

***Minutes Mulhussey Parents Association Annual General Meeting
28/09/2023***

Chairperson's Address

Thank you all for coming this evening.

Welcome to our new parents and our not so new parents.

A warm welcome on behalf of Parents Association to Ms. Meabh Madden in her second term here with St. Joseph's Mulhussey.

Last Sept 2022 was a great start to the new term as we welcomed new students to the school and also new Principal Ms Meabh Madden. I would like to thank the outgoing committee for all their efforts in some great fundraising events through 2022/23.

With Covid a little more in the distance, we were lucky that all of our usual events and even more happened this past year e.g. first Vintage Car run event.

The fantastic Santa's Sitting Room Idea was a real treat for the kids, a huge thank you to all the parents who donated lots of stuff and helped to decorate the entire bicycle shelter area into Santa's Sitting Room.

We remember Cllr. Damien Reilly who gave great support in assisting with school needs & helping to secure grants, one in particular he helped secure a Grant for Christmas Lights that were used at Christmas and hopefully will continue to. A huge thank you to all the daddies who like elves in the night came down one dark evening and lit up the whole school into a magical place.

I know that many children commented Mulhussey is the only school that has Christmas lights and that was something to be very proud of.

We had two successful Cash for Clothes events and thank you to those who gathered clothes, to the wider community for supporting us and to those who help with loading the van on the morning.

We held a wonderful Easter Raffle this year. Big thank you to all the parents & children who helped make such wonderful cakes. It was our second Online Raffle and it was a great success.

Big thank you to all our local sponsors for their generosity and support in our fundraising events throughout the year. Also a thank you to the local community for supporting us so well, in particular the members of the ICA who are always very supportive of our school fundraising.

Our Spooky Walk event was the first event of last term which was a great day for the kids, with lots of fun & games for all the students organised by the help of the teachers, PA

committee members and parents, doing the activities on the day which brought a very enjoyable day to the kids.

I hope that we can have another successful Spooky Walk this year which will be scheduled on 24th October 2023, with lots of parents to help with the experience!!

Treasurer's Address

Deborah Maguire

Fundraiser	Costs
Spooky Walk	223.75
PA Insurance	215.00
NPC Association Membership	45.00
6 th Class Hoodies	116.40
Communion Celebration Costs	114.88
Choir Treat Bags	73.54
Graduation Costs	100.00
Car Run Costs (Tuk Shop)	378.58
Ice Creams for Sports Day	29.00
Fun Day Signs	73.80
Fun Day Costs	1,059.31
Raffle operation Costs	114.22
Total Costs	2543.48

Funds Raised 2022/2033		
October 2022	Spooky Walk	1,611.80
December 2022	Cash for Clothes	338.50
December 2022	Christmas Raffle / Carol Service	1,141.00
April 2023	Classic Car Run	2,609.90
April 2023	Easter Online Raffle	1,635.00

April 2023	Cash for Clothes	266.05
June 2023	Family Fun Day	5,359.59
Total Raised		12,961.84

Summary	Income	Costs
Opening Balance from Previous Year 2021/2022	500.00	
Funds Raised 2022-2023	12,916.84	2,429.26
Donations & Grants Received	1,924.58	1,097.26
Total	14,886.42	3,526.52
Reserve Funds in Account	300.00	

Donations & Grants	Received	Costs
Fun Day Grant from Previous Year - Nov 22	500.00	
Festive Grant - Dec 22	500.00	492.59
Selection Boxes Dec 22	174.58	174.58
Easter Egg Costs / Donation	500.00	225.00
Donation for Boiler & 2 Tea/Coffee Pots	250.00	205.09
Total	1,924.58	1,097.26

Summary of Accounts

Opening Balance September 2022 – Float €500 (€200 Cash & €300 in PA Account)

Net Funds Raised 2022/2023 - €11,375.80

Reserve Funds in PA Account - €300

Transferred to School Account - €11,075.80

Outstanding Items :

Fun Day & Vintage Car Run Application – potential grant to come from Meath Co. Co.

