

**St. Mary's BNS, Maynooth**  
**Parent Teacher Association November Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>, November 2011

**1.0 Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were proposed and seconded.

**2.0 Financial Update**

2.1 Current balance is €423 with the voluntary contributions being counted this week and reported on next month.

**3.0 School Requests**

3.1 The PTA has committed funds to aid the purchase of a book cover machine for €1,200.

3.2 3 Visualizers already purchased by school at €400 each, total €1200.

3.3 MS Office license to run on all computers costing €300.

3.4 A recent audit of Science boxes uncovered some missing equipment. €203 needed to replace missing items.

3.5 Art Project for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class is up and running and will produce about 50 prints. PTA will support this at a cost of about €1000.

3.6 There is a new type of cushion on the market to help the concentration of some children while sitting in their seats. It has a very calming and stabilizing effect. It's estimated that the school would need 10 of these, costing around €35-€40 each, i.e about €400 in total

3.7 Barcode reader for books has been requested but it was agreed to look into this idea some more to weigh up the benefits, compared to how much work is involved to set this up. Also to find out an estimated cost.

3.8 Total for school requests approximately =  
€1200+€1200+€300+€203+€1000+€400 = €4303.

**4.0 Follow up from October meeting**

4.1 Yard Games - Initial suggestions were: Hula hoops, ropes, new painted games on the ground, Connect 4, 6<sup>th</sup> Class boys to help supervise and organise the younger boys. We decided to "think again"! We need games where it could be played as a group rather than 1 or 2. How would this work on a daily basis? How to organise rules? How many children can play at one time? How would it be supervised? There is a budget of €1000 for this project.

4.2 The Morning Club has started and has had a very welcomed response. There are about 40 people interested so far.

4.3 It was decided not to run with the Paypal idea for paying voluntary contributions this year. As the transactions would be treated as business, each €50 transferred would have a charge exceeding €2. So far, only 4 have paid electronically, so it would appear there was no great demand.

4.4 School Jumpers - the supplier has agreed to replace any inferior quality

jumpers which were bought this year. Higher quality jumpers are labeled Deerpark or Hunter. A letter will be sent a letter to all parents to explain the procedure to exchange faulty jumpers as a "one-off" deal. All faulty stock will be withdrawn from shelves. They will also replace any inferior quality tracksuit bottoms. We can now buy the tracksuit bottoms separate from the tops.

#### 5.0 **November Calendar**

5.1 Xmas card fundraiser - All classes will be involved in this project. The boys will draw their picture on a template and the drafts will be returned for approval. Each pack will cost the PTA €5 to produce and will sell at €8 for 1 pack, €15 for 2 and €7 for any additional pack.

5.2 Xmas Santa will visit this year on a fire truck with date to be set later.

5.3 Xmas Cake sale date set for Friday 9th December. There will be a café set up this year which the PTA will organise.

5.4 An extra Xmas Raffle this year may be organised this year.

5.5 Newsletter to be sent out to include details of cake sale with café, update donate-an-hour list, Xmas card fundraiser, jumpers and tracksuits.

#### 6.0 **AOB**

6.1 Proposals for new secondary school - it was discussed how important the decision of patronage for the new school would be. The school and the PTA must stay neutral but should help to highlight to parents that they should keep themselves informed about all possible choices. The school will distribute any leaflets etc from all parties concerned and inform parents of any meetings coming up in the town.

6.2 A new shelter at the end of the teacher car park was enquired about but it was decided there is no room and not safe for the children as the car park is already overcrowded.

6.3 Shoe Box Gift appeal will not go ahead this year due to economic times.

6.4 A suggestion was made for a 10 minute "fruit break" to try and encourage kids into making healthy eating choices. Also, it was suggested to reverse breaks to have the kids go out first, and then eat as this would make them hungrier and more relaxed when break time was over. Could we trial it for 1 week? A parent asked if the teachers could "remind" the kids to drink water more frequently. It will be discussed with the teachers at next Staff meeting

6.5 Discussed changing the day of the meeting from a Tuesday but it was decided to keep the same day.