**NEWBRIDGE COLLEGE PSA AGM**

**21st October 2014**

**Attendees:**

**Geraldine Caulfield, Orla Traynor, Paula Hart, Aine Hanlon Lynch, Kathleen Ryan, Pat O'Brien, Neville Conroy and Fr Larry Kelly - refer to register for list of parents.**

**Apologies: None**

GC welcomed everyone. The previous actions from Oct 2013 AGM were read through.

**Pending Items:**

**Canteen**

The PSA committee will meet with new operators following the meeting with the Student Council/Prefects. It was proposed that they meet with the Baxter Storey supervisor as well as Kathleen Fitzpatrick.

**Outside Furniture**

PH raised the possibility of purchasing outdoor table tennis tables and possibly an outdoor chess table. She will bring pricings to the next meeting

**Table Tennis Table**

**Water Fountains**

POB reported that new water fountain is coping with the demand and that the students are queuing earlier.

**previous agreed actions**

**Feedback on and Review of Supergeneration**

POB gave feedback (both from the feedback forms provided and verbal feedback) from 6th years on the study skills workshop provided by Supergeneration in September. From the feedback forms 86% thought it beneficial with 80% feeling less stressed and 90% feeling more motivated. In addition the timing of workshop, in the first weeks of the new school year, was advantageous. It appears that workshop was successful and there is merit in running further workshops. The school is currently assessing how best to provide this to all students – maybe exam years next year with a possibility of 5th years as well. There is also the option to extend to all years. Parents were informed that funding would be required from parents and courses are circa €15 per head. The Sat workshop would not be necessary. POB will discuss further with Super Generation to enable timetabling of further courses.

**Diet and Nutrition Talk for Students**

Needs follow up- G.C / A.L. to contact a speaker

**Dr Heffernan talk**

To be confirmed – possibly in November

**Uniform Jacket**

All uniform suppliers have been notified with regard to the change of fleece for the new school year commencing September 2015

**Prefects Meeting**

The Student Council will be up and running in the next week. The PSA committee will meet with them before the next PSA meeting

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

The Treasurer gave an account of the income and expenditure for the 2013 to 2014 academic year. The book and uniform sale in June, which raised €2,400, raises funds for the PSA and also provides a service to parents allowing them to purchase second hand books and uniforms. The main expenditure of the year was the graduation gifts of cufflinks and rings presented to the graduating students. The annual donation to the library was again made. AH praised Roisin Lonergan (the Librarian) on the sanctuary that is the Library. The cost of texts to parents and guardians should substantially decrease this year with the move to email for communications.

**MANAGEMENT & PLANNING**

**Debs Ball**

Caroline Finan gave a report on the Debs Ball which was held on Friday September 26th. There was a great atmosphere with 249 students, parents and staff having a very enjoyable evening. The Debs Ball for 2015 is already booked for September 25th and the deposit has been paid. POBB thanked the Debs Committee for yet another very successful evening.

**2013/2014 PSA Achievements**

GC outlined the achievements of the PSA in the previous year – see attached

**Elect new PSA committee**.

The current committee, with the exception of Jackie O Connor – who no longer has a student in the school, are to remain in place for their second year. GC proposed PH as Vice Chairperson to replace JOC and AH seconded the proposal. GC invited nominations for additional positions on the committee and as none were received it was decided to review this at a later date.

**Sports Development Fund**

Neil Morris provided a review and an update on the first year of the operation of the Sports Development Fund. Referring to email sent out the previous week he outlined how the Funded which was launched as a two year trial last year is funded by the Board of Governors (€6,000 per annum for two years). There were 18 applications for funding last year. 11 projects were approved with 9 completed. Some of the highlights were talks from Enda McNulty (2XL) and the Sports Surgery Clinic (Injury Prevention), a session with David Gillick, a first aid course for coaches and Dancercise classes.

The year 2 funding application process is currently open. The closing date maybe extended to account for the mid-term break. The main criteria for the applications is to fund the development of sports and exercise in a manner that does not conflict with the primary sports of the school – rugby, hockey and athletics.

June 2015 sees the end of the trial period and there will then be a review and decision made on whether to continue the fund, and if so at what level of funding, or not. A number of parents commended the talks from the Sports Surgery Clinic and Enda McNulty and it was noted that was a shame that not more parents and students had benefited from these 2 excellent talks. Neil Morris agreed to explore the possibility of repeating these talks.

