NEWBRIDGE COLLEGE PARENTS SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES -20th March 2012

Executive Officers: Paddy Berry (PB), Geraldine Caulfield ( GC), Jackie Connor(JC).

Attendance: Refer to Register, PatOBrien ( Deputy Principal),

Apologies :Adrienne Brady ( AB), Kate Cudmore (KC), Sharon Fidgeon,Matt O Shea (Principal)

Note: A German Tour Information session clashed with the PSA meeting which did reduce attendance.

**REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS:**

**Motivational Talk from Mr Fergal Quinn** -*This action to be rolled to next meeting.*

**Session with St Cillian’s German School:**  POB explained that the intention is to find another school, similar to that used by the French Exchange Programme for the next academic year.

List of TY Placement Companies- The closing date for students to apply for TY Sept 2012 has just gone and the list of companies will be circulated to all relevant students.

**Speakers from IT Companies**: JC and GC still working on various contacts

**Policy Review**: The policy document on SPHE was circulated to the 5 parents that volunteered. The deadline for return was 20.03.2012 so can all parents please return their comments to Paddy Berry.

A rolling review of all policies will be set up over the summer. The policies will be on the website after review.

**Uniform Change Request: JC** and GC to contact uniform retailers to enquire re feasibility and timing of the changes.

**Uniforms post matches**: POB confirmed that the wearing of uniforms post matches will be encouraged by the school.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**:

In the absence of KC, she had provided the information to GC who said the PSA bank account balance was €10,355.71 in credit. The expenses had been the sending of information texts costing €39.31 per message.

**MANAGEMENT & PLANNING**

NC Visitation Report: GC read through the main points on the school visitation that was carried out in April 2011 by members of the BOG – the primary focus being the school sports facilities, coaches and philosophy.

The report will be on the web site and parents are welcome to respond to it. If anyone wishes to receive a copy, please mail P.Berry and he will forward it on. A discussion was had on visitations and it was explained that visitations by the BOG can be at any time and are on a needs basis. The question was asked regarding the previous report –it was thought it was about 6 years ago, have the points been resolved or are they still similar and what points if any are being addressed by the BOG from the April report?

*PSA committee to ask BOG reps at next meeting of PSAabout the current report.*

*P.B to get the previous sports report to see what was implemented.*

School Evaluation Report: Still waiting on Dept of Education to publish on their web site.

**CURRICULUM**

Mock Exam Results: A few parents expressed extreme concern at the lateness of returning mock exam results. The view is that the turnaround is very poor and the quality of the marking is questionable. 2 external companies seem to be used- Exam Craft and DEB, the general view is that Exam Craft are better.

POB explained that the posting of exams is phased and there is currently little choice in the providers of the exam correction service. There were several suggestions made to try and improve the situation i.e. changing to 100% use of Exam Craft/ exchange with other schools/ using retired teachers.

*POB agreed the school was concerned and to raise this issue at the next staff meeting.*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**LEARNING & TEACHING SUPPORT;**

PB read out a request from the Patrician School extending an invitation to attend a Drugs Awareness evening. All parents are welcome to attend. For further info, please contact the Patrician School.

This request led to a discussion on drug awareness programmes for NC students. POB said that 1st years are already spoken to on this subject. A request was made to run a session for TY students but another parent felt it should not only be TY year. The suggestion is to run a programme in the first term of the next academic year. *It was agreed that JC would check out some speakers and revert with more information*

Mock Interview Night- The feedback was that the night was a good success. The students were well presented with good individuality on cvs. The night is very worthwhile and enjoyable for all involved.

The comment was made that it is a pity the mock interviews are not mandatory and could the school also look at doing all fifth and 6th year students. If necessary more parents could be involved and hold the event over 2 nights, e.g. pre Halloween when there is also less exam pressure. *POB said that he will discuss with Brian Howard.*

After school Study: A parent asked could the study start before 5pm as school finishes at 3.40 and students are “hanging around” for quite a while. POB explained that this would disrupt the canteen schedule, but there is nothing to stop students using a classroom for study prior to 5pm and the downtime between class finishing and study starting can be helpful to a lot of students.

It was also suggested that if study started before tea, break for tea, then study again, the students would finish earlier.

**AOB**

Graduation Ball: The organisers requested a meeting with students to run through the main points and expectations. A text will be sent informing students and parents that tickets are ready. Help may be required to sell them. P*OB and organisers to review the information leaflet and schedule a 6th year assembly.*

Variety Show and Celebration of Music Nights*:* These are very entertaining evenings held in the school and all are encouraged to attend and support.

POB confirmed that the Doyle Cup between 1st and 2nd years starts next week. Good luck to all involved. The soccer League will start shortly after.

All in attendance wished the very best of luck to the Junior Cup Team in the final on Sunday 25th March against St Michael’s. It is NC’s first time in the final since 1998 and has not been won by NC since 1950.

**SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS:**

**Motivational Talk from Mr Fergal Quinn** -**Date yet to be finalised THF**

**Policy Review - SPHE reviews to be returned to PB ASAP PB**

**Speakers from IT companies - Update JC/ GC**

**Uniform Change Request – Discuss with retailers JC/GC**

**Visitation Report – get update from BOG reps at next meeting**

**Visitation Report- get previous report to review PB**

**Mock Exam Results- Discuss at next staff meeting POB**

**Drug Awareness etc Programme- Investigate possibility**

**For first term next academic year JC**

**Mock Interview Night- Investigate making compulsory/ discuss**

**With Career Guidance POB**

**Grad. Ball- Session with 6th years to be scheduled POB and Grad. Committee**