraging Social channels/mail
  - Input to school comms.
  - Commitment to parent feedback being channelled purposefully
3. Supporting Educational and Wider Interests/Achievements
- Sport
  - Studyclix
  - 6th Form End of Year Video
4. Activities/Events & Promotion of School Community
- Junior Cert Results Day Paintball
  - Speaker Sessions
    - Study Skills and your Child
  - Parent/Teacher Meetings
5. Liaison with School Sub-Committees
- Finance
  - Property
  - Education
  - Sports & Rec.
  - Student Council
6. Thanks to current committee for all their hard work
7. PA Focus for 2020/21
- Continued focus on school communications
    - Process
    - Automation opportunities
  - Continued focus on input to school mgmt. on policy considerations
    - Parent/student feedback
    - COVID requirements/evolutions
  - Build tighter student council connections
    - Pulse/inputs
  - Event support – parent/teacher meetings/JC results day etc.
  - Speaker sessions: (online considerations)
    - Mental wellness/resilience
    - Create a database of interested parents/guardians aligned with occupations/professions/areas of expertise/interest from which we could source TED talk type engagements for students/parents
  - Our Ask of you
    - Engage with us directly - use your year rep – follow us on Twitter/FB – email us
    - Tell us what you think/what you might like to see
    - Event speakers/topics – what/who?
    - Feedback/ideas/opportunities – what/why?
8. Treasurer's report
- Evelyn Foley presented a summary of the year's income and expenditure along with opening and closing balance. A summary is given below:

Balance 9/19		€18,525
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Income		€10,359
Expenditures		€10,306
Balance 9/20		€18,578

9. 2019 Minutes Approval

- The secretary's report of 2019 AGM Minutes were approved

10. Election of the 2020/21 PA Committee

- Re-election of Susannah Love, Debo Adeduntan, Avril Robinson and Ray Stewart was approved.
- The chair nominated Peter DeLacey, Brian Fitzgerald, Jenn McGrath and Richelle Flanagan. The nomination was proposed by Karen Morton and seconded by Sarah Kelly and being no objections the new members were approved.

11. Q&A

**The Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm**

## Appendix: Questions recorded in Zoom Meeting Chat window

1. Regarding the process point, an issue that we have found difficult is the multiple channels especially for sport - twitter, email, whatsapp, sms etc - being told in advance which channel would help
2. Even if there was a old school notice board where the kids knew what was going on. It should be on them to be responsible for their activities.
3. The badminton sheet only goes up on the day where kids put their name down for either the 4pm or 5.15 session - where can the kids wait if on the later session & surely the sheet could be up on Monday morning for the Tuesday session?
4. The 'lodge' hockey house and container for housing school bags while at hockey is reportedly ' never open when we need it'.....
5. A huge thank you to both existing committee members & new volunteers to all the work you put in on our behalf.
6. Can someone explain Study-Clix please - is it free, who can use it etc?
7. What is the status of the phone debate? is there any checking that rules are being respected given absence of lockers?
8. My son has told me some teachers are asking them to use phones in class...which obviously goes against new code?
9. Thanks for all your hard work - just wondering if you have any plans in place for 2020 Leaving Cert students to finalise their school years
10. The 'lodge' hockey house and container for housing school bags while at hockey is reportedly ' never open when we need it'.....
11. Is there a plan for online learning with very strong possibility of a school closure in the coming months?
12. Is there a plan in place when, say, 1 or two students have to self-isolate at home for a few days, or for 2 weeks, can they access their classes online? It's very likely to happen to some students.
13. Re: online learning/closure - Will there be more Teams video calls with classes if that happens? Good to have that contact with teachers, but not back-to-back teams meetings either from a student perspective ... so just getting that balance.
14. Would the School consider operating a day in and day out where remote learning take places?
15. Is there possibility of conference calling into classrooms for those in isolation or for anyone who is precluded from attending in person due to health reasons and covid?

16. I support that- video calls with teachers are really important to keep students engaged with online learning.
17. Strange there was no feedback of substance on the school's Leaving Cert performance this year. There usually is more detail than the scant report issued a few weeks ago. It's certainly very important information for students (and parents) currently in sixth year. Can you ask for a more detailed report from the School, please?
18. Regarding school closures, I just see a new research paper stating that "air purifiers remove 90% of aerosols in class rooms". Maybe this would be something the school should consider.
19. Aerosols are believed to account for the main infection risk, much more than contact with contaminated surfaces.
20. May I ask for some reassurance about the day to day school activities, our daughter often feels that fellow students do not keep a safe distance and she worries about bring the virus home to a vulnerable parent, thank you
21. My son was sent home with cold symptoms one morning last week - but no mention was made of how he would / could access classes.
22. On covid are we comfortable that kids are behaving safely and that teachers/support staff are supporting them in this in and out of the classroom?
23. Have the students been surveyed about their view on covid compliance in school?
24. My son said there is crowding particularly younger years
25. I would think that we should also feedback our thanks to the Teachers as a number of us are able to work from home which the teachers have not been able to do.
26. Really good idea to survey the kids at the end of term for their feedback/input.
27. Yes it must be hard when everyone else seems protected at home
28. Yes - survey of the students would be really helpful feedback. Important they understand that their experience matters.
29. Student council met this am and there was discussion about crowding and non wearing/ incorrect mask wearing were discussed.
30. I thought about changing the school uniforms to clothes that are plastic-free, sometime...
31. We had our Third Year Parent Teacher meeting on Teams it was very effective
32. Parent teacher meetings were quite successful but we only had 4 - maybe a second day?
33. My friend only got to see 3 teachers
34. Did anyone else have issues with sports clothes ordering...

35. I got four sessions and followed up with the school and have now had 3 calls from teachers I didn't get to talk to.
36. Some parents only saw 3 teachers on their Parent Teacher Meetings
37. Could VSWare be used to get an update from the teachers we didn't get to talk to. I only got to talk to 3.
38. If parents are only getting to see a fraction of teachers at the annual PTM, please, please have a second session ... or lengthen the timeslots with each to ensure it all comes together on the one day. I has to send two emails to get the calls. Still trying to get the last one.
39. May I suggest that the PA reach out to First Year Parents, as they will miss out on lots of social interactions that normally take place at sporting events etc. and some maybe new to the School
40. Perhaps also to 2nd year parents also as their first year was cut short. Maybe an online Q&A session for parents?
41. It was interesting one of the teachers was really delighted I had reached out to him. He didn't realise parents didn't get to talk to the teachers - he assumed parents were just not interested! He had no idea there was a capacity issue.