



Parents Association of
Community and Comprehensive Schools
PRO report 2010 by Tommy Walshe

The last year has been very busy for all at PACCS.

Parents ask how we deal with motions and who do we work with, on them? Over the last year we brought all of our motions passed at conference 2009 to the attention of all the educational partners. To follow up on all these meetings we have reports in our conference handbook. We had meeting with

1. Paul Gogarty the Green Party TD for Dublin,
2. Ruairi Quinn the Labour Party TD and Spokesperson on Education
3. Brian Hayes TD Fine Gael Spokesperson on Education.
4. National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) we met Tim Geraghty President and Clive Byrne Director, This was an informal meeting and the first organised meeting of the two associations. PACCS was also the first association to officially visit the new offices of NAPD at Wentworth.
5. From the TUI we met Don Ryan, President, Peter McMenemy, General Secretary and Annette Dolan, Deputy General Secretary.
6. From the State Examinations Commission we met with Aidan Farrell, Director of Operations.
7. From the ASTI we met Joe Moran, President, John White, General Secretary, Diarmuid De Paor, Deputy General Secretary and Maura Mulcahy, Assistant General Secretary.
8. From ACCS our management body we met with Ciarán Flynn General Secretary and a great support to PACCS on a weekly basis.
9. From the Department of Education and Science we met with Brian Brogan

PACCS are still working on delivering information and training. To date we have had training in Trim, Letterkenny, Castlebar, Limerick, Bunclody and Dublin. A grant we received from the National Parents Council post primary ensures this project is being delivered and will be in the future. We hope to have further training in the midlands and a return visit to Donegal and Dublin for an update on our previous training and the hope of a few new schools to attend. We would like to thank ACCS for providing a speaker at all our

information and training sessions. We were disappointed the attendance was small but the feedback was great and we hope to continue.

Our President has been around the country talking to parents Association / Councils. Any school or parents association can invite Tommy to attend a meeting, give a talk or give advice /support to you. Please don't hesitate to contact him or anyone in PACCS.

We are still working on our regions. I know times are hard and parents are very busy but we need to get information back from our schools to get a broad view of what problems parents are enduring. We are only as strong as our members. We work on your behalf but we need support from our regions and we need parents to come to meetings and engage with us to deliver the best education we can for all students in second level education.

This year we also started work on a new website. Over the last few years we have been compiling information and trying to evolve the great work that started in Cashel Community School with the first launch. The minutes of Conference 2000 read "*The PACCS Website was launched and Pat O'Dwyer gave a short demonstration of this to the delegates and observers*". Pat I hope you are proud of the work you started and also the way we are keeping parents informed with what was new technology ten years ago, but is now (in the IT era with internet on mobile phones and easy access for most parents) in most homes around our country and the world. We also have to thank National Parents Council post primary (NPCpp) for another grant that helped PACCS to bring our website into the 21st Century on this the 10th Anniversary of our first launch. We are hoping to have a blog later in the year to get more interaction from parents on a more regular basis.

To summarise

PACCS are "Embracing the Future"

- with our new logo and its 21st Century look
- with our new website and the hope of a blog or blogs to interact with parents
- with our regional work and the hope by the end of the 2010/2011 year to have a working region in all parts of our country
- with the support of our parents around the country

PACCS Embracing the Future, we are looking forward to the challenge.