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

**Parents Council**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**14.10.2020**

Meeting of the Parents Council took place on Wednesday 14 October 2020.

**Present:** Mairead Eachthigheirn

Anthony Leahy

Linda Barry

Paula Murphy

Rose Peters

Maria McGowan

Collette Quigley

Ann Reid

Betty Cuddihy

**Apologies:**

Abigail Keane

JoJo O’Meara

Fiona O’Meara

Claire Walsh

Margaret Crowley

Siobhan Moriarty

Deirdre Friend

Tony Power

Michael Crowley

Shauna Harte

Ann Kearns

Siobhan Cummins

Aideen Meaney

Karen Nolan

Deirdre Anthony

Elaine McNamara

1. Due to Covid 19 restrictions this meeting was held via Zoom. Chairperson welcomed everyone.
2. Minutes were read and approved.
3. In Treasurer’s absence, Chairperson informed meeting balance at bank was €1,544.92.
4. The Chairperson welcomed the new Principal, Mr. Anthony Leahy.
5. The Deputy Principal gave an update on how the school was operating under Covid-19 restrictions.

* There are staggered start times and finish times for all classes.
* There are staggered breaks and lunchtimes for all classes also.
* There are different zones during breaks for the different year groups.
* Students are mostly compliant with Covid-19 guidelines around mask wearing.
* The school is trying to enforce social distancing especially at breaktimes and parents were asked to remind students of this.
* All students are grouped in base classes.
* Hygiene etiquette is good.
* There is a one-way system around the school
* Lockers are not being used, instead students are using containers which are kept beside their desks.
* Left over lunches are to be brought home and parents are urged to remind the students of this requirement.
* The school is discussing organising sports/activities during break times to relive the boredom for students and are liaising with the student council on this.

1. There was no update on traffic management near the school.
2. The new principal, Anthony Leahy, introduced himself. Anthony was previously Deputy Principal in Ard na Mara Secondary School in Tramore which is under the trusteeship of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST).

He informed the meeting that there will be a Virtual Open Night for 2021/2022 on Tuesday 20th October and invitations have been sent to students in all primary schools in the area. This is also being advertised on the school website and twitter account.

The Principal intends on starting to take classes from the end of October so that he can meet with all classes and get to know the students.

1. It was noted that the Parents Council AGM has had to be postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions and parents will be notified if and when this can take place next year.
2. There was a discussion around the difficulties with fundraising during Covid-19 and it was suggested that perhaps the Parents Council could organise a school non-uniform day as a fundraiser this year. It was agreed the school would get back to the Parents Council if any funding was needed from funds.
3. It was noted that all students and teachers are now using Microsoft Teams. This is especially important for students who may have underlying conditions and cannot attend school due to Covid-19 so that regular contact can be maintained with them.
4. This concluded the business of the meeting.
5. Parents will be notified of date of next meeting through WhatsApp group and school website.