Sept 2023 – PA Insurance Renewal 2023/2024 €215 (paid 21/09/23 DM)

Secretary's Address

Ellen McEvoy

Administrative tasks:

Garda Vetting was completed for all 4 members of the committee and offered to other parents for the purpose of activities where they would have one to one contact with children, specifically for the Spooky Walk..

MF, DM and EM became signatories for Credit Union.

Meetings held monthly, advertised via text message to class Whatsapp groups.

Actions taken throughout the year:

- There was an address error with the insurance company due to two “St.Joseph’s” schools at “Kilcock” addresses. The eircode has been added to the address and the issue did not re-present for the start of the 2023/24 year. It was agreed that insurance continues with the current supplier and to continue with membership of the National Parents council in order to retain the insurance rate. Applies to decision taken for September 2022 and 2023.
- Enquires were made and progressed with Meath CoCo with regards traffic calming works on the road outside the school.
- Wrote to the Board of Management to open discussions with regard to spending previous funds raised by the PA.
- Two Cash for Clothes collections.
- Notification received from the Board of Management of a review of the Child Safeguarding Policy and the annual review of the anti-bullying policy.
- Spooky walk was held successfully.
- Funding for Christmas Lights received and set up was facilitated by parents, as well as Santa’s Sitting Room..
- Christmas Visit - Santa visited on a Class Tractor and selection boxes were given to all pupils.
- We declined an approach from Kilcock St.Patrick’s Day parade committee to provide a float from the school.
- The Vintage Car Run was a resounding success that really involved the entire community. Before the Mid Term Break, each pupil received an Easter Egg.
- The PA supported confirmation and communion classes as well as 6th class graduation.
- Colouring/drawing competitions at Hallowe’en and Easter were well received by pupils with appropriate prizes given out.
- The annual Fun Day and raffle was a real success with support from school families and local people.

Grants

The PA looked into various funding streams to support the school and will continue to do so.

- Community Activities Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme: Camera and Garden enhancement, sought €900, application rejected due to the programme being oversubscribed.
- Meath County Council provided a €500 grant for Christmas Lights
- Meath County Council Community Grants Scheme:
 - Sought €350 for Vintage Car Run; awarded €210, claim submitted with decision pending

- Sought €750 for Fun Day; awarded €375, claim submitted with decision pending

Businesses and organisations who supported the school via prizes, sponsorship or discounted items during the year; the PA is so grateful to the following:

ICA

Kilcloon men's shed

The Shamrock Vintage Car Club

The Castle Car Club

Lir Chocolates

Denis Dunne Motors

Alan Maguire Motors

Luxury Landscapes

Topline Clearys

Mulligans Sawmills

Kilcock Motor Factors

Aura Leisure

The Johnstown Estate

Alainn Beauty Rooms

Khan Spices Takeaway

Callagys Pharmacy Kilcock

Tri Equestrian

Sherry Fitzgerald Brady O'Flaherty

Dealz

Ayu Cosmetics

Noel Higgins Scrap Yard

Brownes of Kilcock

CPL Maynooth

Fergal Allen Motor Factors Celbridge

Kilcloon Credit Union

William Ryan & Sons Funeral Services

Black Forest Cafe and Cakery

Walsh Butchers

Londis Summerhill

Two Wheels Bicycle Service

Bill Clarke's Local Shop

Ger Fahy Planning

Centra Browne's Kilcock

Swordfish Design

Sepcon

Harbour Pharmacy Kilcock

Rye River Café

Conecto

Celtic Chocolates

Ciaran Howlett Construction

Blackhall Gaels

MG Property Renovations

Kilcloon Early Years
Thorntons Recycling
Lavins Ice Cream Distributors
Care Plus Kilcock
Carton House
Dunboyne Castle
Kilcock Golf Club
Kilcock Books and Gifts
Sarah Lyons hair and Beauty
Bellinter House Navan
Airtastic
Aura Leisure
The Hatchet
Trevor Beaty
Dunboyne Sports
Johnston, Mooney & O'Brien

The PA would like to thank the Board of Management, Principal, Teachers and staff in the school for all of their support. Without the support of the local families linked with the school, it would not be possible to put on the events and provide financial support back to the school.

