

PFA AGM – Chairperson’s Inputs

19th June 2017

Introduction

- Hello everyone. My name is Geraldine D’Arcy. I am the chairperson of the Parents & Friends Association, for another hour in any case. This is my fourth, and last, year in an officer role on the PFA, and I have been involved with the PFA since 2007 when my elder daughter Olivia started in Scoil Barra. She’s now on her fourth week of summer holidays having finished first year in secondary school. My younger daughter Cara is in Mr Stokes’ fifth class and loving it.
- I’d like to welcome everyone here this evening, especially parents of Junior Infants and those attending for the first time. Thank you very much for coming. I’d also like to welcome our wonderful principal Donal O’Sullivan.
- This evening, we will
 - Do a review of the past school year - which the PFA Secretary Maura will present;
 - Report on the PFA finances and fund-raising activity - which the PFA Treasurer Frances Hannigan will present
 - Ask for nominations for officers and deputy officers for the Committee for the next school year
 - Elect new Deputy Officers where more than one nomination received for each role
 - Finally, we’ll give you a few dates for your diary.
- We’ll do our best to finish the meeting by 9 o’clock

The PFA

- The PFA plays a supporting role in the life of the school. We are involved in a number of different ways, the main aim being to help ensure that our children get the most out of their time in Scoil Barra. Maura will outline the various activities and events that we have been involved in throughout the past school year, which will give you a flavour of what we do. As parents, we benefit from our involvement in the PFA and we believe that our children also benefit from the work we do. We invite and encourage all parents to get involved - as much or as little as you would like - and we are always delighted to see new parents get involved. In fact, with so many parents who have been heavily involved in the PFA leaving last year and this year, it’s vital to get new parents involved!
- The PFA is affiliated to the National Parents’ Council – Primary, which provides useful guidance as well as training.

PFA Committee

- As you know, the *Committee* of the PFA organises and manages all of the work of the Association, including events, whereas the PFA or the *Association* is the wider group of parents and guardians who get involved in particular events. This wider group is usually asked to get

involved by the Committee as events are organised. You'll all have received texts from Maura this year so you're probably well aware of this!

- Please sign the Attendance Sheet that Maura is passing around, and provide your current email address and mobile phone number. If you would like to be on the PFA Committee for the coming year, please indicate this on the sheet. Thank you.

Minutes of PFA meetings

- The minutes of the last AGM comprised a review of the activities of the PFA during the 2015-2016 school year. It was decided at a previous AGM not to read out minutes of previous meetings but to have hard copies available.
- Maura has circulated hard copies of the Minutes for your review. Can those who attended last year's AGM please review them. We'll need someone to propose that the minutes be ratified. And someone else to second them. Thank you.

Overview of 2016/2017

- Handover to Maura for overview of activities in 2016/2017
- Handover to Frances to go through the Financial Report for 2016/2017

2017-2018 plans

- Last year, the AGM took place in October and we had a fairly clear view as to the plan for the school year. As it was decided to bring forward the AGM to June, to facilitate those parents leaving the PFA, this forward planning at the AGM is no longer possible! It will be up to the Committee to agree plans and communicate these to the Association at meetings in the new school year.
- Having said that, I'd imagine that the activity next year will be similar to the schedule of events that Maura outlined in her report for this school year, although we are all dying to hear whether there will be a musical next year!
- The officers will continue to keep the PFA webpage on the school website scoilbarra.ie updated, and also the PFA notice board in the JI corridor outside the staffroom.

Donal – Before I go any further, I'd just like to check whether Donal would like to make any comments?

Thank You

- Before we move on to the elections, I would like to thank all of you, the PFA, the Committee, and fellow officers Maura, Frances, Vera, Edel and Genevieve for your incredible commitment and all the work you've put in over the past year. It's been a great team effort.
- We would like to say a particularly big thank you to Frances and James making themselves available every Friday morning throughout the year to run and manage the school Credit Union for the children in the school. It is very much appreciated.

