

**Minutes of The King's Hospital Parents' Association AGM 2016**  
**Held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm**

**Apologies:** Hazel Boles, Amanda Gillick

**Present:** Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mr Ken Peare, Headmaster, Mr. John Rafter, Deputy Head, Ms Louise Marshall, members of the KHPA committee, and over 80 parents.

**Introduction**

The Chairperson, Hugh Pitt welcomed all present including Mr Ken Peare, Mr. John Rafter, Ms Louise Marshall, new and existing parents, and fellow members of the PA committee.

**Adoption of the Minutes** of the 2015 AGM were proposed by Libby Edgehill and seconded by Caroline Whitley.

**Election of Committee for 2016 -2017**

Hugh Pitt, Chairperson, introduced the officers of the committee and thanked the members of the outgoing committee.

Existing members and new nominees introduced themselves to the meeting and election of the new committee took place and members elected as follows:

James Barrett - Ms Diane Begley - Ms. Hazel Boles - Ms. Hilary Davis - Ms Margaret Kadeba – Ms Margaret Lawless - Ms. Kristin Matson-Murphy - Mr Paul Rolsten -- Mr Clinton Pratt – Caroline Whitley – Richard Heywood-Jones – Rionach Campbell – Gay Williams – Shirley Bagnall – Susan Leitch – Daphne Mahood

**Introduction of Mr. John Rafter (Headmaster)**

The Chairperson introduced Mr. John Rafter, the Headmaster.

Mr Rafter began by thanking the outgoing officers and committee of the KHPA for their hard work and support throughout the year and spoke of the good relationship we have enjoyed as well as the numerous discussions held over various items on the agenda.

Mr Rafter spoke about how proud the school were to have had 5 past pupils competing in the Rio Olympics this year. He informed us that the new policy with regard to mobile phones for 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year boarders was to have them hand up their phones at night. Baskets have also now been installed in all classrooms for pupils to place their phones in on arrival for class. In some classes however, teachers required the pupils to keep their phones on them in class as a classroom aid. There was now wifi installed throughout the school.

Mr Rafter encouraged parents to look at the newly re-vamped, more user friendly website and to join the new KH Twitter account.

The new practice of lighting a candle in chapel each morning now was a symbol for the students to quieten down for service. He spoke of the need for pupils to have the correct

uniform, correct length skirts, proper school grey trousers, shoes etc and asked parents for their support in this.

The new Behavioural policy has been introduced in the school and the new computer package 'sims' was up and running. This records both good and bad behaviour on a daily basis.

### **Amendment to the KHPA Constitution**

The Chairperson explained that there was a need for a slight amendment to the constitution point number 4.9 in order to bring the offices of the KHPA in line with each other and to enable continuity for the PA reps on the Board of Management. He proposed changing the amendment to say 'for up to a maximum of three successive years'. A show of hands was sought and the amendment was passed.

### **Chairpersons' Report**

Mr Pitt outlined the many activities of the KH Parents' Association in the previous year noting in particular;

Pre-Debs Night

6th Form Mock Interviews

5th Form Careers Night

Assistance with Annual Shindig

School texting service

6th Form Valedictory Dinner with Award Presentation

Re-cycling Uniform Initiative

2<sup>nd</sup> year Parent Social night

Mr Pitt thanked all the volunteers and members of the KHPA noting the required assistance from the parent body to make these activities successful. A Parent Contact Details form was provided and encouraged to be completed and returned to the school to enable the Parent's Association keep in touch and to encourage parents to get involved in helping with activities as it is both worthwhile and sociable. Mr Pitt explained the money accrued by the Parents' Association is used to support the school on unbudgeted items.

He explained how the KHPA's help is regularly sought in the planning processes for the school as in the recent extensive exercise entitled 'Re-imagining the Kings Hospital in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'. This involved our participation with a third party facilitator and again valuable feedback was given as a result of our participation.

Mr Pitt reminded parents of the importance of keeping pressure on our government representatives not to increase the Pupil Teacher ratios in the private schools and this is discriminating our children and pushing our fees up. He reminded parents that they can support this initiative and visit [www.fairfunding.ie](http://www.fairfunding.ie). If parents need more information to participate they can contact a member of the Committee.

Hugh Pitt, Chairperson, thanked the outgoing members of the Parents' Association Committee and those not running for re-election namely Nicola Le Roux, Noreen Gibson,

Jane Murphy and Sile Jio. He also explained he would be stepping down off the committee as he had done 5 years and was coming to the end of his 3 year term as Chairperson. He thanked Kristin for her work in supporting him over the past 3 years and explained that she would also be stepping down from the role as secretary though she was going to stay on the committee for one final year to help with the transition for new the new chairperson and secretary. He thanked James Barrett for his role as Treasurer and Mr Rafter for his support.

Finally Mr Pitt thanked the Housekeeping and the Catering departments for setting up the hall and providing refreshments for us all.

### **Guest Speaker**

Patrick Boland, Educational Director with Conexus Educate, gave us a very interesting and thought provoking presentation on 'The Digital Generation: Effectively communicating with your teenager'. He outlined the different thinking behind each of the generations and how we could learn to communicate better with our Millennials. He spent some time then taking questions from parents present. Please see [Conexuseducate.com](http://Conexuseducate.com) for more information.

### **Treasurer's report**

James Barrett, Treasurer, summarised the accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016 and got approval from the floor for himself and Hugh to sign off the accounts.

### **AOB**

A surprise presentation was made by James Barrett on behalf of the KHPA committee to the Chairperson and secretary in recognition for all their work over the past 3 years in office.

The meeting adjourned at 9.30 pm.