**CURRICULUM**

**eBooks**

POB gave an update on the proposed move to ebooks. The 100meg broadband is now installed in the school. The school staff have attended seminars and demonstrations but a decision has not yet been made on moving to iPads for incoming 1st years. Most schools still have not made the transition but Pipers Hill in Naas will this academic year have the first group doing Junior Cert having had iPads since 1st year. There are a number of issues that need to be considered – home internet accessibility, health issues like eye strain etc. The transition will have to be explored with the parents of the incoming 1st years. It was agreed to put the issue of ebooks on pending items so that updates can be given when available.

***ASTI***

The ASTI are considering action as a result of issues with the Junior Cycle Assessment process. It was agreed to put the ASTI on the pending items section of future agenda until the issue is resolved.

**LEARNING AND TEACHING SUPPORT**

**Project Maths**

It had been suggested that the very successful talk on Project Maths given twice previously by Mr Falvey should be repeated. It was agreed at the meeting that there was not a need to repeat the talk but the notes and reference material should be put up the school website.

**communications**

**Suggestion Box**

It was proposed that a suggestion box be made available at PSA meetings to allow parents to make suggestions for items to be discussed at the meetings and It was agreed that

**Parents Talk**

Three options were proposed for the parents talk. Emotional Wellbeing, Bully4U and a parent’s talk from Supergeneration. The issue of poor attendance at previous talks was raised and whether there was a need to have a talk this year. It was agreed that the best option was to have a talk on emotional wellbeing for parents and students.

**Carol Service**

The annual Carol Service will be held on December 11th, Fr. Larry invited all parents and students are invited to attend this wonderful start to the Christmas period. Volunteers are needed to decorate the church on Wed 10th December.

**AOB**

**Registration Portal**

The registration portal for email addresses of parents and guardians has been removed from the school website. It was requested that the portal be reopened to allow parents/guardians register if they have not yet done so. It was agreed to do so.

**Parent Teacher Meetings**

A number of parents raised the issue of not receiving a text regarding Parent Teacher meetings this year. (Although the dates are in the school calendar issued to parents and a reminder email was sent) it was agreed that the school would send a text reminder to parents regarding Parent Teacher meetings.

**Burka Boilers for Horse Show**

The issue of having school owned Burka Boilers for the Horse Show was raised. It was agreed that it would be suggested that the Horse Show Committee purchase a Burka.

**1st year Lockers**

It was commented that the 1st year lockers are in a dark area and in need of renovation. NC agreed to review this.

**Agreed Actions**

Explore Diet and Nutrition talk                                       AH

Arrange Dr Heffernan talk                                                           PH

Arrange meeting Prefects OT

Outdoor games PH

1st year lockers                                                      POB/NC

Burka Boilers GC/Horse Show Committee

Texts re Parent Teacher Meetings POB/NC

Project Maths talk on Website KR

Items to be put in Pending Items on Agenda KR

**THE NEXT PSA MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 18th November 2014**

**NEWBRIDGE COLLEGE PARENTS SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

**ACHIEVED 2013/2014**

Thanks to everyone who supported, assisted in any way great or small over the past year.

**Monthly meetings** organised without fail and consistent attendance, covering a wide range of topics.

**PSA met with Student Council and Canteen staff –** allowed feedback and a flow of information between parents and the Student Council and also the Canteen management

**Graduation Ball** - another highly successful annual event.

**Mock Interviews** - great support for this event.

**Speakers** : Catherine O Connor spoke to parents on preparation for college

**First Year** Parents Evening and Introduction at First Year Blazer Evening

**Christmas** Carol Event- Preparations well supported by PSA

**Bake Sale** held at Newbridge Horse Show raised in excess of €1200 for the chosen TY charity - support given on the day by parents

**Uniform/ Book sale**- held at the school in June- Raised in excess of €2,500 for funds

**Funded**- outdoor furniture/ library donation

**Sports Development Fund**- First year’s projects/ plans completed

**School Uniform**- change agreed – to be implemented Sept 2015

**Parent teacher ratio for fee paying schools**- parents representing Newbridge College attended a session in July to lobby local politicians for a favourable budget in Nov 2014.

PSA also enabled parents to access information and contact their local TDs via the school web site.

**Supergeneration** – Session with 6th year students. Part funded by the PSA