- We thank also the parent nominees on the Board of Management – James Hussey and Nicola Doherty. The work they do is very important and we thank them for providing a parents’ perspective to the work of the Board.
- We also thank Donal and all of the staff of the school very sincerely for everything they do for our children. We thank the secretary Eileen and also Deirdre as well as the caretakers Podge, Maura and Denis for their support in running PFA events throughout the year.
- Finally, and very importantly, on your behalf, I’d like to thank Maura Daly, Susan Murphy, Louise Wills, Margaret O’Driscoll and Noreen Healy who have contributed an enormous amount to the PFA and to the school over many years, whose children are moving on to secondary school. Noreen’s little lad Shane will be starting in September but, in fairness, Noreen deserves a bit of a break for a while having been with Scoil Barra for umpteen years now! I dread to think how many years you have all been involved in total – probably 50 or more years’ involvement between you! Most of you have had officer roles for a period of years as well as all the work you have done with the various events. You’ve become friends to many of us as well and we won’t lose touch, I’m sure. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.
- Forgive me, but I’d like to single out Maura, who has been a real joy to work with over the past four years. As a Committee, we’ve all worked so hard together but managed to have a lot of laughs and enjoyment along the way, and that’s what it’s all about. Maura, you have played an absolute blinder as secretary and contributed a lot to that fun factor. We have been very lucky to have you as involved as you have been. Thank you for everything.

Election of Officers and Deputy Officers

- As Maura and I have now fulfilled four years as secretary and chairperson, it is time to elect new officers for those roles. As Frances’ two years as Treasurer have come to an end, she will be also stepping down. We therefore need to fill all three officer roles.
- Edel was elected last year for a two-year term as deputy treasurer so she will be continuing in her role for another year. Vera and Genevieve are putting themselves forward for different roles this year so they are standing down from their deputy secretary and deputy chairperson roles so these need to be filled also. So we have two deputy officer roles to fill also.
- I will briefly explain the election process. To be elected, a member of the parent body who is present tonight needs to nominate or ‘propose’ an eligible person for each role and another parent needs to ‘second’ that person. If only one person is nominated for a role, that person is deemed elected. If there are two or more people nominated, a vote by secret ballot will be held. There is no voting by proxy. Frances (as Treasurer) and Edel will act as ‘Tellers’ if required. They will count the votes and announce the name of the elected officer/deputy officer. If there is an equal number of votes, we will ask the two nominees to speak and there will be a further vote to decide the outcome. The nominator can be logged as the ‘proposer’. We will therefore need someone else to ‘second’ each of the nominations.
- Taking each role in turn – seek nominations for the role of Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Deputy Chairperson, Deputy Secretary, and Deputy Treasurer. Note ‘seconders’ in each case. [Proceed to elect and/or vote as the case may be].

- Many congratulations to the new and re-elected Officers and Deputy Officers. You'll make a great team. Of course, we outgoing officers will give you every support in your roles and we wish you well.

Other

- Just a few more things before we finish up.
- Can I ask someone who attended last year's AGM and can verify that the minutes are accurate to propose adoption of the minutes please? Can someone else second that please? Thanks.
- The date of the PFA **Summer Social Night** is this Thursday 22nd June at Tradehouse Central. We'd love to see everyone there, particularly to say a huge thank you and farewell to Maura, Louise, Susan and Noreen who are leaving the PFA this year, so please let Maura know asap whether you will be attending. If you can't get the money in to Eileen by tomorrow morning, you can pay the **€8.50** on the night.
- There will be tea and coffee after the sixth class Mass on Friday 23rd in the Halla. Vera and I will be hosting that. Please do encourage parents of sixth class pupils to come over and have a cuppa and a biscuit as it can be a very emotional occasion and a chat to other parents may be needed!
- Thank you all for coming and all the very best in the future.