NEWBRIDGE COLLEGE PARENTS SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES -24th April 2012

Executive Officers Present : Geraldine Caulfield ( GC), Kate Cudmore (KC) ,Adrienne Brady ( AB),

Attendance: Refer to Register, Pat O Brien ( Deputy Principal), Sharon Fidgeon, Muiris Murphy

Apologies : Jackie Connor(JC),Matt O Shea (Principal), Paddy Berry (PB),

**REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS:**

**Motivational Talk from Mr Fergal Quinn** -Mr Quinn attended the school on 24th April and spoke to TY students, 5th and 6th years. The feedback was that it was an excellent event. The content and delivery was entertaining and informative. The students showed their appreciation and several students personally thanked him for visiting. Mr Quinn suggested a donation to a hospice in lieu of payment.

It was agreed at the PSA meeting that €400 would be donated to Our Lady’s Hospice in Harold’s Cross. Triona Finn will also write a thank you note to Mr Quinn.

The parents, school and committee would like to thank Triona Finn for all the hard work and perseverance she showed in organising this very successful event.

**Policy Review -**The first SOP has been reviewed and all documentation returned to the school. As and when new reviews are required, Matt will contact Paddy Berry who will distribute, similar to this occasion.

**Speakers from IT companies -**POB confirmed that INTEL are meeting with TY students on 10th May. There may also be the opportunity for a trip to the Leixlip plant.

JC was not in attendance so there was no update on the IT companies with which she is communicating.

GC explained that she has been in touch with Microsoft but felt it best to wait until the next academic year to schedule the next session.

A parent in attendance also said she had a contact in IBM and would also suggest next academic year for a talk in the school.

POB reminded us that Wednesday mornings tend to be better times as the students have assembly and the sessions would not take from class times.

**Uniform Change Request –** GC had a sample soft fleece jacket from Kids stuff in Newbridge with zips in the pockets. The general consensus was that this would be fine and Kidstsuff will order zips on the fleeces from now on. It was also confirmed that Whelan’s in Naas currently stock fleeces with zips. A parent informed the attendees that Regatta will make jackets to any size.

**Visitation Report –**Matt is inviting responses to the report which will then go back to the BOG. It will be on the agenda for the next BOG. Sharon or Muiris will then feed back.

**Mock Exam Results-** Improved turnaround and accuracy of results is on the agenda for the next staff meeting on 23rd May.

**Drug Awareness etc Programme-** Investigate possibility for first term next academic year. There was no update on this so this action is carried forward.

**Mock Interview Night-** Compulsory Mock Interviews will be looked at in relation to career guidance as whole. There is a 2nd mock interview night scheduled for Tuesday 8th May. At the meeting it was stressed that 25 more parents/ guardians were required to interview on the night and that the help of the parents was vital if these events were to continue successfully.

Any parents that are willing to help but have not received a text from the school, please contact Brian Howard immediately.

**Grad. Ball- Session with 6th years to be scheduled -** Will be organised for Weds 2nd May at 6th year assembly. The committee confirmed that the rings and cufflinks are ordered.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**:

Kate confirmed that the balance is €10,309 in credit.

**MANAGEMENT & PLANNING**

**Whole School Evaluation Report** - The whole school evaluation report is now available on the Department of Education website.

**School Uniform**- A discussion was had around the correct uniform and the enforcement of this. Some parents feel it is not fair to force a child to wear the jumper if they are genuinely uncomfortable in this attire. The recommendation from the PSA to the school staff is that either fleece or jumper is appropriate , but shirt and tie are compulsory. The question was asked regarding better clarity on the type of shoe required. The code of behaviour is that a sensible black shoe is required.

POB said it is on the agenda for discussion at the next staff meeting as there are offenders and the question does need to be answered regarding- “Is it acceptable for the school to ring the parent if the student is inappropriately dressed?”

Post the staff meeting- if rules regarding uniforms are finalised, it is important that the school rules/ codes of behaviour are also changed to avoid confusion and misunderstandings.

**CURRICULUM**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**LEARNING & TEACHING SUPPORT;**

**Sports Day**- Some parents expressed the view that it is a pity the sports day is not as well attended or as big an event as it used to be in previous years with bouncy castles etc .It was felt that it was an important and valuable addition to the school calendar and the question was asked why it had changed. POB explained that as part of the thrust of the Croke Park agreement we could no longer use class time for sports day and that from a safety and control point of view it had proved very difficult to track and account for all students on the day. Several suggestions were made about how to improve on the current day i.e. 1 day or afternoon per year at which TY students assisted in the running/ supervision. POB agreed that it would be looked at by the school in the future.

In reply to a question in relation to the Triangular POB explained that the Triangular events were no longer in place due to a significant age differences between the pupils involved at the participating schools, which was a health and safety risk*.* Also it was becoming increasingly difficult to field teams due to the proximity of the Leaving Certificate for 6th years.

**AOB**

**Table Tennis Request** - A request was made to purchase a 2nd table tennis table for the communal area based on the fact that there is only 1 table and it is popular at break times. Adrienne agreed to look into this with a view to purchasing 1 for the school using PSA funds.

**Astro Turf** - POB confirmed that the planning permission has been granted . The work is currently out to tender with work expected to commence in July. It is expected the work will take 6 months to complete.

**Tennis Courts-** A discussion was had around the merits of including the resurfacing of the courts as part of the astro turf work or at least getting the successful tender to also quote for the resurfacing. POB explained that for now, the new astro turf was a significant piece of work and it’s successful completion was the current priority. Resurfacing could certainly be looked at after this.

**School Team Flags –** It was recognised that the school teams had brilliant support at matches and a nice addition to the support would be some large flags in the school colours. K.C agreed to investigate prices and the subsequent purchasing.

Next meeting is 15.05.12 at 8pm.

**SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS:**

**Fergal Quinn to be thanked T.F.**

**Donation of €400 to be made in lieu of payment To Our Lady’s Hospice in**

**Dublin K.C**

**Contact IT companies over the summer with regard to scheduling sessions in the next academic year J.C./ G.C.**

**Drug Awareness Programme Update JC**

**Update on Uniform discussion from Staff Meeting POB**

**Update from BOG reps re visitation report MM/SF**

**Update on changes to mock exam process POB**

**Grad Ball- Update Committee**

**Update on Sports Day- if any changes have been approved POB**

**Table Tennis Table/ Flags KC/ AB**