

Minutes of AGM. October 19th, 2023

Apologies: Jean Smith, Aoife O’Kelly, Alberto Besana, Claire Cadogan, Silvia Canu

Present: Mr Denis Smith, chairperson, Ms Bernadette Kehoe, principal, Louise Byrne, Chairperson PTA, Linda Homan PTA, Lynn Domican, PTA, Sandra Sutcliffe PTA, Renate Metene, PTA, Yvonne Cassidy PTA, Quentin Viltet, Dr Hamis Khan, Maryam Hamid, Johnny Parsons, Claire Donohoe, Sahara Vasquez.

Ms Kehoe welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming out on such a horrid evening.

Ms Kehoe introduced Mr Denis Smith, Chairperson of the Board of Management and advised those present that as Chairperson of the board, he was here to oversee the nomination of the parent’s nominee to the board.

Mr Smith spoke about the role of the board and what would be involved for a person becoming a member. Nominations were then invited from the floor and Mr Jonathan Parsons intimated that he was interested in the role. He introduced himself, spoke of his connection to the school, his profession, his involvement with St Vincent de Paul for a number of years, and of what he could bring to the table. He was proposed by Linda Homan and seconded by Louise Byrne. As there were no other nominations, he was deemed elected.

Mr Smith noted that Mr Parsons was replacing Mr Derek Connellan who had sat on the board for twelve years as a parent nominee and had filled the role of Treasurer during that time with great expertise.

Ms Kehoe thanked Mr Smith for attending the meeting and informed the parents that after a period of six years as Chairperson, he was standing down. She thanked him too for his great service to the board and wished him well in his new role.

Ms Kehoe gave a report focusing on the current crisis in teaching in Dublin due to the lack of teachers to fill positions and to sub. She asked that parents highlight this with their TDs and the Minister. The position of Mr Glynn had been advertised and only two applications had been received, one which was deemed to be unsuitable and the second did not turn up for interview. It is now likely that Ms O’ Meara will have to take first class (2) once Mr Glynn assumes his new role. Parents have been informed of the likelihood of this happening.

She commended the current staff and the members of the ISM team for their dedication and commitment to the children. She is very reassured that the school is going to be in very good hands when she leaves.

The After School Club is running well. There are fifty two children attending. The children are divided into two groups with one group completing homework for the first hour while the second group engage in drama, multi-sports, soccer and science classes. The groups then change around. Three new staff have been appointed to assist in supervising the children. All of these are parents from the school who are doing a great job.

Work will hopefully start on the area above the astro in the coming days.

The wall in the Main Yard will be painted by the caretaker and will be made ready for work to begin on completing the mural. This will take place over the coming weeks and months.

RTE Junior will be coming out to do a piece on the Viking House/Archaeology/Viking programme being done by pupils from third class on Monday next .

Ms Kehoe thanked all of the parents for their support over the years and said that her time in Harold's Cross NS had been very special. She thanked the PTA for all their work supporting the children, staff and the board and wished them well going forward.

Louise Byrne as Chairperson of the PTA thanked Ms Kehoe for her service to the school and wished her well in her retirement.

Sandra Sutcliffe informed Louise that she and Suzanne would once again take on the lead roles in organising and running the Christmas Fair which will take place on Sunday, December 3rd.

A meeting of the PTA will take place in early November to get the ball rolling on this. Hopefully some new parents will either join the committee or get involved in different events over the course of the year.

There being no further business the meeting came to an end.