**Minutes Parents Association AGM 9th November 2023**

**Meeting held after Parents had opportunity to explore the school and New Sensory Room**

Committee Attendance: Carol Phylan, Pamela Boland, Louise Hatton, Joanne Delaney, Coleen Cooper, Claire Ruth , Aine Doyle + 9 parents

Apologies : Ann Delaney, Suzanne O’Gorman, Caitriona Doyle, Vanessa Fortune, Petra Bodo.

Meeting was opened and everyone was welcomed.

Carol read the minutes of last year’s AGM. No matters arising. The minutes were proposed by Pamela and seconded by Joanne.

**Chairperson’s report:**

Carol explained that every parent/ guardian of a child in Caim school is a member of the PA and that a committee is elected at the AGM to work on their behalf. Outlined our role on the PA committee is to help the school in whatever way we can in terms of assisting with activities, organising events and fundraisers. Involvement with school celebrations/ social occasions and are always fun enjoyable events for parents to be part of. Typically, the committee meets 4-5 times per year and communication is via WhatsApp group. Fundraising goals/ projects are agreed with the school and all funds used for the purpose of which raised. Last year the big fundraiser was a race night with funds put towards the New Sensory Room. The massive contribution of Aine and Colin Flynn in the organising and promotion of the Race night was acknowledged. The Easter raffle is the big annual fundraiser and over the years monies have gone towards interactive boards, funday and school tour buses.

**Financial Report**:

Pamela presented the year was the Easter raffle. The full report is attached - summary as follows:

€693 opening balance

Income €10,206.72 ( Race night, Easter Raffle)

Expenses €10,004.78 (Sensory room, School Buses, Graduation, Carol Service)

€895.94 closing balance.

Pamela thanked all parents for their support and reminded that copies of treasurer’s report are available by request via email.

**The Principals/School Update:**

Aine welcomed & thanked the committee and everyone for coming. Spoke about the school being a busy place throughout the year with eg Rackard League, Mini 7s, Mobile library, Aistear activities, maths week. Recently the school have done Christmas Cards which will be for sale and also involved in the Christmas shoebox appeal. Parents are always welcome to volunteer either to supervise or share a skill Garda Vetting is required and some already vetted may be expired, so please contact Liz in the office for forms.

New Board or Management: The current Board of Management is coming to the end of its term in December, and the new board will then take over. The BOM has representatives from teachers, parents, and community. Aine thanked the parents that put themselves forward for nomination and confirmed Pamela Boland and PJ Howlin were elected Parents Representative on the BOM. There are changes to all BOMs in all school in the Diocese and the Priest, Fr Fegan, is no longer the Chair, Julie Slevin in the New Chairperson on the Caim School Board of Management.

Curriculum:

Aine spoke about the new music programme Dabbledoo that the school have invested in and are using. It’s website based music lessons and activities developed for Irish Primary schools. Its been very positive and students and teachers are enjoying.

The New Primary Maths curriculum is also being introduced and it’s a more fun, creative way of teaching practical Maths with opportunities for reasoning and solving real-life problems. There is an in-service Training day for staff on Nov 23rd and the school will be closed.

Dates for Diary:

Parent Teacher Meeting 14th – 15th Nov 2023

Maths In-Service Training day - School closed 23rd Nov 2023

Christmas Concert Wed 13th & Thurs 14th December – This will be in the Community Centre during school hours. The same concert over the 2 days

Christmas Holidays School closes 12pm on Friday 22nd Dec 2023

1st Confession 13th March 2024

1st Communion 25th May 2024

Confirmation 20th March 2024

Aine reminded parents that all the important school dates and events are on the website. Also that the website has lots of photos and info on whole school activities.

Aine asked parents to be mindful of safe parking at the school and drop off and pick up. Reminded not to park across the road as children crossing is extremely dangerous. The drainage of car park and area at the main entrance was discussed. Aine explained that its an ongoing issue with the caretaker keeping drains clear as best possible, however it’s a bigger issue with inadequate drainage system under tarmac.

Aine spoke about the importance of attendance. She asked parents not to take children out of school for holidays especially in September and June. Reminding parents that it is not possible for teachers to go back over work missed and easy for children to fall behind. Comment from floor that school reports in early June identifying that a child has fallen behind is too late, that there should be some flag before June to allow time for intervention.

Question from the floor to Aine if any progress on arranging swimming lessons. Aine said would nothing was confirmed but pool availability next term and lessons would be for 2 classes on a trial basis – which classes, time frame or cost not confirmed.

A brief discussion on the wish list for the coming year included, moveable goal posts and digital investment as no digital technology grant awarded for the last 2 years. The introduction of the Aladdin App for parents was also discussed. This is costly, at approx. €1700 per year but suggested that parents maybe willing to contribute to the cost – survey of parents suggested to gauge interest.

Claire spoke about the Amber flag and promoting wellbeing in the school. Explained its like the Green Flag but with a focus on mental health, nurturing kindness, friendships and inclusion. Lots of activities in the school and Ms Mackin has introduced some Yoga and meditation to the children.

Standardised Test : Claire gave a brief overview of the results of last years standardised test results, stressing that these are just an indicator of the school’s overall performance, and no pressure is put on the children to score above a certain level – the individual student works to their best ability.

Micro T -87% of Caim students in top 4 grade ranges

Maths – 66% of Caim students in top 4 grade ranges

Gaelige – 90% of Caim students in top 4 grade ranges

**Election of Officers**

Existing committee stood down and new committee elected as follows:

Chairperson: Joe Cooper – Proposed Sandra Horgan, Seconded, Coleen Cooper

Secretary: Carol Phylan – Proposed Pamela Boland, Seconded Coleen Cooper

Joint Treasurer: Orla Horgan - Proposed Louise Hatton, Seconded Pamela Boland

Joint Treasurer: Joanne Delaney – Proposed Orla Horgan, Seconded Louise Hatton

A sheet of paper was handed out and the entire group were invited to add their name to the list if they wished to join the committee.

Committee as follows: Louise Hatton, Pamela Boland, Coleen Cooper, Ann Delaney, Caitriona Doyle, Suzanne O’Gorman, Vanessa Fortune, Petra Bodo, Donna Grennan, Michell Hendrick, Saray Montalla, Veronica Siobu, Claire Ruth.

The new committee welcomed and agreed to WhatsApp group communication to arrange first meeting.