

# Cumann na dTuismitheoirí / Parents' Association Coláiste an Phiarsaigh

Miontuairisc:

Tues 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 8.30pm

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<b>Lucht Freastail:</b>	<b>Micheál Ó Tuama Nicola Uí Mhaoileoin Collette Ní Fhinnegáin Mark Chu Mary Haslam</b>	<b>Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan Catriona Hogan-Twomey Josephine Sugrue Jerry Reen</b>
<b>Lucht ar Líne</b>	<b>Paula Roche Fiona McCormack</b>	<b>Winnie Lynch Domini Bn Mhic Oda</b>
<b>Leithscéalta</b>	<b>Des Connolly Tricia Ryan</b>	<b>Elaine Hill Cliona Fergy</b>

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**Minutes Issued by:** Nicola Uí Mhaoileoin

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**AGENDA:**

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

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## **WELCOME**

Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the 2023/2024 academic year. She thanked the officers for their hard work and also wished to thank Mícheál and all the staff for everything they do.

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Des, Tricia, Elaine and Cliona.

## **MINUTES**

Last month's minutes were proposed by Catriona and seconded by Collette.

## Imeachtaí Scoile:

1. 18-04-2024 Transition Year Musical
2. 18-04-2024 B11 Vaccinations
3. 22-04-2024 B15/6 talk on Consent
4. 23-04-2024 Scala spoke to the 2024/2025 Meitheal group
5. 25-04-2024 Staff Meeting
6. 29-04-2024 B14 trip to Ballyhass
7. 01-05-2024 Primary School Blitz
8. 02-05-2024 Quiz with Meitheal & B11
9. 13-05-2024 50 Year Celebration where a time capsule was buried, to be opened in 50 years. Every group from the school made a contribution: 1<sup>st</sup> Years a letter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Years a recording, 3<sup>rd</sup> Years covid masks, 4<sup>th</sup> Years props from their musical, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Years a map and plans for the new school, Teachers timetables, pictures, a diary and a flag. That marked the end of a year of fantastic celebrations.
10. 14-05-2024 Portfolio and B14 Interviews
11. 15-05-2024 B16 Graduation night in Vienna Woods
12. 15-05-2024 Marie Keating Foundation talk to TY
13. 16-05-2024 Transition Year to head to the Greenway in Waterford overnight
14. 19-05-2024 School prizegiving event for Leaving Cert and Junior Cycle achievements as well as In House awards next week.
15. 21-05-2024 B14 evening
16. 22-05-2024 Scifest
17. Gaisce trip to Allihies
18. 05-06-2024 LC and JC exams begin
19. 06-06-2024 Last Board of Management meeting of the academic year

Unfortunately, there will not be a Sports' Day this year as the track in UCC is currently closed and CIT is undergoing work.

## **ACTION LIST UPDATE**

- a. Mícheál spoke of various figures from the Musical and will speak with Des offline to arrange a donation. The group on the night agreed to this.
- b. Mícheál gave us an update on accommodation for boarders. Currently 8 students committing to remaining on as boarders next year. 2 will be leaving and one coming as a day student. Of the 8, 4 houses have been sourced. The contract has been shared with both the parents and the houses - all are happy. Mícheál is getting advice from Department to vet the house and people (garda vetting will be through the school). Josephine was speaking to TG4 to highlight the issue. Mícheál will talk to the department about how they could help with issue. He's also speaking to their press officers. Remote area boarding grant is inadequate as it only stretches to €145 a week (and you need to be over 45KM from the school to qualify). Currently the going rate would be €280 per week. Suggestions to speak with various groups such as An Coimisinéir Teanga, Conradh na Gaeilge, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Gaelscoileanna (patronage body for schools that provide education through Irish in primary and secondary) & Cogg.

Discriminating against students who have gone through the system to this date – then suddenly ask to go through English at the last hurdle.

Michael speak to Gaelscoileanna and highlight the Cumann have requested it, are awaiting a response and that this is extremely time sensitive.

Tús Áite – Facht na Ó Drisceoil – Julie will message him to see if he can cover an article in relation to this issue. All agreed that we need to push this through the media. Domini, the parent of two boarders (one who is finishing up and another going into 5<sup>th</sup> year) explained how the changes will be a difficult financial burden. She asked if she should contact the powers that be on her own behalf or should it be a group push. It was advised that everyone should be banging on every possible door both as individuals and as a group. Jerry concurred this is a serious issue that must be dealt with. He asked who the focal point would be to pursue. Mícheál suggested that we firstly pose the question to Gaelscoileanna and then go down the route they advise. Essentially, we want the Remote Grant to be adequate and hopefully Gaelscoileanna can point us in the correct direction.

## **FUNDRAISING**

When the group were discussing ideas for a fundraising night, Mícheál mentioned the table quiz was a great success a couple of years ago. Everyone agreed. The Castle was a great spot and very supportive. Discussing dates the week of the 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 would suit. Mícheál will check if anything is on at school (other than the 3<sup>rd</sup> year parent/teach meeting on 11<sup>th</sup>) and then contact Ronan in The Castle for availability for perhaps Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November with 14<sup>th</sup> as a backup date. The last time it was a Thursday evening from 7.30-10pm.

Nicola will check with Leila to see if she can recreate the poster and flyers for us.

## **AOB**

Jerry asked about a recording of last year's Transition Year Musical and can we follow up on this?

Mark Chu wanted to say this was his last meeting as his daughter would be completing her Leaving Cert this year. He wanted to thank everyone in the community, Coláiste was a great educational experience and his children thrived. He wished to thank the school for all they have done. Thanks also to the parents and the group here for the sense of community. In a professional capacity Mark and his wife, Sylvia, will continue to promote languages and would love to continue to support Coláiste.

In relation to rowing, Mark explained the school's regatta has moved back to O'Brien's Bridge (Limerick) which is far more accessible than Leitrim. Mark would be happy to continue to help.

Micheal sincerely thanked Mark for his help over the years.

Mary asked if there was a charge to the computers that the TY students are allowed to keep. Mícheál said there is not. She also wished to thank Mícheál for plugging the bus from Mayfield to Coláiste.

## **ACTIONS**

Mícheál to speak with Des to agree a donation for the TY Musical

Mícheál to speak with the Department of Education to see how they may be able to help with the issue of the closure of the boarding school

Mícheál to speak with Gaelscoileanna in relation to the boarding school issue

Julie to message Fachtna Ó Drisceoil to see if he will cover the issue of the boarding school closure in his show Tús Áite

Mícheál to source the copy of last year's TY musical

Mícheál to check with Ronan in The Castle in relation to available dates for a Table Quiz night

Nicola to contact Leila in relation to creating a flyer/poster for the Quiz event

## **CLOSE**

In closing, Julie, as chairperson and on behalf of Cumann and the officers, wished to thank Mark for his commitment down the years.

Julie again thanked Nicola and Des for their work throughout the year and wished everyone a happy summer.

We will work on a date over the summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

**Next Meeting Date:**

**TBC**