



St. Raphaela's Primary School

Parents Association

Chairperson: Miriam Flannery
Treasurer: Nuala Downes
Secretary: Jill O'Brien

Annual General Meeting 8th October, 2008

ATTENDEES: A hard copy of the list of attendees is available on file should anyone wish to view it.

APOLOGIES: Jill O'Brien, Rachel Leonard, Nuala Downes, Olga Lyons, Sheila Kehoe, Geraldine Power, Valerie Scully

At 8.10pm the meeting was called to order. Miriam Flannery welcomed everyone and asked Sr. Mary to open the meeting with the school prayer.

Chairpersons Address: The Chairperson, Miriam Flannery read her address. See attached.

Minutes of AGM 2006: (hard copy on website) As there were no matters arising the minutes were proposed by Eamon Keane and seconded by Colleen Thomas.

Principal's Address: Sr. Mary thanked everyone for attending and expressed her gratitude to parents for their support during the previous year. She mentioned in particular the way in which events organised by the Parents' Association such as Megamix, Communion party, Graduation party, Halloween Disco, etc. enrich the children's school experience.

Numbers for the school are up by 20% which means that we now 'have a float teacher, Denise Toner, for Science and I.T. enabling classes for these subjects to be split into smaller groups. This year invitations to the Open Day will only be sent to the families of children who will be attending next year. The smaller numbers attending should make the Open Day a more personal experience. With regard to the curriculum, all policies are at the review stage and there will be only one planning day this year, possibly after Christmas.

Sr. Mary expressed her gratitude to Landmark Developments for the wonderful contribution they have made to the school, previously giving €20,000 for computers and this year donating €12,000 towards the cost of interactive white boards which will be installed this week. The Parents Association will make up the shortfall in cost (between €6,000 and €7,000)). Sr. Mary's plan is to hopefully install one whiteboard per year until every classroom is equipped with one.

The football has been so successful that it has been necessary to divide it into two groups. The seniors will play until February and after that, the juniors will play until the end of the season. The

board have approved payment for an after school hockey coach and it is hoped to have this in place for after Christmas. This means that when the football season finishes for one group they will then have hockey available to them after school. Sr. Mary thanked all those who have made the football so successful, Sheila Kehoe and Nuala Downes, the teachers, parents and Glenalbyn Sports Complex.

The school will attempt to earn a third green flag this year with the theme being the conservation of water. Parent-teacher meetings will be later this year to enable results of tests undertaken by first class upward to be available. Finally, Sr. Mary expressed her appreciation of the wonderful partnership that exists between the parents and the school and invited new parents to get involved.

Treasurer's Report: (copy on file) Margaret Burke read the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Nuala Downes who was unable to attend. The accounts are in good shape. When swimming expenses are paid and the contribution to the purchase of white boards is made the balance will be around €5,000.

Secretary's Report: (attached) As Jill O'Brien was unable to attend the meeting, Christine Donegan read out the Report.

Board of Management: Sr. Consuelo, Treasurer of the Board of Management, gave her report (copy on file) and distributed a copy to all present. The balance sheet contained an error which she corrected (see attached copy).

Rory Burke, Fathers' representative on the BOM, commented on great attendance at the meeting. He explained how the Board was made up and how his function as fathers' representative and Valerie Scully's as mothers' representative is to bring feedback from parents to the Board. The response to the parent's survey carried out last year was very positive for the Primary School. There were, however, four key items which the Board and the schools are working to address. These included

- Interaction between the Primary and Secondary school
- Infrastructure, car-parking etc.
- Perception of the school in the community
- Need to raise academic bar

Joint meetings have taken place between the Secondary and Primary Boards with an aim to promote the campus nature of the schools, not just the Primary and Secondary schools but also St. Michael's House, Montessori school, Naoinra, sports facilities and Afterschool club.

With regard to academic achievement, results for the Secondary school were above the national average. Demand for primary school places is high.

Miriam Flannery thanked Rory and Valerie (the parents' reps on the Board) for their representation on the BOM as without their hard work our achievements would not have progressed so quickly. Miriam mentioned that we will be looking for new representatives as Rory and Valerie will be finishing up on the Board as their children will be leaving the school shortly. She urged parents to give representation on the Board due consideration. Both Rory and Valerie however have agreed to stay on if necessary until such time as their children do leave.

Swimming Report: Margaret Burke who along with Geraldine Power runs the supervised swimming gave the swimming report. As swimming numbers were high, (full capacity) it has been possible to employ an extra instructor and to reduce the cost. Mags and Geraldine will be handing over the

swimming to two new organisers next year, as their own daughters will be moving on to Secondary School. Although they have found two new organisers, they would welcome additional organisers if any parents were available. Clare McIntyre raised the issue of verrucas and if there was any policy regarding swimming with verrucas or regarding the wearing of flip-flops. Mags agreed to look into her concerns. Sr. Mary thanked Mags and Geraldine for their great work and commitment to the swimming.

2007/2008 Committee – New Members:

Miriam Flannery invited parents to sign up for the Parents Association. Meetings are held once a month (usually 1st Wed of month) with various projects and fundraisers taking place throughout the year. Volunteers to help out at events on a “now and again” basis are also always welcome and names were requested for this also.

The following parents volunteered for the committee:

Junior Infants:	Lorraine O’Toole Aisling Regan Bermingham James Gargan Susan O’Doherty Jack de la Fonteijne Yolande Farrell Kevin Henry	Senior Infants:	Dorothy & Dave Bergin Eamon Keane Paul Stephens Ron Davies Gerry Doyle
1 st Class:	Emer Halpenny Marcella Flood Ronan Walsh	2 nd Class:	Barbara Shaw Claire Joyce Rachel Leonard Kathryn O’Reilly
3 rd Class:	Christine Donegal Rosie Ni Laoghaire Olga Lyons	4 th Class:	Clare McIntyre Michelle Moran
5 th Class:	Nuala Downes Sheila Kehoe Stephen Kelly Valerie Scully	6 th Class:	Miriam Flannery Rory & Margaret Burke Geraldine Power Cynthia T. Estember

The following parents completed volunteer forms indicating their willingness to help at events:

Jnr Infants:	Maria Caird Jacqueline Daly Claire Ryan Yvonne de la Fonteijne Niall Bermingham	Snr Infants:	Niamh Lyndon Anna McHugh
1st Class:	Jill O’Brien	2 nd Class:	Helen Hanrahan

3rd Class: Stephen Mangan
Bernie Quinn

5th Class: Janice Kelly

A.O.B

A parent enquired about what input Transition Year boys from St. Benildus School had in the school. Sr. Mary explained that some Transition Year students teach ball skills to P.E. classes, while others teach chess to some of the older pupils.

Another parent, Janice Kelly raised the issue of this year's enrolment ceremony for First Holy Communion, which this year was a joint service for all three parish schools. She felt it was a lot less personal than previous years. Sr. Mary agreed and promised to hold some form of service in the convent chapel for the Communion girls and their families. First Confessions will also take place in the convent chapel.

Science week will take place on week commencing 10th November. Sr. Mary asked for anyone with relevant experience or skills to volunteer to give workshops or demonstrations for the students.

The meeting was then adjourned for wine, nibbles and other refreshments.