

# Cumann na dTuismitheoirí / Parents' Association Coláiste an Phiarsaigh

**Miontuairisc:**

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 8.30pm**

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<b>Lucht Freastail:</b>	<b>Micheál Ó Tuama Diarmuid Ó Rinn Collette Ní Fhinnagáin</b>	<b>Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan Nicola Uí Mhaoileoin Des Connolly</b>
<b>Lucht ar Líne</b>	<b>Josephine Sugrue Winnie Lynch Sharon Kellaway</b>	<b>Paula Roche          Helen Mannion Shelagh McCarthy   Peter Elaine Hill</b>
<b>Leithscéalta</b>	<b>Mark Chu Clíona Fergy</b>	<b>Catriona Hogan Twomey</b>

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**Minutes Issued by:** Nicola Uí Mhaoileoin

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**AGENDA:**

- Fáilte (Julie)**
- Apologies (Julie)**
- Minutes from previous meeting (Nicola)**
- Imeachtaí Scoile ón Príomhoide (Micheál)**
- Actions' List Update (Nicola)**
- Roll Call (Nicola)**
- AOB**
- Date for next meeting**

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## **Imeachtaí Scoile:**

1. 16-12-2023 Drama company, Seo Bothar, were onsite with B14 & B15
2. 19-12-2023 Movie with Meitheal & B11
3. 20-12-2023 Christmas Concert at school
4. 06-01-2023 Path of Pride painted on school ground
5. 09-01-2023 Junior Cycle training day for staff
6. 11-01-2023 Young Scientist Exhibition
7. 12-01-2023 170 B11 students travel to Dublin to the Young Scientist Exhibition

8. 14-01-2023 Incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Years' admissions morning
9. 16-01-2023 New Teachers joined the school for training experience, some of whom are past pupils

#### B14 Activities

1. 05-01-2023 Gardaí came to the school to speak to students about anti-social behaviour around the area by night and over the weekends.
2. 16-01-2023 All B14 students completed a law course with LawEd
3. 16-01-2023 – 18-01-2023 First Aid course to be completed by all B14 students
4. All students putting their CVs together
5. Work Experience 30-01-2023 – 10-02-2023

#### **WELCOME**

Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan welcomed everyone to this, the first meeting of 2023.

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Catriona Hogan Twomey, Clíona Fergy and Mark Chu.

#### **MINUTES**

The link minutes were sent to the Cumann Group by Nicola for review earlier today. They were then proposed by Collette and seconded by Des.

#### **BUILDING WORKS**

Mícheál had some wonderful news- the go ahead for the new Halla has been sanctioned by the department. A full fitness suite and extra classrooms have also been given the green light. It has taken a lot of effort to get to this stage (3 times back and forth) and everything we had originally requested has been granted. The Hall and Fitness suite alone could cost EUR3million. A question was raised about the timeline for this. Plans should be ready for submission by Mar/Apr 2023. Planning should then take approximately 9-10 months. By this time next year, we should have a contractor appointed. There will be a lot of disruption – moving classes around, some prefabs will no longer be available etc. Students and learning, however, remain the highest priority.

#### **ACTION LIST UPDATE**

Leggings – Mícheál had a sample of the proposed leggings. They will cost EUR40 and will be available from Keen House in the coming weeks should they be agreed up at this meeting. All present agreed to approve them.

Mícheál spoke to Liam in relation to possible changes to the Parent/Teacher setup (whereby there tends to be long queues at certain teachers, parents overstay the 3–4-minute window etc). The online booking system doesn't work for in person meetings – only for the phone call scenario. They are looking at the possibility of having more people 'on the ground' to help move things along. Julie asked if the Cumann could possibly help. Des wondered if there would be a possibility of a blended option – some in person, some over the phone? Mícheál explained this wouldn't be an option as the timeframe for Parent/Teacher meetings is set by the department and we cannot change the parameters. Nicola suggested even if we could change the setup for those teachers with more students and/or who are class teachers/teach more subjects etc. Collette agreed this is where the bottleneck occurs. Perhaps it would be an option to put a sign above those teachers to suggest parents are more cognisant of time constraints. Jerry wondered if everyone needs to meet all of the teachers. Mícheál suggested maybe we look at the conversations that needs to be had – parents are very invested and like to meet with everyone.

Shelagh highlighted that fact that it may not be as difficult the next time as these were the first in-person meetings in a while and people took their time. She found it to be a wonderful experience to sit in front of the teachers and talk to them and was happy to wait as long as necessary. Julie suggested, if possible, both parents split the teachers between them and speed up the process. Des suggested that as the teachers control the conversation, per se, perhaps they might suggest taking bigger issues offline to be discussed at another time. Mícheál mentioned that teachers become more savvy with experience and learn how to move people along more quickly. Nicola agreed and said the same is true of the parents – the more meetings they attend, the quicker they go around the room. Everyone agreed the queue tends to move more quickly at senior cycle.

Paula wondered if it would be possible for teachers who weren't present to contact parents at a later date.

Winnie suggested the list of teachers available on the day be given to students a couple of days beforehand so that parents may prepare in advance.

## **AOB**

### **Trath na gCeist**

Julie has spoken to some parents who mentioned they weren't aware of the quiz night, some of whom have businesses and would have been willing to donate prizes/vouchers etc. Julie has spoken with Joanne in District 11 who would be willing to open the venue to hosting the next event and provide food and a spot prize. Leila has also said she will be available for any graphic design requests in the future. Winnie suggested perhaps hosting another quiz night before the end of the school year as there is a venue available. There was a mixed reaction to this as November is seen as a great quiz night month and people may not be as interested with the brighter evenings. Julie suggested there is perhaps another option we haven't thought about.

### **Foothpaths**

Paula asked if the new school plans are to include some sort of footpath coming down Church Hill. Mícheál has looked for this before but the council have said there is a preservation order on that wall so it cannot be moved (which the school was willing to do) or broken into in order to create an entrance further up the hill. Everyone agrees it is very dangerous. There was suggestion of a pedestrian crossing at the turn from Church Hill towards Castle Jane. Mícheál will speak to Pádraig O'Sullivan in relation to this. Julie said they may be able to

extend the footpath further when carrying out this work. Helen asked if the new school plans would facilitate a crossing. Mícheál said yes there will be an entrance higher up.

### **ACTIONS**

1. Mícheál to contact Pádraig O’Sullivan in relation to the possibility of a Pedestrian Crossing on Church Hill for students.
2. In advance of the next Parent/Teacher meetings, the list of teachers be given to the students so as parents may be better prepared.

### **CLOSE**

In closing, Julie thanked everyone for attending and said it was regretful that not all people could join due to technical difficulties (there were some people who were able to attend another room but couldn’t join the main Teams’ room for some reason). Mícheál assured us this would be resolved for the next meeting which will take place (both in person and online via Teams) on 21st February 2023 at 8.30pm.

**Next Meeting Date:**

**Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 8.30pm**