



BANDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Bandon, Co. Cork
02388 - 41713
Email: office@bgsmail.ie

Meeting Minutes of Parents Association Committee of Bandon Grammar School (BGS)

Meeting Date: Tuesday 15 th January 2019	Next Meeting: Wed 13th February @ 7:30pm
PAC Attendees: Zae Beth Bateman / Amanda Roe / Paraic Hegarty / Penny Elliott / Sinead Coules / Sue Spencer / Neville Furney / Jane Boyle / Audrey Jennings / Oisin O'Diomasaigh / Keith Perrot / Alison Hurley / Linda Hall Apologies: Brenda Kennedy / Therese Bradley / Anne Collins	
School Representative: Mr Coombes	Location: Room 301, Deane Building

AGENDA FOR PAC MEETING

1. Headmasters update

Mr Coombes presented a high level update on school activities since December.

- **Website** is coming together. The school has received positive feedback from parents. There is still some content missing and being added on a daily/weekly basis. Parents are encouraged to visit the website and explore more about the school and the current activities.
- **BGS App** has an approx 50% adoption rate by parents. Working very well for illness and leave requests.
- **Young scientist exhibition** went very well this year. Some great projects. Visit to BGS website to find out more about the projects.
- **Christmas concert** was very well attended and a huge success. The Senior School choir, who sang on the night, have entered a choral competition.
- **Hockey** – Sr Girls in playoff for munster league / Three BGS students have been called up to the boys U16 Irish squad
- **Rugby** – Sr and Jr boys are playing in the Munster championship and doing well. (Feedback from the PAC that the girls Rugby team feel that they are not getting the same level of focus as the boys teams and have not had the opportunity to play any games this school year. Mr Coombes pointed out that the Munster schools girls rugby competition is still in its infancy and getting schools to play against is proving quite challenging. He will feedback to the Rugby coaches that there is frustration amongst the Girls rugby team and will prioritise finding a solution)
- **6th years Retreat** – 40 sixth year students went on a retreat to cork. It was very well received and the students who attended took a lot away from the event. The event was oversubscribed by 6th year students. The retreat center has a limited capacity and finding available time slots in the sixth year leaving cert schedule meant that booking several retreats was not possible this year. Mr Coombes will look at it for future years.
- **CBA (Classroom Based Assessment)** – The new Junior cycle CBAs have begun in English, Science and Business. This is causing some stress amongst 2nd/3rd year students as there is very little information available on what happens next ie no past papers etc.
- **Mock Exams** – Leaving and Junior cert Mock exams are starting on the 4th February. The decision was made to mark the papers internally by BGS teachers. A lot of schools send out their exams to outside markers. The BGS teaching staff have found that marking the papers internally offers a more complete feedback to the students.



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Other items discussed with Mr Coombes:

- Amanda to ask Mr Coombes if it is possible to send on a copy of the headmasters report before the next Committee meeting so that we can have a more efficient engagement on the night.
- A new school jumper was shown to the PAC. Many parents indicated that the students don't like wearing jumpers. Asked if it is possible to get a school fleece instead.
- Several parents provided feedback that the evening meals for boarders lack variety and quality. Mr Coombes indicated they are working on this at the moment. They have a nutritionist coming in to speak to the boarders about a healthy balanced diet and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.
- At lunch time vegetarian meals are limited to those who have signed up as being vegetarian. Students have asked if the vegetarian option could be made available to all. Some students prefer to vary their diet and they feel they aren't being offered the opportunity to choose.
- 4th year boys who play Rugby – Currently 4th year students find themselves in a limbo as they can no longer play in the Jr cup and breaking into the Sr team is a step too far for a significant number of them. They are not getting any game time and lacking focus. Mr Coombes indicated that they were looking for games for the 4th year students outside of the cup competitions.

2. Compass

Mr Coombes has received a letter from Compass asking for a representative of the BGS PAC to attend their committee meetings. It was decided by the PAC committee to resend on a copy of the letter sent in January of 2018 by the PAC to Compass and ask for a response. No response has been received to date from Compass to the previous letter and the questions

Action: Amanda to resend letter to Compass asking for clarification prior to BGS PAC engagement).

3. PAC contacts on website

It was decided that the contact numbers of PAC members who are to act as liaisons for parents will be posted to the BGS App and not to the Website.

4. BOM

The BGS Board of Management (BOM) have welcomed the opportunity to meet with the PAC and review roles and ongoing activities. The PAC need to agree who is attending the meeting and when we are available. Mr Coombes will send on the scan of the BOM/BOD structure for circulation to all of the PAC members and will post on the website/App when available.

It is suggested that once per annum the PAC and BOM hold an information sharing meeting to ensure we are all supporting each other in our collective goal of ensuring BGS is the best school possible for students, staff and parents.

5. BOD (Board of Directors)

It was decided that the 2018/19 PAC would not continue to pursue the BOD for additional information related to a letter as requested in Jan 2018 by the 2017/18 PAC. The PAC will open a communications channel with the BGS BOD to understand how best we can support each other in achieving our respective goals.

6. Update on Anti-Bullying

- Mr coombes confirmed that three staff have agreed to join the PAC-Staff anti-bullying/Mental health committee.



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- **Zeeko** - Social media and anti-bullying event for parents – planned for the 30th of January at 7pm.
PAC will have a social evening around this event.

7. Development committee

Paraic and Penny have been added to the BGS development committee.

8) Upcoming events

- Anti-bullying / social evening – Jan 30th 2019
- Uniform Shop (May) – Sue Spencer
- Debs Committee – Need to form a committee at February meeting.
- Careers event – Penny / Sinead / Zae-Beth/ Oisin agreed to be part of the committee for the careers event. Need to draw up plan.