

# Minutes of BCC Parents Association AGM

**Held:** 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm in BCC & via MS Teams

**Minutes:** As there was no AGM in 2020 due to the Pandemic the Minutes of the 2019 AGM were read. There were no matters arising. The Minutes were approved by the meeting.

**Chairperson's Report:** Gerardine Egan, Chairperson of BCC Parents Association welcomed everyone to the AGM, including those present in the canteen and attending online. She outlined the PA's activities between October 2019 - November 2021:

The speaker at the 2019 AGM was Joe Slattery, Addiction Counselor. The following officers were elected at the November 2019 PA meeting:

Chairperson:	Gerardine Egan	Vice Chairperson:	Andrew Harding
Secretary:	Sinead O Regan	Assistant Secretary:	Darina Kelly
Treasurer:	David Lawless	Assistant Treasurer:	Deirdre O Brolchain

The Ball Wall and new dressing rooms were completed, funded by the Parents Association. The PA supported the week-long Book Fair in November which directly supports the purchase of books for the school library. The PA donated €500 to the annual Christmas Concert and parents volunteered on both nights with raffle and parking.

In February 2020 the PA made a presentation to retiring caretaker Eamon Brophy. In March 2020 the PA helped with catering and stewarding at the student-organised Tractor Run. In September 2020 the PA agreed to reduce the voluntary contribution from €50 per family per year to €30 as activities normally supported by the Levy weren't taking place such as after-school study, bus trips, matches etc.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions the next meeting of the PA was in March 2021. The new PE uniform gear for students was shown to the PA, and they endorsed the purchase of the uniform for students to wear on PE days and while representing BCC in other venues. Chris Young retired as the male parent rep on the Board of Management and as parent rep on the ETB. Dave Lawless was elected as the new male parent rep on the Board of Management. A school App was launched to enhance communication between school and parents. Features include school newsletters, Absence notes, events etc.

A function of the PA is to discuss school policies prior to ratification by the Board of Management. Two such policies were the Assessment policy and the Anti Bullying policy. In June 2021 the PA supported the Uniform Recycling evening event.

Gerardine thanked the PA officers, the committee including teacher reps Céire Hogan & Áine Shanahan, and the Board of Management parent reps. She thanked Principal Matthew Carr for his hard work and support of the Parents Association.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave Lawless presented the 2021 PA Accounts. As previously agreed, during 2021 the 2 PA bank accounts were closed and the monies transferred to a new PA Account, held within BCC ETB's Bank Account.

As of November 2021 there was €31,769.52 in the PA Account. This included 2020/21 Levies of € 6,840.00, and 21/22 Levies to date of €5,535.00. Both Levies were set at €30 per family per year due to the Pandemic.

**Principal's Address:** Principal Matthew Carr's presentation included updates on various aspects of the school as follows:

- Return to school progressing well despite ongoing Covid-19 restrictions
- Online meetings for parents were well supported
- All Junior Cycle subjects have now moved to the new assessment and grading programme
- Computer Science is now offered for Leaving Certificate
- Outline of the Assessment Policy per year group, and accessing all reports via ePortal
- Update on new PE Uniform and revised Uniform policy due to C19 restrictions
- Limited extra-curricular activities held due to restrictions
- €9000 fundraised for various charities
- Events held included Stand Up Week, staff training for supporting LGBTI community, Summer Provision Programme, a new Memorial Garden
- the school update parents on activities via school website, social media accounts, ePortal and the new iClass school App
- PA thanked for their support with supervised study; buses; views on policies in development; student activities; payment of levies.

Matthew thanked the PA officers Gerardine, Dave and Sinéad, Parent reps Deirdre and Dave, and all parents for their support of the school and school activities, and also for their feedback offered in various surveys.

**Election of Committee Members for school year 2021/22:** A number of parents put their names forward for the 2021/22 Parents Association committee. The 3 officers confirmed that they would not be seeking re-election for the incoming term. New officers to be proposed and elected at the first meeting of the new committee next month. Agreed date is 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

The AGM concluded at 8.15pm.

**2021 AGM Parents Talk:** Niamh O'Gorman, Youth and Community Engagement Worker with Jigsaw Tipperary, gave a talk to parents on the work of Jigsaw, and Jigsaw's 'One Good School' programme which is a whole school community approach to supporting young people's Mental Health and Wellbeing. She encouraged parents to go to the Jigsaw website and avail of their many free support resources for parents: [www.jigsaw.ie/information-and-elearning/](http://www.jigsaw.ie/information-and-elearning/)