

## Report of Parents' Council Meeting

6 May 2015

Attendance:

Mary Fox                      Orla Gallagher  
Elizabeth Doyle              Bernie Cullen  
Mai Fanning                    Eilish Culleton  
Joanne Beaver                Madeleine Cleary  
Mary O'Leary                 Patricia Nolan  
Lynn Quigley                 Theresa Doyle  
Lucy Carthy                    Yvonne Keegan (Teacher Rep)

Apologies:

Barbara Foley                Marian O'Leary

	Agenda	Comments and actions agreed
1.	Correspondence	Letter received from a travel company in Co. Clare that specialises in school tours to the Camino – letter given to Yvonne to pass on to Elaine Kinsella, TY coordinator.
2.	Principal's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion document on the First Year Timetable Review circulated to members. Committee discussed options and were asked to email Barbara with their comments within a week for Barbara to bring back to Friday group. Liz to email documents to members not present at meeting</li><li>• Mary passed on Mr. O'Shea's thanks to the committee for their work during the year, especially for help with Careers' Night and Mock Interviews</li></ul>
3.	Prizegiving	End of year Prizegiving ceremony to take place on Tuesday 12th May. Mai and Joanne to attend.
4.	Exam Snacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mary to organise Stable Diet bars and water for all Leaving and Junior Cert students for the first day of exams, 3rd June</li><li>• Mary O'Leary, Catherine Berney, Eilish Culleton, Mai Fanning and Joanne Beaver volunteered to</li></ul>

		give out snacks (from 8:15am)
5.	Second Hand Book Sale	Date confirmed, Saturday 20th June. 10:30am set up, 11am start
6.	Treasurers' Report	€1,022 in current account
7.	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoliosis screening – rescheduled date 29th September 2015. Available for all girls up to 16 years</li> <li>• AGM 6th October 2015 – John Lonergan (former governor Mountjoy Jail) confirmed speaker</li> <li>• Mary to make enquiries re Flower Demonstration as a fundraiser towards gift for new school. Suggestion to run a coffee morning in September as a fundraiser</li> <li>• Mary to ask Billy to put date for Mass for exam students from all schools on website for parents' information</li> <li>• Lucy Carthy stepping down as treasurer</li> <li>• Patricia Nolan, Catherine Berney and Elizabeth Doyle all finished on committee as daughters Leaving Cert students. Position of secretary vacant</li> <li>• Mary expressed her thanks to the committee members for their work during the year and to Yvonne Keegan, Teacher Rep. Brian Kilbride will be next year's Teacher Rep.</li> <li>• End of year night out for Parents' Council Friday 22nd May in The Yard. Mary to book.</li> </ul>

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## Report of Parents' Council Meeting

**25 March 2015**

Present:

Mary Fox	Mai Fanning
Barbara Foley	Madeline Cleary
Lynn Quigley	Joanne Beaver
Lucy Carty	Yvonne Keegan (Teachers' Rep.)
Theresa Doyle	Elizabeth Doyle

Apologies:

Bernie Cullen

	Agenda	Comments and Actions Agreed
1.	Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A request was made by Ann O’Gorman for the Parents’ Council to sponsor (as in previous years) the Sports Achievement Award for the school prize-giving ceremony. Committee agreed to sponsorship of €100</li> <li>• Notification received that the County Wexford Community Forum ceased to operate from January 2015 (Loreto Parents’ Council was a member)</li> </ul>
2.	Feedback from Mock Interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. O’Shea extended sincere thanks to all those who helped on the night</li> <li>• Feedback, to date, from interviews has been very positive</li> <li>• Barbara has requested written feedback from interviewers. She will take note of feedback for Mr. O’Shea and Ms. Foley and will also circulate to PC members at next meeting</li> <li>• Suggestion made and agreed that PC members be available to interview in the event of last minute cry-offs</li> <li>• Suggestion to avoid having date of Mock Interviews too close to TY trip</li> <li>• Thanks extended to committee members who helped with teas and the clean up afterwards</li> <li>• Thanks extended to Barbara for all work done this year and other years with organising people to carry out the interviews</li> </ul>
3.	Principal’s Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. O’Shea referred PC members to recent Letter to Families 13.3.2015 for latest school news</li> <li>• Sincere thanks extended to all those who helped out with</li> </ul>

