

Minutes of Information / Training Day in Mount Errigal Hotel, 26th September 2009.

Attendance: Kathleen McKeague, Ann Fallows, Marie Costello, Marisa Whorriskey, Ken Rotherford, Patricia Graham.
Guest Speaker: Patsy McVicar (ACCS Executive)
PACCS Executive: Grace Mooney, Teresa McSweeney and Tommy Walshe.

Tommy welcomed everyone and spoke on the role of PACCS. PACCS have 4 members sitting on the National Parents Council. They had meetings over the summer with the Unions (TUI and ASTI), the management body (ACCS), the State Examinations Commission and the Department of Education. These meetings were to express concerns of parents about the educational cuts, and motions from last year's conference.

He then spoke on the role of a parents association. Presentation will be on the website soon. A lot of good suggestions and ideas were put forward from the floor.

Grace Mooney then introduced Patsy McVicar who spoke on ACCS and BOM.

- The real power and keypart of the the school is the Board of Management.
- ACCS support and advise the BOM. Their executive comes from parents, teachers, principals, members of the religious orders and the VEC's. These members represent all parts of the country and give a broad oppinion when it comes to decision making.
- Policies in the school are made by all the partners.
- Career Days are run in his school every second year by pass pupils.
- Weight of school bags is a worry and parents supported buying new lockers to keep the students books and sports equipment in. A fee for the locker is paid every year by the student and the parents association get half the money.
- First year parent's night is a good time to have a member of the parents associaton speak and hopefully get a few new members.
- Allowing parents who can't commit to come to every meeting of the parents association to ask new parents to come instead. These new parents find out what is involved in the meetings. They may wish to be involved later.
- Keep parents association minutes. Whole School Evaluation (WSE) will want to see how the parents association are working within the school.
- A brief report from the BOM to the parents association can be given with prior agreement of the board.

Grace thanked Patsy for giving of his time to come and speak. He gave everyone a lot to think about and work on.

After the tea / coffee break we spoke more on:

- the role of parents, the 167 days in the school year and how PACCS should extend this to 267 days.
- The issue of transport and the new price of 300 euro per pupil was another concern.

We will have to continue with these discussions at our next meeting on December 12th in the Mount Errigal Hotel at 10.30.

Tommy thanked everyone for coming and the parents expressed their thanks to PACCS for coming