

2017 ADMIN REPORT

REPORT COMPILED FOR THE PARTIAL FULLFILLMENT OF THE ANNUAL SUBMISSION TO THE OFFICE OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

A summary of the salient activities and initiatives taken by the Maltese Association of Parents of State School Students during 2017 is the following:

- Glorianne Borg Axisa attended the a conference entitled: Forum on Leadership Policy for Equity and Learning, organised by Malta's EU presidency.
- Correspondence with Gaetano Bugeja from DQSE re the use of specific fonts in exam papers to accommodate students with dyslexia
- Correspondence with Gaetano Bugeja from DQSE regarding anomaly in result sheets in the primary cycle for students who are excused from Religion but are still marked as failing the exam
- Correspondence with Ian Mifsud, DG DQSE regarding the parents' concern related to the Maltese paper of the Benchmark examination session.
- Correspondence with MEDE related to the recognitions of non-formal education courses. Informal feedback by Gaetano Bugeja during a casual meeting indicates that the system will change. This will be followed up during 2018
- Josianne Grech attended several meetings as MAPSSS representative in a working groups chaired by MS. Dolores Gauci regarding Behaviour on School Transport Procedure. MAPSSS provided written proposals and feedback to a draft document
- Correspondence with Marco Bonnici, newly elected MUT Bonnici to congratulate him for his new role within the union.
- Glorianne Borg Axisa meeting with Ms. Mc Namara DG DES re the importance and initiatives to increase parental involvement
- Glorianne Borg Axisa participation in a parents' representative panel in the SICI conference entitled: Promoting Efficacy in Schools organised by DQSE
- Correspondence with Roslyn Vella, Logistics and Support Unit regarding complaints by parents on school transport



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- Setting up google forms as a form of feedback re the school transport to forward to MEDE, as a means to address the specific issue raised by parents
- Glorianne Borg Axisa meeting with representatives of Grant Thornton and Roslyn Vella regarding the school transportation reform
- Glorianne Borg Axisa participation in TV programme Realta. Other members on the discussion panel were Mr. Marco Bonnici from MUT and Dr. Frank Fabri PS
- Regular communication with parents through the MAPSSS facebook group. Main issues raised include: school transport, HW policy, access arrangement for exams.
- MAPSSS provided feedback to Louis Scerri from DQSE regarding the February 2018 primary examination timetable and Form 5 Secondary examination timetable.

Until General elections in June 2017, MAPSSS committee members participated in the following committees:

Committee/Councils/ Board	MAPSSS Representative
National Curriculum Framework Board	Simon Scicluna
Council for the teaching profession	Glorianne Borg Axisa
Pedagogy Advisory Group	Josianne Grech
Institute of Education Board	Edward Scerri

Following general elections, MAPSSS committee members, like all the other members of the Councils/Boards had to offer their resignation. Edward Scerri has been reappointed board member of the Institute of Education which is now an agency. Glorianne Borg Axisa still attends to CTP meetings and inquiries as part of an interim council.

During the past year MAPSSS committee members communicated mainly through emails.

ACTION PLAN

This is the plan of action that MAPSSS Committee intends to focus on during 2018:

MAPSSS committee would like to promote further the association in view of the upcoming MAPSSS committee elections. In order to have a fair representation of parents and guardians of children attending state schools in MAPSSS committee, it is imperative that we outreach to other parents so as to encourage a more democratic participation in the elections. Moreover, through the outreach the committee may get better feedback from different parents at different schools that

would allow us a better understanding of the education structure and context and the resulting education experience the children are experiencing.

MAPSSS will be preparing for the elections of a new committee as stated in MAPSSS statute.

Considering the lack of funds and of human resources it is expected that this will take a considerable effort on the present committee members. In order to outreach and facilitate democratic elections in the effort to get a representative cohort of parents in MAPSSS committee will entail negotiating with MEDE the best procedure to adopt depending on the support offered.

MAPSSS intends to liaise with Education Logistics and Support Unit MEDE with regards to school transport.

During 2017 MAPSSS committee members worked closely with the Education Logistics Support Unit regarding to school transport and the working committee related to Behaviour of School Transport Procedure. We hope to assist in the implementation of this policy. In view of the upcoming reform in the school transport system related specifically to free transport to non-state sector, MAPSSS intends to participate as direct stakeholders in order to ensure that the service already offered to students in state schools is improved including by offering transport even to out-of-locality students as this will be offered to students in the non-state sector.

MAPSSS intends to follow up meetings with DQSE and DES related to any reforms in the structure of the education system and curriculum planning related:

- parental participation
- assistance offered to parents and students with the need of LSEs ,
- recognition of non-formal education

MAPSSS will participate activity in any stakeholders' dialogue that may take place during 2018 for the best interest of students attending state schools.

Endorsed by:

Glorianne Borg Axisa,
MAPSSS President

Simon Scicluna
General Secretary