

Bray School Project Association (BSPA) 2023 AGM Minutes

Date: 2023 10/05/2023, 19:30

Meeting Chair: David Doran

Treasurer: Padraig Garahy

Secretary: Shelly Jeffares (Minutes taken by Lucy Quinn)

Open and welcome:

Provided by David Doran (DD). Noted that this was the first AGM in person post-Covid restrictions. Overview of the BSPA set up and structure provided

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Approved, proposed by Padraig Manion and seconded by Billy Flemming

Board of Management Report

Provided by Mar Diskman (MD), Chair of the Board of Management [Appendix 1]

DD thanked MD for this report and continued hard work on the Board. Oversubscription acknowledged as a testament to the school. Noted that as a school body, we continue to honour the legacy and history associated with the school.

Principal's Report

Provided by Alan Bedford (AB):

Acknowledged the warm welcome and support received since joining the BSP from the school body and children, Board and Executive Committee, teachers, staff and SNAs. The importance of the ethos and school culture was highlighted. Thank provided to Carol Lanigan and Kieran Griffin (former principals), Alan is delighted to continue their legacy. The school has a new leadership team Sinead Jones, Aisling Healy and Jamie Finnerty.

In Sept a curriculum evaluation took place, note of thanks to Malcom, Maire and staff.

AB received a student introduction. 'Knuffle Bunny' (a rabbit teddy) was provided by AB to Carol who kindly took this toy on her travels around the US, sharing reports of the journey to AB. This has helped AB to connect to the younger classes. Stories and photos of this rabbit's journey was shared by AB with the school children and very well received. AB's passion is enquiry-based learning, getting to know the area and local environment, AB acknowledges Kieran Griffin and Carol Lannigan's dedication to enquiry-based learning.

Student council have tried for funding and improvements in the school.

A maths review took place with a positive report, the welcoming environment of the school was recognised. A new Learn Together curriculum was introduced and staff look forward to implementing this.

Returns of events: PSA - Winter Fair acknowledged as amazing, Halloween parade took place and this welcomed parents back in the school setting creating a great atmosphere, beautiful art displayed in the hall as a result. PSA funding raising was reinvigorated, and funds raised, thank you to Insa Larkin (PSA Chair).

The primary language curriculum renewed which had not been since 1999, training due to take place on Friday. It will include more play-based and an integrated approach versus the previous curriculum. BSP was a pilot school participation for global citizenship, this empowers the children to learn about the environment, racism, politics and the United Nations.

The school has purchased 37 new chrome books. Two literacy grants have been received and dual language books obtained.

The impact of Covid on young people remains uncertain, however children have been impacted and are in the process of reintegrating back into life outside of their home. A Nurture room is being created which will provide a safe quiet space for children. This will open from September 2023 and bake sale proceeds will be used to help establish this room. A request has been lodged to the Dept of Education for funding of a sensory space. Thank you for the welcome

Parent Staff Association (PSA) Report:

Overview provided by Insa Larkin (Chair)

PSA require a volunteer to become PSA Secretary and they are also looking for volunteers in general. Treasurer reports are not available for this evening's AGM. The PSA has lost experienced parents who's children have moved on from the school and they are currently rebuilding the PSA, seeking parent/guardian volunteers. PSA has recommenced parental events: coffee morning, Halloween costume sale, Winter fair back on a scaled back level, easter bake sales, art day to come and a take-away night. A calendar is being developed to future proof the PSA and set out a year of events. Preparing a big fund-raising night. Equality and equity considered for PSA event - for that reason each child gets the same amount from a bake sale regardless of the input of time/money their parents can put in. PSA highlight the benefit that the Voluntary Contribution made by parents/guardians can bring to the school. The dedication of Art Day and Winter Fair Volunteers was acknowledged.

DD reiterated the parent input required and echoed the call for volunteers.

Student council report

Eduardo Ascencio-Lane played a video prepared by the Student Council, this was well received.

Treasurer Report and Managed Accounts:

Overview provided by Padraig Garahy [Appendix 2]

Little activity in the report, one transaction for gift to Carol. Estimated cost of ongoing running of the Executive Committee and provisioning of legal costs for patron transfer included.

Financial statements of the patron, will be put for approval and submitted to the CRO. Immense work has been undertaken to bring the financial statements up to date and now in the stages of filing these accounts. Income is the subscription to the company (members pay a €2 fee). Zoom subscriptions paid for Executive to keep in contact over the restricted Covid period. Land and building recognised for nominal value.

Accounts approved, proposed by Lucy Quinn proposed accounts seconded by Pdraig Mannion.

DD thanked David Homes for past contribution as Treasurer, Pdraig has stepped in to take over and has reviewed and updated for CRO approval over the covid period. Huge thanks to David Homes.