Finally, the PA would like to remember Michael Collins and Cllr. Damien O'Reilly who we sadly lost from our school and extended community during this year. Our thoughts remain with both families.

Principal's Address

Mrs. Meabh Madden

Mrs. Madden noted that there have been 15 new pupils in the school this academic year, 8 junior infants and the rest spread throughout the classes, bringing enrollment to 101 pupils.

Mrs. Madden thanked the parents and thanked the PA for their support.

Of the €30k funds that were raised around the 50th anniversary of the school, €5,500 was allocated to additional PM readers which assist with Literacy Lift Off, a targeted intervention which has tangibly increased comprehension within the student group. The remainder was dedicated to the Wellbeing and Sensory Garden which is near completion.

A new Maths curriculum has been launched and the school will look at enhancing resources with the focus on playbased learning.

The free book scheme was introduced and books and copies were ready for the children on their first day of school. The senior classes have had great success with their colour coded copy system.

The ICT and Enhanced cleaning grants were removed from the 'FSSU grant schedule' last academic year and represented a real challenge to the school.

Learning beyond the classroom has been supported by funds raised by the PA, in particular support with the cost of buses has been invaluable in facilitating a number of off-site events for the school.

Jeanette Gill organised a nursing home visit and the pupils sung to the residents, this was a valued community link which the school hopes to maintain.

In line with the school Code of Behaviour policy, the school fosters a restorative practice approach which focuses on restoring and repairing relationships in situations where conflict occurs. All staff follow the same set of Restorative Practice questions across the school which the children know and are aware of which ensures that each pupil has an opportunity to have their voice heard when dealing with any issues that arise. The focus is on repairing and restoring the relationship rather than attributing blame. Further information will be communicated with parents about this approach in due course.

Mrs. Madden reinforced the value of being part of the PA committee. By becoming involved you are part of your child's learning journey, it is an opportunity to meet other members of the school community and to support the school with policy review and formation.

Election of a new PA Committee 2023-24

Ellen McEvoy steps down from Secretary after 2 years. Maria Foley, Malachy Ryan and Deborah Maguire remain as Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Treasurer respectively.

Jeanette Gill is nominated as Co-Secretary by Ellen McEvoy and seconded by Deborah Maguire.

Laura Norton is nominated as Co-Secretary by Ellen McEvoy and seconded by Deborah Maguire.

Sandra O'Sullivan was unable to attend the AGM but has stepped forward to join the PA. Sandra is nominated by Deborah Maguire, seconded by Ellen McEvoy and agreed with the rest of the committee.

AOB

There was a discussion about getting more parents involved in meetings with a suggestion that attendance at a meeting would generate a raffle ticket for a regular draw.

It was suggested that all events and meetings could be scheduled at the start of the year and this may allow more parents to plan to attend and for the Board of Management to be able to sign off on all events in advance to avoid any delays.

There was a Parent suggestion received to acquire an automower for the school, it was widely agreed that while there is a dedicated caretaker and a working ride-on mower that this is not necessary.

It was suggested and agreed that used, good condition, rewearable uniform items of school jumper and tracksuit bottoms could be donated to the school for use for new students or in the case of an accident. Should the volume of donations become excessive, the PA would assist to catalogue what uniforms are available so that parents could re-use these as normal wear.

The school website was mentioned and generally acknowledged as a good resource to showcase children's work.

The PA committee called for parents to use their PA Whatsapp reps to raise issues formally and for those representatives to bring issues to the PA Committee, as this allows for issues to be raised correctly.

The parent's re-iterated thanks to Mrs.Madden for the enhancements she has brought to the school and extended thanks to all of the staff at the school.

The first meeting of the PA is proposed as 10th October, with the first event the Spooky walk on the 24th October.

Ends.