

## PTA Meeting Minutes 27th February 2024

**Present:** Joanne (Chair), Susanna (Garden Coordinator), Sarah (Parent Rep Coordinator), Claire (Co-Parent Rep Coordinator), Sally (Parent), Gabriele (Parent), Kelda (Parent), Raymond (Principal), Laura (Teacher Representative).

**Apologies:** Pauline, Ola

**Previous meeting's minutes were proposed by Sarah and seconded by Susanna.**

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| Item 1: Financial Update          | Financial update was provided. Noted that we need to get more signatories from the PTA to be able to access the account more easily.  | <b>Action:</b><br>Raymond to check what is owed to the school from the PTA.<br>Joanne to follow up with Julie about the signatories.   |
| Item 2: Parent Rep Update         | No update.  |  |
| Item 3: Garden Update             | Friday gardening started back on the 23rd Feb. Ongoing issue of not enough volunteers. Need for improved storage in shed. Need some more tools. One of the beds in zone 1 needs fixing. Not possible to have volunteers from outside of the school community. | <b>Action:</b><br>Susanna to make list of things needed to be bought and send to school for approval.<br>Susanna to get quote for cost of bed to be fixed.<br>Joanne to send a message through Dojo saying more volunteers are needed for gardening to go ahead. |
| Item 4: Smart Phone Survey Update | New government guidelines released can be viewed here: <a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ece25-keeping-childhood-smartph-one-free/">https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ece25-keeping-childhood-smartph-one-free/</a>                                  | <b>Action:</b> Raymond will arrange an evening meeting with interested parents over the next few weeks.  |
| Item 5: Disco                     | Disco is booked for 15th March. It was noted that the discos are still too loud. We will try having the Sensory Friendly Disco session from 6-6.30pm, for all ages. The   | <b>Action:</b> PTA will create flyer to advertise volunteers needed and donation of baked goods required.  |

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|                     | shop will be open from the beginning.  |  |
| Item 6: Bus Engines | A lot of parents commented that buses seem to have their engines running for a long time between 2-2.30pm. The fumes from engines idling is a significant pollutant and health risk.   | <b>Action:</b> Raymond will remind bus drivers to turn engines off until necessary.                    |
| Item 7: Homework    | Parents have expressed concerns about whether homework is beneficial. It was presented that homework can be an added stress to homelife with no real benefit. A secondary concern with the current homework policy around punishment of children who have not completed their homework, was felt not to be in line with Educate Together child-centred ethos. Current research suggests minimising homework to be more beneficial for child development. | <b>Action:</b> Raymond will bring the concerns of parents to the next staff meeting and board meeting. |
| Item 8: SWAP Event  | Event went well, raised €110. €55 has been sent to Friends of Earth charity.   |  |
| AOB:                | Website is due to be reviewed. Minutes from PTA meetings will be put on the website also. Mentioned that newsletter can be hard to read/access for some people on Aladdin.   |  |

**Next meeting will be Tuesday 16th April at 7pm.**