Executive Committee Report provided by DD David [Appendix 3]

A note of thanks was communicated to Carol for guidance over the years, her engagement as Principal and commitment was acknowledged. MD was thanked for her role staff over the final term of the year, including recruitment and mammoth effort for recruitment. Thanks noted to Lucy Quinn for representing the Patron on the new Principal recruitment panel. Thanks also noted to Pdraig for the financial accounts.

DD has served 5 years on the Exec committee and is stepping down as Chair after a long stint.

Exec Committee patron transfer overview of transfer:

BSP own land and came before the ET patron body. Parents bought land and lobbied the Dept of Education for future use. Land as an asset has to be delivered into a legal structure. The model for the future needs to work and needs to remain protected. - see appendix for summary of work. Amanda scales previous BSP Executive Chair and Solicitor has been working pro-bono to assist. Healthy discussions and complex decisions are required to be made. Adrienne Flynn - advice outlined for trustees and license agreement. A meeting was held with Niall Wall (ET Buildings officer) Adrienne Flynn (ET)/Amanda Scales and DD. The proposal to date is that BSP continue to own the land, lease to the Department of Education (DoE) and are indemnified by the DoE. It is considered normal for the DoE to pay legal fees. Once lease agreed and signed-off, due diligence can be finalised with ET. The lease agreement would be drafted by Amanda and the Patron need to formalise. Once this has concluded a rent would potentially be received to BSP.

A legal entity will then be required to run the company for the building which is to be formalised in the process. Amanda has provided 2 lease versions to the Executive Committee who are considering the options. Pdraig Manion (Trustee) highlighted that Guinness have a 999 year lease, any land decision requires careful consideration. The Executive Committee have an important role to play in ensuring the school and buildings are safe-guarded. A clear goal is to ensure the company is tax efficient as it is now. This continues to be an ongoing process.

DD thanks the exec for engagement.

Patricia queried the potential for the school to obtain income. PG noted that accounts for three years were reviewed to see what the exposure is and a €48k shortfall from the Dept of Ed is incurred each year, this figure has factored into the discussion and decision towards the financial gain from the asset. Rent will be an income stream for the school.

Padraic Manion noted that first dept has to agree with the change of patron and agree to the future vision. As we are not changing ethos - just changing control so the dept may not offer as much as we think but rather just indemnify the accounting costs. Treasurer role is now pro-bono so is an example of the cost. Realistic expectations need to be set.

DD will come back to the committee and discuss final options with the school-body. The patronage will move forward, however it was not anticipated at the time the work commenced that ET would not accept the property management as part of the transfer.

DD highlights that the company mechanism will still have to exist for the school - directors and landlord. Shelly/Padraig/David are current directors and going forward this will still have to exist in some form and will have company responsibility. The Constitution will have to be rewritten, the Board can have oversight of this new structure however the challenge is the ownership of the land.

Shane noted the divestment parallel with HSE sites and so notes the complications involved. Patron system was developed by British and Catholics 'hijacked' for secular education. DD has requested details of licenses and agreement in place with ET however certain details could be shared. The DoE attitude is an unknown, the Committee is mindful that they will be establishing a precedence for future divestment model. Cork and Kilkenny ET's have mortgages. DSP is held in trust.

Nominations:

- Markjoke, Lucy, Luke and Patrizia stepping down, all contributions noted with gratitude. AGM call out for new members to join. All members existing members require nomination for 2023
- Conor Maher – DD popped, Lucy Quinn second
- Linda Doolin – PG proposed, DD second
- PG – DD proposed, Conor Maher second
- DD (as ordinary member) Lucy Quinn proposed, PG second
- Hollie Daly- Linda Doolin proposed, Conor Maher second
- Shelly Jeffares (Secretary) MD propose, Lucy Quinn second.
- New member volunteers: Billy Flemming proposed by Lucy Quinn, MD second, Shane Faherty proposed by Lucy Quinn, Padraig Manion second. Marina Jorquera Rodriguez proposed by Billy Flemming, second Lucy Quinn.
- Chair is to be decided and elected at a later stage, DD provided an overview of the role. Recruitment drive for the various committees to be considered.

AOB:

Rosemary noted that in previous years money was coming in via the 250 Draw. It was noted that the club no longer existed and monies had to be refunded and input into the draw dwindled and cost the school money in the end. Governance surrounding raffles changed which added complexity

Insa mentioned the voluntary contribution would be the best focus for fund raising, possibly encouraging the change to direct debit payment which could include a tax back contribution. Insa is reviving information relating to the tax back methodology which will be shared once available.

DD thanked Malcom and Eduardo for the set up for the evening.

AGM Concluded

Appendix:

- 1. Executive Committee Report:**
- 2. Board of Management Report:**
- 3. Treasurer's Report and Managed Accounts**

Note: Attendance Sheet (Electronically Stored with the Executive Committee).