**Le Cheile PTA – Meeting Minutes**

23rd February 2016

Attendees: Sharon Hanaway, Tess Martin, Lara Synott McAvoy, Stephanie Comey, Stanolas Gely, Trisha McDonnell, Fiona Roberston, Helen Clinton Hall, Denise Levins, Cara Driscoll, Priscilla O’Brien, Kirsten Feehan, Patricia Ryan, Barbara O’Connell, Orla Bukre, Johnathan Murphy, Nicola Kidd-Nigro, Nicola Kelly, Joanne Campbell, Rachel Levins, Ian Casey, Lesley Mccann

Apologies: Laura Whelan, Louise Reilly-Ryan

1. Actions from Last Meeting
	* Decision on Fun Day
* **Action:** Fiona Robertson to discuss with fund raising committee on the calendar of events for the rest of the year.  **Update:** As the FRC Golf Tournament is scheduled for 12/06/16, when the fun day would occur, it was agreed that we would park the fun day for 2016, with the hope of it returning in 2017. It was also highlighted that the summer camp might be opened to new junior infants about to start in Le Cheile. **Action**: Fiona Robertson to confirm with Fiona Rock this will occur.
	+ Update on School Rep Emails
* **Action**: Ian Casey to resend class rep emails to Priscilla O’Brien, Tess Martin & Stephanie Philips. **Update 24.02.2016**: Completed. **Closed**
* **Action**: Ian Casey to publish class rep emails with note on facebook/ website.
	+ Book Fair
* Volunteers to assist in running book fair required. Any volunteers should email lecheileptasec@gmail.com. **Action**: Ian Casey to publish ask for volunteers on facebook/ website
* **Action**: Book Fair team to work with Genevieve Damron to manage collections
	+ Other Items:
* **Action carried forward**: Nicola K to ask the school whether school will organise for the 2017 exhibition.
1. Insurance and using Event Brite
* Using Event Brite was discussed, but discounted as the charge per Event Brite entry is proportionally too high to the overall insurance cost. Aladdin will be assessed as a potential option
* **Action**: Nicola Kelly to confirm with Geraldine whether Aladdin could be used for Insurance, mind there is a need to obtain an acknowledgement from parents at point of entry into Aladdin
1. Easter News Letter
* On target
* **Action**: Trish Ryan to confirm with teachers that closing date for submissions is 11/03/2016
1. New PTA Members
* The importance of having new PTA members was discussed. New ideas and fresh perspectives was clearly advantageous last year, but this year the PTA has not really attracted many new joiners.
* **Action**: All PTA attendees to reach out to any friends they have, with particular importance placed on new parents to Le Cheile, to see if we can encourage new attendees.
1. School Disco
* **Action**: Joanne Campbell to finalise date for disco
1. Library Update
	* New books are arriving and there will be a World Book Day next week. No issues.
2. The Buddy Bench - Through Buddy Bench Ireland (Sam Synnott 087 3816709) . 400 euros and will deliver and paint the bench and will come to the school to deliver the programme which is centred around a book based on friendship empathy & including others. Danesfort NS in Kilkenny are one school who would be a reference.
* The buddy bench was discussed in detail and it was agreed that the PTA would fully support this being implemented. The teachers had already separately started discussing this too
* **Action**: Nicola Kelly to confirm with the teachers what would be required to progress the buddy bench
1. Other items
* An additional PTA PR rep is required to work with the school PR team. **Action**: Fiona Roberston to publish ask for PTA PR Rep on facebook/ website. Anyone interested should email lecheileptasec@gmail.com
* Publishing in the Meath Coaster has proved challenging in the past. **Action**: Barbara O’Connell to enquire is there anything the school could do to improve its chances of having articles published in the Meath Coaster **Update**: There was an issue with the content of that one article because it involved Turkey, and the paper has concerns about the political regime in Turkey. Le Chéile can have a regular slot, as long as the article is filed on time, and he has no space restrictions. **Closed**
* Food buddies/ Healthy Foods – It was highlighted that there has not been much focus on the food health in this term and junk food was starting to creep back into the school. Nicola Kelly mentioned that this may just be a prioritisation issue against other school initiatives. In addition, it was suggested that healthy food communications to parents could also be useful. **Action**: Nicola Kelly to discuss with teachers what can be re-introduced for healthy foods.
* The school website and school log change were discussed. It was highlighted that it is unclear who is responsible for this and why parents skilled in this field are not be utilised more by the school. **Action**: Cara Driscoll to check with the BOM as to who is responsible for the school website, how are their services being funded and, if they are being funded from school funds, whether the BOM could engage more with the PTA and parents who have skills in design to complete future website/ logo design changes (on a volunteer basis). **Update 24.02.2016**: The website is being overhauled by a parent- Tydal Cannon. **Closed**
* It was highlighted that parents are asked to pay for children to go on GAA trips when they are representing the school, i.e. on the GAA school teams and that this should be considered by the BOM for funding by the school. **Action**: Cara Driscoll to raise this request by the parents to the BOM for a decision
* The FRC representative highlighted that there is not much transparency on how funds raised are being spent. **Action**: Cara Driscoll to discuss with the BOM what steps the BOM can undertake to increase the transparency on how funds raised are being spent, in particular to the FRC
1. Next PTA: Tuesday 6th April 2016, 20:00