



St. Raphaela's Secondary School

Parents' Association

Chairperson: Clare McIntyre
Treasurer: Kathryn O'Reilly
Secretary: Kathleen Fahey

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Tuesday 5th October, 2016

1. **Opening remarks by Chairperson Clare McIntyre**
 - Welcomed all especially new parents.
 - Thanked the outgoing committee members.
 - The Parent's Association:
 - Works with the school, maintaining relationship with the school on behalf of the general parent body - a relationship which has been excellent over the years.
 - Helps with the organization of various events throughout the year
 - Inputs to the web site to keep parents up to date and to advertise school events etc.
 - Is most visible in its fundraising role
 - Reminded all to sign up to CareMonkey and briefly explained its role in communication between the school and the parent – in an age where the old method of sending letters home with the students seems to be ineffective.
 - Invited new members to join the committee, setting out the membership requirements and duties involved.
 - Asked potential members to consider whether they could commit to the monthly meetings before signing up - as regular attendance was necessary to ensure the committee functions optimally.
2. **The minutes of 2015 AGM were taken as read and approved.** (Proposed by Grainne O Neill and seconded by Una Pender).

3. **Principal's Address**

- Advised meeting regarding the school's Anti-Bullying Policy
- Urged parents to look at the school's Facebook Page & Web-site for up to date information on the school and on the Committees activities.
- Thanked the outgoing committee members and those continuing
- Acknowledged the work done over the past year, and encouraged parents to participate in the committee and take the opportunity to contribute to change.
- Said the school was going through a bit of a golden era at present with 560 plus students (the highest enrolment in the history of the school) and a waiting list of applicants who could not be accommodated.
- Leaving and Junior cert results were very good this year with more than 20% of the final year's getting over 500 points. She was confident that the entire Leaving Cert group would get their first choice. Once collated, the results would be posted on the web-site.
- Five new classrooms have been added over the past year. This includes a computer room, a physics lab, upgraded Home Economics room.
- School is open to suggestions for improvements to the physical environment.
- A new sports hall is needed.
- Learning environment
 - A high priority is placed on student well-being – if this is in order academic success will follow. (St. Raphaela's is a Health Promoting School. This theme was the subject of an input from Joan Crawford of the HSE which is sponsoring this initiative. See below).
 - School offers full range of subjects to leaving cert - sciences, arts, and in addition Japanese and Applied Maths which are being taken by a number of students.
 - The academic side is complemented by a Guidance Department which works closely with all departments to improve the learning and well- being of all students.

4. **Board of Management Report**

- Peter Maxwell has been appointed as Board Chairman on the departure of outgoing chair Mick Sheridan.

5. **Treasurer Report**

- The Treasurer gave a report of the current status of the PA accounts.

6. **Address by Joan Crawford (HSE)**

Health Promoting School Initiative (HPS) sponsored by the HSE. This is defined as “a school that constantly strengthens its capacity as a healthy setting for living, learning and working”.

This is a long term initiative at primary and post primary levels to 'make the healthy choice the easy choice' for all involved in the school - students, parents staff.

The initiative proposes four areas for change for lasting results

1. Environment
2. Policy
3. SPHE (Social & Personal Health Education)
4. Developing partnerships

Having visited the school, met with students and teachers, carried out a survey among all parties involved and having also noted that the school is already active in the area of mental health the HSE decided to focus on the issue of healthy eating.

- Under this initiative a healthy eating policy will be developed and displayed in the school.
- Healthy eating options will be offered at the school and healthy eating messages will be developed. These will be posted on walls and laminated as table mats and other creative approaches will be explored to disseminate the message of healthy eating.
- Where possible small school gardens will be developed.
- Partnership programmes with bodies such as Safe Food, Heart Foundation and Dieticians Networks will be encouraged.
- Reform for well-being is included in the new Junior Cycle Curriculum (through SPHE/PE/and Home Economics).
- Once this module around healthy eating is embedded in the school under the four areas listed above a “flag” will be awarded to the school and a new module (e.g physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual aspects of health) will be addressed with the aim of creating a learning environment that supports health and healthy choices among the entire school body.

7. **A.O.B.**

No matters brought forward for discussion.

8. **Election of Parents Association representation for the 2016-17 academic year.**

A list of members attached.

9. Meeting closed and refreshments served.