**Edmund Rice Secondary School, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary**

**Parents Council**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**09.05.2019**

Meeting of the Parents Council took place on Thursday 9th May 2019.

**Present:** Pat Parle

 Mairead Eachthigheirn

 Michael Walsh

 Paula Murphy

 Siobhan Moriarty

 Ann Reid

 Aideen Meaney

 Fiona O’Meara

Rose Peters

**Apologies:** Eithne Sheehan

Claire Walsh

 Abigail Keane

Margaret Crowley

 Deirdre Anthony

 Deirdre Flynn

 Karen Nolan

 Tony Power

 Elaine McNamara

 Michael Crowley

1. Minutes were read and approved.
2. Treasurer reported a balance of €1,700 in the account.
3. Mairead informed the meeting that sourcing books for school library is ongoing. Cost of new books from book shops has proved prohibitive. However, second-hand/charity shops in Carrick have agreed to put aside any suitable books for the school and Mairead said these will be vetted but are of good quality. Shelving has been looked at and teachers have requested good quality solid wooden shelves be installed. It was decided parents would be asked to send in suitable second-hand books. It was suggested students from Transition Year could act as librarians. Shelving and books to be all sourced in the Autumn.

**[Action: Mairead Eachthigheirn, Claire Walsh & Paula Murphy**

1. The principal told the meeting that school was researching getting new lockers from LockerFix.ie. These lockers cost €25 each to install, students would need to be charged €15-€20 euro each per year with an annual maintenance fee of €6 per locker from year two onwards to be paid by the school. Each student has a unique code rather than a key. A representative from the company will visit the school for a demonstration.

 **[Action: Mick Walsh]**

1. The meeting was informed the Mock Interviews which took place on Tuesday 9th April went very well. Although not many boys took part those, that did found it a great experience and the interviewers were very impressed with the students. It was decided that next year more students would be encouraged to take part. Also noted that Manual Handling course for Transition Year should be arranged early in the Autumn term
2. The Data Protection policy is now on the school’s website. Mick Walsh asked if we would ask parents on WhatsApp group to read this policy and all other policies that are now available to view.

 **[Action: Paula Murphy]**

1. There was a discussion regarding the weight of the school bags the students must carry. A member of the Parent’s Council, Rose Peters, outlined her concerns on the negative effects this has on the boys’ backs and shoulders. Rose suggested replacing hard-backed copies with A4 copies with plastic covers which are much lighter. These are available from Mr Price and Rose requested Mick Walsh to ask the teachers if they would agree to this. The Principal agreed to check this with the teaching staff.

 **[Action: Mick Walsh]**

1. There was no update on traffic calming and probably would not be until after the local elections at the end of May. The Principal asked the Parents’ Council to highlight the issue of road safety outside the school with all parents to ensure safety of the students

 **[Action: Paula Murphy]**

1. Principal, Mick Walsh, then gave a brief update of activities in the school.
* The school caretaker, Joe Kiely, is to retire in June and a new caretaker will be hired.
* 55 students will start in September 2019 in First Year.
* There will be 48 students in Transition Year in September 2019 and this will include 3 students from Spain.
* A new Student Council was elected three weeks ago and have provided the Principal with a list of student requirements.
* He re-emphasised the need for students to bring re-usable water bottles to school.
* Discussions on the provision of an Astro-Turf court is still ongoing between the Board of Management and the Trustees.
* The school flag day will not go ahead this year. This will need to be re-visited in 2019/2020.
1. Parents’ Council asked if school could arrange water rather than fizzy drink be provided as ‘free drink’ with lunch by Sunnyside.
2. Parents’ Council to provide refreshments for Sixth Year Graduation and Awards night and TY Graduation night. Mick Walsh to notify us of dates on WhatsApp.

 **[Action: Mick Walsh]**

1. This was the last meeting of school year 2018/2019.
2. This concluded the business of the meeting.