

**Dundalk Grammar School  
Parent Teacher Association  
Minutes of Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday 12 October 2016 at 7.00**

**Agenda**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. Correspondence
4. Headmaster's report
5. Chairperson's address
6. Secretary's report
7. Treasurer's report
8. Report from Compass representative
9. Amendment to PTA Constitution to increase number of parent reps
10. Nominations and election of Parents to the PTA Committee
11. Nomination and election of Parents representatives to the Board of Management
12. AOB

**Present:** Claire Cox, Trish McKeague, Philip Keegan, Marie Brady, Philomena Gilmore, Shay Clarke, Irene Goodwin, Liz O'Reilly, Cynthia Iso Idemuda, Karen Coleman, Jane Graham, Anne Mathews, Ori Stokes, Paulo Stokes, Colin Smith, Estella O'Brien, Paula Flannagan, Jeff Sweetman, Grainne Honan, Paula Brooks, Brendan Howard, Aisling Mitchell, Shane Bennett, Jonathan Graham, Rory McKeague, Des Halpenny.

**Apologies:** Paul Brady

The meeting started with a welcome address from the Chairperson, Claire Cox. Claire outlined the aims of the PTA and explained that every parent is a member.

Claire went on to introduce the **Guest Speaker** for the evening, **Mr. Rory McKeague** and his topic "**Using Assessment to Enhance Teaching and Learning**". Rory explained that this was of great interest to parents in light of the changes to the current Junior Certificate curriculum in certain subjects. This talk was very well received and parents had a chance at the end to ask questions.

**Previous Minutes:** The minutes from the previous meeting were handed out for parents to read and were agreed. These were proposed by Marie Brady and seconded by Philomena Gilmore.

**Correspondence:** A letter was received from the head of the Irish Department Ms. Hamill acknowledging receipt of two scholarships worth €250 each for students which she felt was very well received by pupils and would ask that this continue next year.

A letter was received from Matt Dempsey, Chairperson of the RDS, who hosted a recent sports talk in the Grammar School, to say he enjoyed his evening and inviting us to visit the RDS at any time.

**Headmasters Report:** Mr. Graham gave a report of the Academic, Cultural and Sports achievements during the year.(a copy of the report was given to all present) He also spoke briefly about the upcoming school open day. Mr. Graham explained that there is a new school website and the school was also using Twitter to show events as they happen in the school.

**Chairperson's Address:** Claire welcomed Mr. Graham as our new Headmaster and said a fond farewell to Mr. Drury and Ms. Meagher who both had a huge input into the building of the new school. Claire wished Mr. Drury well in his retirement and explained that the PTA had presented him with a small gift before he left. Claire also wished Mr. Graham and Mr. McKeague the very best in their new roles. Claire then explained that the PTA was growing and we would welcome extra people on to the committee to help with projects.

**Secretary's Report:** Philomena outlined what the PTA had achieved during the year. There were six meetings from November to September. During that time the PTA met with the Student Council. We gave money to the English Department towards creative writing. We gave two scholarships to the Irish Department towards students attending the Gaeltacht. The PTA helped out with interviews for the Transition Year students. Parents helped out with the end of year second hand uniform sale which raised €400. We paid Compass affiliation fee €200. Insurance cost €157.00 and we gave the gift to Mr. Drury. We also sponsored the Sports Talk held in the school in September 2016.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer Shay Clarke presented the accounts. Funds stand at €11,449.81.

**Compass Report:** Shane Bennett is our representative on Compass and attends a number of meetings throughout the year and reports back to the PTA with information regarding same. Shane reported that Dundalk Grammar School will be hosting an interactive meeting in November and the guest speaker will be Donal O'Shea. Shane gave a report about last year's interactive where the guest speaker was Lord Putney which was very well supported. Shane explained that a retreat was held last year attended by nineteen schools. Two students from Dundalk Grammar School attended.

**New Nominations to the PTA:** The PTA agreed to increase its members from ten to twelve. Liz O'Reilly was nominated, proposed by Claire Cox and seconded by Marie Brady. Rosemary Matthews was nominated, proposed by Shay Clarke and seconded by Philomena Gilmore. Philomena Gilmore was nominated as PTA representative for to the Board of Management, proposed by Philip Keegan and seconded by Shane Bennett. Philip Keegan was nominated to the Board of Management for a second term, proposed by Claire Cox and seconded by Marie Brady. The Chairperson welcomed the new PTA members and thanked both Philip Keegan and Julie Carr for their service in representing the parents on the Board of Management for the last 3 years.

**AOB :** One parent asked could the boarding students change into something more comfortable after school in the boarding house. Mr. Graham explained that this is currently being looked into and he would come back to boarding parents as soon as possible.

A parent asked about the Junior Certificate English and Mr. Graham explained that at the moment all preparations were being done in class so that students would be able to be examined on 100% of the exam should the current difficulties be solved. He will keep 3<sup>rd</sup> year parents informed re the issues surrounding the junior cert English curriculum and the ongoing ASTI dispute.

**Committee members 2016-2017:**

Claire Cox, Philip Keegan, Shane Bennett, Marie Brady, Des Halpenny, Philomena Gilmore, Shay Clarke, Carolyn Solanke, Cynthia Iso Idemuda, Orla McMahon, Liz O'Reilly, Rosemary Mathews.