Green School’s Meeting

7 /3/2012

A Green School’s Meeting was held on the 7 / 3/ 2012. Mrs Boyce chaired the meeting. All pupils except for Daniel Duggan were in attendance. Jacqueline Bowen was also present.

First of all the minutes of the previous meeting were read out.

The first item on the agenda was the Mural. This item took up a lot of time at the meeting. Mrs Boyce informed the committee that the painting of the Mural was going ahead. The funds from the Green School’s Committee would go towards the cost and the Parent’s Association had kindly offered to subsidise the rest. This caused huge frustration in the group as some boys had thought it too expensive and were disappointed that the decision on it had been taken out of their hands and that all their money would be used up.

The painting of a mural on the side wall was one of the projects highlighted to do this year. This would involve employing an artist at the cost of €1000. The artist would come into the school for one day a week for 10 weeks. The school under the direction of Mrs Linehan applied to Cork County Council for an Art’s Grant to help fund this project but unfortunately we were refused. This project was then discussed at a staff meeting as to whether or not it was feasible to proceed with it. After much debate at the Staff Meeting it was decided that this was too big a decision for the Green Schools Committee to make and it was referred to the Board of Management. The Board discussed this at length and the general consensus was to go ahead with the project. It was thought that it was a worthwhile project and would be a legacy to the Committee for all their hard work and fundraising throughout the year.

Before the end of the meeting Darragh O’ Keeffe asked could we have a vote anyway to see how the members felt about the project. 3 boys were for it. 5 boys were against it and 1 boy abstained from voting. Mrs Boyce told the boys she would bring their concerns to the Staff.

Mrs Boyce met with the group again briefly the following week. The project is still to go ahead. She admitted that she should have told the committee earlier that it was being discussed by the Staff at the staff meeting and subsequently by the Board of Management and that their decision would be final. She assured them that some money would be kept in the Green School’s Account. She finished by saying that their enthusiasm was admirable and that we all – staff , pupils , parents and members of the Board of Management want the same thing – our First Green Flag.

Other Items that were discussed were

* Litter Patrol
* The Poster Competition
* Cake Sale V Non Uniform Day
* Litter Attitude Survey
* Registering for National Spring Clean Up Day
* Informing the Wider Community of our goings on.
* Environmental Review.

Mrs Boyce wanted to check that each class were doing their Litter Patrol. She is to look into getting “pickers” for picking up the litter. M Boyce felt that the school is nearly litter free. The boys highlighted 2 litter blackspots – behind the 4th Class prefab and in the grass/hedge area at the front of the school. M Boyce informed the group that due to Health and Safety the area behind the prefab was out of bounds for them but that she would inform Mrs Finnegan and Paidi about their concerns. It was acknowledged that a lot of the litter from the front of the school was coming in from the street.

The artist is to come into the Classes to discuss the Poster Competition and the Mural in the next week or so. Mrs Linehan is to make contact with her.

It was suggested would we have a non-uniform day instead of a Cake sake before Easter. This went to a vote. The Cake Sale won. This is to be held the day of the holidays and to include buns and small cakes that the boys can eat for their lunch. Jacqueline with the help of Deirdre and Elizabeth will take charge of this on the day with the help if needed by the Committee. The Committee were very mindful of using too much paper in advertising this. The pupils are to write it down on their homework notebooks. A Text may also be sent.

Darragh O’ Keeffe prepared a Litter Attitude Survey. M Boyce is to distribute this to all teachers and it is to be done in all classes before the next meeting. The Class Teachers are to tally their results. Again it was suggested that the questions be written on the whiteboard rather than photocopying them. Children might also answer the questions on recycled paper.

It was decided that we would ask Cait to register us for the National Spring Clean Up Day in April.

M Boyce reminded the group that one of the Seven Steps to get a Green Flag was to inform the wider Community. She outlined what we were doing already – Website - Noticeboard -Letters to Parents. She suggested that we write to the Board of Management, the Parents Association and the Tidy Towns Committee to let them know of our progress throughout the year. The Committee thought this was a good idea.

Darragh felt it was important that we do a better Environmental Review. M Boyce is to look into this and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

Minutes written by M Boyce