



STUDENT CONGRESS

Thursday, the 12th of September 2019

Attendance: Mr Alan MacGinty, Ms Sinead Nolan, Mr Brian Herlihy, Ms Yvonne Markey, House Captains from DeValera, Duff, Ebenrecht, Leman, McQuaid and Shanahan House from 2nd to 6th Year.

Order of Business:

Opened with a prayer.

Report from the Student Council:

A report on the Student Council was given to the Congress. It outlined the layout and organisation of the Student Council and explained the purpose of the co-options on the Council.

Review of the Student Congress Minutes – Thursday, the 25th of April 2019:

The minutes of the last Student Congress were reviewed.

Leadership Course August - Denis Hevey

All HC's found it a good experience, first timers enjoyed it very much. 6th years enjoyed the outdoor activities in the afternoon. After review, no changes were brought up for the course.

House Events:

House 10's [3rd – 6th year] last weekend, proposal from 6th years to move it to Friday after school rather than Saturday due to clash with grinds and study but SM are reluctant to move events which are set in the calendar , 2nd year 10's this weekend

Swimming Gala – 15th October – support is great from all years but there is generally a low participation from TY for various reasons.

Sports Day – 10th of May.

SVP Fundraisers – Soccer Marathon, Hampers, Fast, Cycleathon.

Carol Service:

It was pointed out by DR that the carol service was very much a ceremony, and there is not much of joy in the room, suggestion to have KGT to address the crowd instead of the choir in order to gather more engagement from the whole school. Also noted it feels more like a performance with people watching the orchestra and choir. Also potential to split songs so that there is a mix of performances and sing-a-longs to keep the congregation engaged. AMACG iterated the excellence of the choir which is central to the success of the carol service and believes that the service is one of the few times the whole school gets to witness the great work KGT does with his singers

School Protest for Climate Change – 20/9/2019

SM believe some people would use this as an opportunity to get a half day from school on a Friday and go home rather than actually go to protest in Town. There was a call from students to allow all students to attend if they would like, but Mr MacGinty shut down these calls, saying members of the Green Schools Committee would be permitted to attend. Other students, if they had written permission from their parents presented to their Dean in advance, would also be allowed attend. The school will organise, in consultation with the student body, actions in the school. Whereas last year's protest made an impact, it was important that action now followed on a local level.

Student Rep on BOM:

It was brought up at the Congress as to why there is not a student representative that can report straight from the students to the BOM rather than going through Student Council. Management replied saying in the Education Act, it states a school Board of Management should only contain 4 trustee members, 2 parents' members and 2 teacher members.

Opening Rec Rooms During Night Study:

A question mainly coming from 5th and 6th years was as to why the rec rooms of the senior wing are locked during night study not allowing students to collect books at their break. This is due to the fact that there is no supervision in the senior wing at that time, as the 3rd year have security sitting in reception during the break. The fact of no supervision in the rec during break means that this leads to insurance risks, risk of theft from students and others. A lot of students play sports and have to rush to get changed, have showers and eat dinner and can easily forget to bring certain books and there is not much time between 3;45 and 4 to organize books due to rugby. It was decided to extend the opening time for the senior recs to 6.10pm.

Earphones In Study:

Most 5th years believe that having earphones in night study wouldn't take away from productivity and that they should be allowed to wear them, Management said this is a 6th year privilege and only 6th years are allowed them, also issue of whether what is being listened to is appropriate or not

Timing Of 2/4th year events: It was brought up that on nights where 2nd and 4th year parents have events in the school starting at 7;30 it makes the traffic in the car park for parents of 3/5/6 year collecting from night study very manic. Suggestion to move events to 7;15 so they are concluded before 9. Management thought this was a great suggestion and would bring it up to the parents' council.

Second Study Slot on Weekends:

Already slots between 9;30-12;30 on Saturdays and same time on Sunday post January. Issue of staffing, hard for people to give up 3 hours in middle of Saturday afternoon

House/Castle Rugby:

Suggestion of holding House vs Castle matches on Friday nights, would draw large crowds and create a big atmosphere. Management saw no issue in considering it but they would have to go through the coaches of the teams. Also talk of a Michaels vs Rock past team match was brought up to raise money for Machakos, brought up by 6th year Machakos parents committee

Goals for the Year: :

Last year was communication, improving between students and Council and House Captains.

This year – Resilience – bouncing back after getting knocked down, caring for others, caring for yourself and being there. Introduction of Pieta House Resilience Academy for 2nd years – resilience is a life skill they are trying to teach them. Resilience is also about bouncing forward and encouraging those around you.

Keyword – Composure; teenagers may get themselves into spots of bother, may compare their insides to the outsides of others and we need to be conscious that key things are language and attitude [getting stuck in a mindset]. Bigger aspect is forgiveness, seeking consolation [found in many different ways] and the maintenance of self-esteem.

NEXT MEETING:
TUESDAY APRIL 28th IN CADLC
5.30 pm.