

Minutes of the Oatlands College Parents' Council Annual General Meeting held on Thursday the 22nd September 2022

Chairperson's Welcome Treasurer's Report Principal's Address PC Members' Video

Q& A session with Principal following AGM

The Chairperson, Mary O'Sullivan welcomed everyone to the AGM. She introduced Ann Marie Lynch as Joint Secretary with Jenny Sherrin who gave her apologies.

The Chairperson welcomed the Principal of the school Caroline Garrett.

The Chairperson informed the parents about her time on the Parents Council just finishing up a three year term as Chairperson. How it has been such a rewarding and worthwhile experience, meeting new people, getting to work with the Principal and teachers when organising school events. The 30 members of the committee who represent the parents, helped out with all the fundraising and social events organised by the school. The Chairperson mentioned how the council meets the first Tuesday of each month. There are also two parents who are represented on the Board of Management they are Una O'Brien and Marie Kilmartin who report back to the Parents' Council.

Activities and events undertaken by the Parents' Council included:

- Hosting a Pre- Debs Reception; Open evening for incoming First Year students/parents, information evening for TY students
- Providing refreshments for Parent/Teacher meetings throughout the year
- Bag2school collections twice a year 10% donation made to LauraLynn Foundation
- Helping with makeup, costumes, props, tuck shop and raffle for the Transition year musical
- School policy documents which are reviewed and feedback sent back to Board

- Organising Christmas Raffle as one of the school's largest fundraiser throughout the year
- Graduation and Leaving Day BBQ for 6th year

The Chairperson showed a short video of the events which happened in the school. She asked anyone who was interested in helping in any way as a volunteer to sign the sheet and leave their email. They would be contacted whether they wish to be on the committee or on a volunteer list. The Chairperson also mentioned how parents could follow the school web page or the PC instagram account. The school twitter accounts also reports daily on events happening in class, sporting achievements and speakers invited into the school. A text also is sent out by the school to invite parents to be part of a WhatsApp group for each year which is another communication tool for informing parents of all the events happening in the school.

Treasurer's report - Sinead Lane presented the accounts as our Treasurer Sam Keyes is no longer a parent in the school. Sinead thanked Sam for her hard work and due diligence of the accounts of the Parents Council.

The Principal's address coinciding with a Q&A session

The Principal welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.. She welcomed old and new faces to the meeting. She gave her recognition to the Parents' Council and thanked them for their continued support and commitment to helping the school.

She continued by stating that the school reopened in September with 720 students and staff.

Leaving Cert students went ahead as normal with new changes through unusual times with the pandemic still a factor.

The Junior Cert results are still pending and no date has been announced.

The Principal commented that Oatlands, a non-fee-paying school is definitely punching above its weight with regard to the parents of the Leaving Cert students and the work they put in under very stressful and unusual circumstances during the Pandemic.

The PC opinions are asked on many other activities including school policy-making.

The Parents Council will organise a Contact List for each year group which will be done over the coming weeks. This list is very important to First Year Parents.

In addition, she advised new parents that being a part of The Parents Council brought 'added value' for you and your son(s) time in the school. She served on the Parents' Council for her daughters' school and it helped their educational outlook as a result because their Mum was also involved. The time you give is the time you have to spare. That's all. Being on the PC also gives a great, unique insight on what makes the school 'tick', why certain things are done in certain ways. You can form great friendships with other parents that will last long after your son(s) have left Oatlands. Not to mention a good relationship with the Principal herself! Students take pride in their parents being involved in the school this way.

Meetings are fun and social as well as dealing with matters in hand. They are, as the Chairperson said, once a month so not too often. Ms. Garrett also thanked the current Committee for their efforts and hard work.

The Principal thanked both Una and Marie who are representatives on the Board of Management and thanked them for their commitment.

She also thanked the Board, the College and passed on the sincere thanks of the staff to the PC for their dedication and sage advice.

The School Pitch development is looking more positive than in previous years. Dun Laoghaire will be doing a topography survey on the pitch and a meeting will be held shortly to discuss further developments. All relevant personnel were on Board discussions will be had with the local residents.

Ms. Garrett said that 1st years had settled in well and that Mr. Enright is the Year Head and can be contacted at any time. She answered some queries about being allowed to play football on the pitch at any time and she said that was fine. Lockers will be available also as restrictions have been lifted and school can be run in the normal way.

Thankfully some trips were able to go ahead. The 2nd year went on a trip to France ?? Soccer trip to Manchester United?

Our Chairperson Mary O'Sullivan's term of three years ended and she said she really enjoyed her time and found it to be rewarding and made great friends as a result of being on the Committee. She thanked all the PC members who were in attendance. Ann Marie Lynch thanked Mary for her hard work and dedication to the Committee in such difficult times. Trying to fundraise during a pandemic was challenging but Mary and the Team were able to raise much needed funds and Ms. Garrett really appreciated the efforts.

A new Chairperson and Treasurer will need to be decided on at the next PC meeting.

The Chairperson thanked all those who attended and the AGM was then concluded.