		<p>Mock Interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary and Barbara met with Mr. O' Shea and discussed recent episode of overcrowding in evening study which has been addressed and Mr. O'Shea has had discussion re same with Ms Griffin</li> </ul>
4.	Prize Giving Ceremony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prize giving ceremony to be held in Rowe St Church on Tuesday 12 May. Mai to represent Parents' Council</li> </ul>
5.	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoliosis Screening – HSE ceased scoliosis screening in 2011. A date has been scheduled (22nd September 2015) for a qualified nurse to do voluntary screening at a cost of €3 per student. School has undertaken necessary administration. It was noted that the above date may need to be changed as it clashes with the Ploughing Championship</li> <li>• Financial statement: €1,028.85 in the PC account on 23rd January 2015</li> <li>- Discussion re optimising return from €10 family donation to Parents 'Council with one PC member to act as coordinator</li> <li>- Suggestion made that committee hold a fundraising event e.g. coffee morning or flower arranging demonstration with a view to making a presentation of a gift to the new school</li> <li>Committee members to follow up on ideas</li> <li>• Second hand book sale – date set for Saturday, 20 June 2015</li> <li>• Ideas sought for guest speaker for AGM in October</li> </ul>

Next meeting Wednesday, 6 May 2015 at 7:30pm

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## Report of Parents' Council Meeting

26 January 2015

Present:

Eilish Culleton	Madeleine Cleary
Theresa Doyle	Lynn Quigley
Barbara Foley	Mary Fox
Elizabeth Doyle	Catherine Berney
Mary O'Leary	Mai Fanning
Orla Gallagher	Yvonne Keegan (Teacher Rep)

Apologies:

Joanne Beaver	Bernie Cullen
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Lucy Carty

Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting including the teacher representative Yvonne Keegan.

	Agenda	Comments and Actions agreed
1.	Correspondence	Receipt received from Glenda for Christmas lunch
2.	Recommendations for policy on prefects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agreement on suggestion of student giving brief presentation</li><li>• Suggestion that senior prefects only supervise lunch queues</li><li>• Cara system – discussed by members</li><li>• Barbara to revert to Mr O'Shea and Policy Committee</li></ul>
3.	Update from recent meeting with Mr O'Shea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hand hygiene</li></ul> <p>- Posters re hand washing to be put up</p> <p>- Hand gel at various locations in school</p> <p>- Use swipe card rather than pinning in number when registering attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Committee informed about how announcement of bereavements/bad news is dealt with by school</li><li>• Timing of Christmas exams discussed again – PC members felt exams are set too early in term: also impacts on value</li></ul>

		of evening study in run up to holiday. Mary and Barbara to revert to Mr O'Shea
4.	Christmas lunch	Attended by prefects, student council members and PC members
5.	Treasurer's Report	No report – treasurer absent
6.	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mock Interviews scheduled for Thursday, 19 March, 7 to 9 pm. Barbara to send emails requesting volunteers</li> <li>• Next meeting Monday, 16 March 2015 at 7.30pm</li> </ul>

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## Report of Parents' Council Meeting

1 December 2014

Present:

Mary Fox	Patrick Clancy
Barbara Foley	Elizabeth Doyle
Joanne Beaver	Lynn Quigley
Patricia Nolan	Marian O'Leary
Eilish Culleton	Mai Fanning
Madeleine Cleary	Orlagh Gallagher
Catherine Berney	

Apologies:

Teresa Doyle

Mary welcomed the three new members to the Parents' Council – Catherine Berney, Lynn Quigley and Marian O'Leary. Yvonne Keegan is the teacher representative for this year.

