**NEWBRIDGE COLLEGE PSA MEETING**

**23rd September 2014**

**Attendees:**

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

 **Apologies: None**

**Pending Items:**

Student Survey on E-Books

A new system called Leabharlann has been purchased for the library allowing students to download e-books for a period of 1 week at a time. Details of how to log into and use the system will be posted on the school web-site.

**Sandwich Toasters**

On-going issue of number of toasters and microwaves available was discussed. The number of these appears to be at max capacity particularly as the provision is limited by the space available in the Ref area. Pat and Neville will look and see if space can be provided for extra but it was explained that space and the associated health & safety aspects were an issue.

**previous agreed actions**

**Book and Uniform Sale**

The Book and Uniform sale started last year as a PSA fundraiser was held again on June 21st. The event was even more successful this year raising €2,500.

**Move to email for all communications**

It was agreed last year to move from texting to email as the main method of communication between the PSA and parents and guardians. This has had some delays with the sending of mails and Pat has agreed to monitor the service provider.

**Uniform Jacket**

It has been agrees to move to a soft shell jacket from the heavier jacket currently on the recommended uniform list. The uniform suppliers have been informed of this verbally and the PSA will send a formal notification.

**Debs Ball**

Caroline Finan informed the meeting that this year the Debs ball will be on September 26th in the Keadeen Hotel. The now ex-students will be meeting in the school at 6pm and will have class photos taken at 7.45 before taking buses to the hotel. Parents are welcome to attend with their children and there are some tickets still available.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

The main expenditure of the year is the Debs Ball with cufflinks and rings being presented to the graduating students – these have been purchased and were presented the night of the Graduation Mass. The Treasurer requested suggestions for items to be funded for the coming year.

**MANAGEMENT & PLANNING**

**Sports Development Fund/on-going**

A report on the 1st year of the Sports Development Fund and its achievements will be given at the PSA AGM on October 21st.

**Changing Rooms**

The changing rooms are now “up and running”.

**CURRICULUM**

**Exam results**

The school was very happy with the results. The exam results were once again excellent with students achieving their potential both on results day and offers day.

**Supergeneration**

This is a study skill, learning skills and motivation programme. A five hour intensive course was given 2 weeks previously to 6th years. This was in part funded by the PSA. The feedback has been very positive and the school are keen to use the company again. . Further discussions will be had on how it could be rolled out and how to integrate it into the timetable.

The question was asked regarding the Saturday workshop and if it could be revisited- Pat explained that the school has committed to Student Enrichment Services for this year to provide a study skills programme. It was suggested that a Supergeneration could provide a talk for parents if it was believed to be worthwhile. It was agreed that school would provide some details of the feedback at the next meeting and then a decision could be made.

**Pupil Teacher Ratio.**

Details of the Joint Boards of Management TD campaign with respect to possible changes to the Pupil Teacher Ratio in fee paying schools were outlined. The information has been posted on the school website and a text has been sent to all parents/guardians informing them of this.

**LEARNING AND TEACHING SUPPORT**

Parents talk – it was agreed to follow up on a talk on Emotional Wellbeing for Teenagers by Dr Fergus Heffernan (Child Psychologist) for the next meeting. It was also agreed to revisit a parent’s talk by Supergeneration at the next PSA meeting.

**communications**

The dates for the PSA meetings for the following year were provided.

21st October (AGM)

18th November

9th December

20th January

24th February

24th March

21st April

19th May

All meetings are in the Staff Room at 8pm.

**AOB**

**CCTV**

It was clarified that there is CCTV in the main corridors of the school

**Meeting with Student Council**

Last year the PSA committee meet with the Student Council. It was a very positive meeting and allowed the PSA and the Student Council to get acquainted. However the meeting did not take place until February when the Student Council were formed and established. It was therefore agreed that the PSA committee would meet with the School Prefects initially and then meet with the Student Council early next term.

**Canteen**

During the summer the school appointed new caterers – Baxter Storey – to provide the food in the school canteen. The company are focused on providing as much fresh produce as possible with improved choice and presentation. They have reduced the number of vending machines and chips are only available on Fridays.

There was concern about charges for hot water and sachets of ketchup however they have been addressed and there are flasks of hot water available at all meal times. The PSA committee met with the caterers last year. It was agreed that this would happen again this school year once the new company has got established possibly early next term (following the meeting with the perfects).

Also during the discussion on the canteen it was proposed that the possibility of a talk on diet and nutrition for students should be explored.

**Outside Furniture**

Tables and benches were bought by the PSA for outside the Social Area. They were very successful, particularly with the good weather this year. It is proposed to purchase some more in the New Year

**Agreed Actions**

Review Supergeneration                                GC/POB

Explore Diet and Nutrition talk                                       AH

Arrange Dr Heffernan talk                                                           PH

Follow up on jackets KR

Arrange meeting Prefects PH

Feedback on Supergeneration POB

**THE NEXT PSA MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 21st October 2014 and will incorporate the PSA AGM.**