NEWBRIDGE COLLEGE PARENTS SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES -28TH FEBRUARY 2012

Attendance: Refer to Register, Paddy Berry (PB), Geraldine Caulfield ( GC), Kate Cudmore (KC), Jackie O Connor(JC),

 Matt O Shea( Principal), Pat OBrien ( Deputy Principal), Brian Howard( Guidance Counsellor)

Apologies ; Adrienne Brady

**REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS:**

**Motivational Talk from Mr Fergal Quinn** -T.Finnspoke with Mr Quinn and whilst a date has not yet been finalised he will revert in mid March . MOS reminded the parents that there is a short break around Patrick’s Day***.****This action to be rolled to next meeting.*

**German Exchange Programme** : MOS explained that it was the first year of the programme and Newbridge College staff felt that the planning and communication by the German partner had been poor. 3 teachers would have been required at a very busy time and that was not possible given other demands. If students still wished to go under their own arrangements, it was not an issue.

The question was asked would there be a programme next year. MOS said that it is all run on a voluntary basis and the school would love to see it happen but lots of issues including a different school would have to be looked at again for next year.

JOC suggested could some programme be run in conjunction with St Cillian’s German School in Dublin i.e. a camp over the Easter holidays.

*MOS will discuss with the staff.*

**Policy on Tours and ExchangeProgrammes**–The board of Governors is reviewing the policy. MOS reiterated that school rules apply on school tours and exchange programmes must tie in with school holidays to minimise any negative impact on staff levels.

**TY Programme**: The list that was provided by PB will be distributed to 3rd year students at the TY open day.

There are several web sites available with information on companies that provide placements, 2 of which are <http://www.transitionyearhelp.com/#!work-experience> and

<http://www.gotocollege.ie/transition_week_schemes.html>

Thank you to Julie Colby Mac Bride for sending these for the minutes.

**AstroTurf** : Still waiting on the decision from An BordPlanala, expected 14th/15th March.

**Microsoft Placements**- GC read the thank you mail that was sent.

**Speakers from IT Companies** : A parent has kindly offered to bring speakers from Intel and possibly bring some students back to Intel for a plant tour. JOC is still trying to get speakers from Googe, Apple and IBM. GC has made contact with Microsoft and will update at the next meeting. Another parent mentioned that as it had been Engineering Week, there may be useful ideas and she had a contact which was passed to JOC.

*JC and GC will follow up with the respective companies****.***

**TREASURER’S REPORT** :

KC said the PSA bank account balance was €10,453 in credit.

**MANAGEMENT & PLANNING**

PB began the meeting by confirming that the PSA meetings would continue to be monthly.

Further PSA meeting dates are : March 20th, April 24th, May 8th.

It was also explained that the headings used on the agenda and minutes of the PSA meetings are the headings used in the school evaluation report, which therefore demonstrates continuity and relationships between the different groups within the school community.

MOS stated that the whole school evaluation report will be published shortly on the department of education website.

MOS asked for help from parents to review and amend school policies as required. A number of parents volunteered at the meeting and gave their details to the chairman. It was agreed that the policies would be mailed to PB and he would then circulate to the parents.

*If any other parents wish to volunteer please contact Paddy Berry.*

 **CURRICULUM**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

MOS reiterated that all communications, would be via texts to parents and not through the pupils.

A parent requested clarity on the procedure for contacting the teachers. MOS explained that the parent should ring enquiries, where all calls are logged. The teacher will then return the call. If the parent does not get a response, then please ring again. A number of parents agreed that this process is very effective and there is rarely a problem making contact with staff members.

**LEARNING & TEACHING SUPPORT**

JOB gave a summary of the TY trip to Croke Park, when about 40 TY students attended a day organised by Terenure College called “ Leaders on our Level”. It was a motivational day, attended by about 850 pupils across 15 different schools. There were a number of different speakers from various experiences i.e. Microsoft, Dragons Den, ex soldiers involved in the Northern Irish conflict. The day was very enjoyable and well worth attending. The recommendation would be to certainly go again next year. A parent expressed the view that her child really enjoyed the day

 As the event was on a school day, PB thanked JOB and AB for giving their time and attending with the studentsin place of the teachers.

Brian Howard gave an update on the Mock Interview night. The night is part of the LCVP programme and there is also about 50% uptake amongst leaving certificate students. Every parent should have received a text, to which they must respond to get further information on the evening.

**AOB**

POB confirmed that prepayment for match buses is working well and the school will maintain this process going forward.

GC read through an email sent by Helen O Neill, a member of the Horseshow Committee. The show is on Saturday 12th May and help is still being sought on the day. The main points from the mail are outlined below ;

Help required with : Sending letters to regular sponsors - Anyone wishing to sponsor – Encourage people to buy raffle tickets – Ideas for raffle prizes – help on the day in the secretary’s office with enquiries etc – rotating support in the catering and sponsors tents – running different stalls on the day i.e. cake stall, bring and buy, fun activities.

 Anyone wishing to help should contact Helen O Neill via the school office.

A parent explained that she was having great difficulty in getting a uniform to fit her son. The outlets have been very helpful but the problem seems to be getting the correct size from the manufacturers. She questioned how much influence does the school have in this situation. Another parent asked why the new fleeces had no zip pockets.

Suggestions were made like contacting the school to get details on 2 more outlets that are available and the Arboreteum in Carlow sells very good and suitable black fleeces .

MOS said the school would request the zip pockets but had no real influence in the manufacturing of the product other than specifying colour and shape.

A parent commented that the rugby teams look well pre match in their blazers but as they changed into various jerseys after the match their appearance was much poorer and asked could something be done about this. The general opinion was that parents played a large part in getting their children to wear the uniform post match also.

Everyone wished the Junior and Senior teams the very best of luck in their upcoming matches.

Several parents expressed their thanks to the school for running a very enjoyable and well organised recent ski trip. They said their children had thoroughly enjoyed the trip and very much appreciated the effort made by all those involved.

**SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS:**

Motivational Talk by Mr Fergal Quinn Date to be finalised TF

Potentially organise a session with

St Cillian’s German School Discuss with relevant staff MOS

List of TY Placement Companies To be distributed to third

 Years at TY Open Day MOS

Speakers from IT/ Engineering companies Intel day to be agreed MOS

 Other companies to be

 Contacted JOB/GC

Policy Review Distribute to parents PB

Uniform change request Enquire re zips in fleeces MOS

Uniforms to be worn post match Parents to encourage where

 Possible All