	Agenda	Comments and Actions agreed
1.	Mobile phone policy	A new mobile phone policy is to be put in place – no changes proposed by PC.
2.	Fundraising	Suggestion of running a raffle was made and discussed – no decision taken.
3.	NPC Conference	Mai Fanning attended the National Parents' Council Conference in Tullamore <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Useful workshop on use of social media</li><li>- Suggestion made re module in TY on use of social media</li><li>- NPC taking names for training for Parents' Associations</li></ul>
4.	Food Hygiene Training for TY	Barbara advised committee re availability through the Environmental Health Officers Association of free training package in food hygiene for Science/HE teacher. Students can undergo 12 hours training and sit exam (cost €15). Suggestion as option for TY. Mary and Barbara to discuss with Billy.
5.	Christmas lunch	Parents' Council member, prefects, student council members and

		teacher Aileen Gunning to have Christmas lunch on Monday 8th December at 12.30pm
6.	Cheese and wine night feedback	Sixty parents attended and feedback was positive. Plan to be annual event. Thanks to helpers and Pettitt's for supplying glasses with the wine.
7.	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestion made that an Infection Control Nurse would speak to TY students on hand hygiene.</li> <li>• Attention brought to the article in the Irish Times Health Supplement on Tuesday, 25 November on the Stress Management Day for 6th Years.</li> <li>• Soar group for TY in November was very well received.</li> <li>• Dates of Christmas tests – Mary and Barbara to discuss with Billy.</li> <li>• Patrick Clancy BOM Rep advised committee of recent BOM meeting re new admissions criteria for September 2015 – future changes may take place in line with national guidelines.</li> <li>• Letter received from Joan Freeman Pieta House thanking PC for €200 donation following Joan's talk at the PC AGM.</li> <li>• Healthy eating/vending machines – students and Friday group to monitor. Glenda to supply freshly made sandwiches daily.</li> <li>• Next meeting: Monday, 26 January 2015 at 7.30pm</li> </ul>

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## Report of Parents' Council Meeting

15 October 2014

Present:

Mary Fox                      Bernie Cullen  
Barbara Foley                Patricia Nolan  
Lucy Carthy                  Madeleine Cleary  
Elizabeth Doyle              Eilish Culleton  
Mary O'Leary                Joanne Beaver

Apologies:

Billy O'Shea (Principal)    Mai Fanning  
Theresa Doyle                Patrick Clancy  
Orla Gallagher

Eamon Mullins has stepped down from Parents' Council

	Agenda	Comments and Actions Agreed
1.	Minutes	Minutes of last meeting adopted
2.	First Year Social Night	First year parents' social night (cheese and wine) scheduled for Monday, 10 November 7:30pm-9:30pm. Mary Fox, Joanne, Eilish, Patricia, Madeleine, Liz and Mary O'Leary to attend on night. Barbara to order cheese and wine from Pettit's.
3.	TY trip to Young Scientists Exhibition	Trip to Young Scientists Exhibition scheduled into this year's TY calendar.
4.	Feedback from Careers Evening	Inaugural careers night for 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> year students on 9 October. 70 people represented 50 careers and attended by 200 students. Night was very successful and attendance of all volunteers was very much appreciated. Discussion re what school year would be most beneficial to attend careers night and how to improve for the next night (in 2 years time)
5.	NPC Conference	National Parents' Council Conference to be held in Tullamore on 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2014. It is to be a one day event (10am-4pm) with no charge for attendees. Secretary to contact PC members to see if anyone can attend event
6.	Election of new officers	Final decision re. election of officers to be taken at next meeting on 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2014.

Next meeting: Monday, 1 December 2014 at 7.30pm

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## Report of Parents' Council A.G.M.

