

Information / Training Day in Days Hotel Castlebar, 3rd October

Meeting in Castelbar a great disappointment.

Our discussion before the meeting allowed for a lot of information to be exchanged an updates on the cutbacks and how schools are under pressure at this moment. The worry is the budget that is coming and what is in store for the education system.

President of ACCS Mary Mullarkey spoke on the role of ACCS.

- What is ACCS
- Sub-committees
- Board of Management
- How Parents get involved
- Why Parents get involved
- Educational cuts
- Teacher Unions
- McCarthy Report
- Role of PACCS.

It was a big disapointment to PACCS the attendance at the meeting, with such a distinguished guest speaker as Mary

Castlerea Community School hosted the first regional meeting of The Western Region for a while. Attending were parents from Castlerea, Glenamaddy and Carrick-on-Shannon .

Apoligies from Kiltimagh who were unable to attend.

Breda Hanley chairperson of Castlerea CS and PACCS executive welcomed everyone and introduced Ms Mary Mullarkey President of the Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools (ACCS)

Ms. Mullarkey detailed the effects of the Educational Cutbacks on Post-Primary Schools.

!) The increase in Pupil/Teacher ratio will lead to issues regarding class size and subject choice.

2) Under the present pupil/teacher reatio of 18:1 a school of five hundred mainstream students is entitled to 27.8 teaching posts.

Under the revised pupil/teacher Ratio of 19.1 the entitlement will fall to 26.3

teaching posts. A loss of 1.5 teachers or thirty-three teaching hours per week
3) Coupled with the loss of the home School Liaison Scheme and disadvantaged status a further 33hrs per week will be lost to many schools throughout the country.

4) As a direct consequence class sizes will be bigger

5) Students will experience less one to one interaction with teachers

6) Subject choice may be adversely affected and marginalized students will be further disadvantaged.

The withdrawal of substitute cover will lead to a curtailment of all extra - curricular activities and will be a nightmare for school and parents. From 1st of January Parents may have to keep students at home if the Minister does not reverse his decision on substitution.

Ms. Mullarkey emphasized that parents need to be more vocal and more involved in working upwards towards a solution to these issues.

After Ms Mullarkey Breda welcomed Tommy Walshe President (PACCS).

Tommy started by asking the parents why they thought that the teachers should do all the work. These are our children and we should be fighting for their education. Parents need to stand up and be heard. They need to start working on their local representatives and sending letters and e-mails to the department of education. Very few parents realise the full effect of the cutbacks and the government are only bringing in the cuts gradually. When we realise it will be too late. The local schools are organising a letter to send out to all parents to sign and send to either local TD,s Ministers or Batt O'Keeffe.

Breda thanked everyone again for coming especially all who travelled long distances.

The local paper was at the meeting and took a few photos.



Some of the parents at the meeting.



Tommy Walshe, Breda Hanley, Mary Mullarkey
PACCS PACCS President ACCS



Finola McGuire, Margaret Browning Taite and Patricia Duffy



Helen Finan, Geraldine Malone and Pauline Beirne.