13 October 2014

64 parents in attendance

Apologies: Mary Fox, Deirdre Carr, Eamon Mullins

	Correspondence	Comments & Actions agreed
1.	Minutes of AGM 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2013	Minutes adopted. Proposed by Mary O'Leary and seconded by Patricia Nolan.
2.	Chairperson's address	<p>Vice-chairperson Barbara Foley gave address in Mary's absence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcomed everyone to AGM</li> <li>• Monthly meetings held</li> <li>• Aim of Parents' Council (P.C.) to compliment excellent work of school.</li> <li>• Calendar of events outlined</li> </ul> <p>First year parents social night November</p> <p>National Parents' Council Conference</p> <p>Christmas lunch with Students' Council</p> <p>Mock interviews for TY students</p> <p>End of year prize-giving – sponsor a prize</p> <p>Snacks for exams</p> <p>Careers night – held for first time this year for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students. 200 pupils attended with 74 people representing 50 careers. Thanks to all who supported event</p> <p>Second Hand Book Sale at end of year</p> <p>Thanks extended to PC committee members, Billy O'Shea Principal, Enda O'Sullivan Teachers Rep last year and to Noeleen, Betty, Jim and Glenda</p>
3.	Principal's Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. O'Shea thanked the Parents' Council for work done throughout the year. He highlighted the recent Careers Night, and thanked especially Mary and Barbara for their involvement in the organisation, mock interviews for 4th years and the First Year Social Night which is a welcome new event in the past two years.</li> <li>• Planning permission has been granted for the new school. The procurement process is underway with construction work to start summer 2015 and completion expected in late 2016. School will accommodate 900 students (current enrolment 720). Thanks extended to all, including various Boards of Managements, who assisted on the way.</li> <li>• Redevelopment of school website. It is the school's main means of</li> </ul>

		<p>communication with school news, the school calendar and letters to parents included. Also new Loreto app recently launched. Parents are encouraged to regularly consult website/app.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any concerns, especially to do with bullying, parents are asked to please contact the school (class teacher, care team, Sr. Carmel)</li> <li>• Results of comparisons of exam results with schools nationally place Loreto Wexford above the national average for uptake of higher level subjects, above national average for A grades in most subjects and above national average in all subjects for achieving grades A, B and C. Mr. O'Shea emphasised that exam results is only one aspect of school and aim is for the 6 years to be happy and successful for all students. An Academic Tracking System has been introduced. Sten scores from primary school, 1<sup>st</sup> year aptitude tests, DATS tests in 4<sup>th</sup> year, Junior Cert and Leaving Cert results are all inputted to a software package which allows the student's progress to be monitored.</li> <li>• Mr. O'Shea acknowledged the excellent behaviour of students and thanked parents and students.</li> <li>• Thanks to parents for ongoing financial support – 99% of administration fee paid and voluntary contribution marginally ahead of budget.</li> <li>• Feedback from TY parents re introduction of a fixed charge is positive. Mr. O'Shea added that lack of finances in any family should not jeopardise any girl's involvement in school activity. A family in financial difficulty can contact Noeleen (Secretary) or Mr. O'Shea in strict confidence.</li> <li>• Vending machines are to be retained in school and a HSE dietician has been consulted to advise on healthy food policy which will be implemented shortly.</li> </ul>
4.	Treasurer's Report	Financial statement was circulated. Closing balance 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2014 €1736.20
5.	Policy Committee Report	<p>Barbara Foley outlined items covered by Policy Committee in past school year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New schools admissions policy from 2015</li> <li>• WSE/MLL – school improvement plan being implemented in areas of Numeracy and Literacy and recent introduction of Academic Tracking System</li> <li>• Anti-Bullying Policy with set up of dedicated Student Support Team in school</li> <li>• Uniform survey – 227 responses with decision to maintain current uniform with crest</li> <li>• School website redesigned to increase use</li> <li>• Healthy Eating Policy in consultation with HSE dietician</li> </ul>
6.	Guest Speaker	Joan Freeman founder of Pieta House spoke on Suicide and Self Harm.

Meeting concluded

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**Loreto Parent's Council A.G.M.**

**Monday,13 October 2014**

**7.30 pm**

**Concert Hall**

**Agenda**

1. Minutes of last year's AGM
2. Chairperson's Address
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Report from Policy Committee
5. Principal's Address
6. Guest Speaker: Joan Freeman (Pieta House) - Self Harm and Suicide
7. Any other business

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