**NEWBRIDGE COLLEGE PARENTS SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

Minutes 11th December 2012

Attendance:

Matt O Shea (MOS) Pat O Brien (POB) Fr Larry Kelly . 14 parents and guardians

Committee members: Paddy Berry (PB) Geraldine Caulfield (GC) Jackie O’Connor (JOC) Adrienne Brady (AB) Kate Cudmore (KC)

**PREVIOUS AGREED ACTIONS:**

**Email system** - There was no further update regarding this system. It will be kept as an item on the agenda and will be briefed upon as required.

**Fundraiser** – Jackie O Connor briefed the association on the present position regarding the Legends Night to take place on 1st March 2013. Interest in this fundraising night is very positive and quite a number of tables have been booked already coupled with corporate sponsorship at tables.

**Library Donation** – It was agreed to make the annual donation to the school library fund of €750.00.

**Purchase of Medevac Chairs** – Following a request from the school to assist in the purchase of 6 medevac chairs for the school, it was agreed to contribute a donation of €3,000 towards the purchase of these chairs.

**Canteen Menus** – Pat O Brien stated that he had spoken to the caterers and the menus were reviewed and that there appeared to be variety on the menus each day. If students felt that there was a need to review these menus with the caterers, they should discuss this matter with the Student Council.

**Carol Service** – Fr Larry Kelly updated the PSA regarding the Annual Carol Service. The service is to be held on Thursday 13 December in the College Church. Fr Larry thanked everyone who volunteered to help with the preparations for the service and acknowledged the very generous response received from parents to this request.

**Dates for PSA meetings for 2013** - It was agreed that the following dates would be diarised for the PSA meeting from January 2013 to May 2013.

January 15th, February 18th, March 19th, April 16th, May 14th.

**Extracurricular activities (after school**) - This matter was raised by parents at the previous association meeting in November. Mr John Russell suggested if parents offered to talk to senior students on various career topics after school hours between 3.40 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. Jackie O Connor suggested a talk on mental health. In response Matt O Shea replied that such a presentation on mental health has taken place in the school recently. It was suggested that perhaps this matter could be raised at the Students Council. Matt O Shea concluded that the students after school are not very responsive towards non recreational activities and seek a down time after school.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Kate Cudmore presented the treasurer’s report. The accounts are in a health credit position. There will be drawings from the account following the agreed donations to the library and Medevac Chairs.

**Management and Planning:**

It was noted that in the recent National Budget there would be an increase in the pupil/teacher ratio in fee paying schools by 2 points from 21 – 23.

National Parents Council (post primary) –

A form for affiliation to this newly formed association (which combines a number of various other representative bodies) has been received by the PSA. The affiliation fee is €1 per pupil (for Newbridge College €852). The funding is to be used to support a secretariat office. Following a brief discussion regarding the benefits of affiliation to such an organisation, it was agreed unanimously to defer payment of this fee at present. There did not appear to be many benefits for affiliation.

**Curriculum –**

There were no items to discuss

**Communications –**

There were no items to discuss.

**Learning Teacher Support –**

The construction of the astro turf hockey pitch has commenced. The construction company Prize Sport has started the ground work on the site. It is estimated that completion will be by May 2013. One question was raised whether there would be a running track incorporated into the development. In response Matt O Shea stated there in the original planning there was, however due to financial expense (€150,000), this aspect of the development could not be incorporated into the entire plan.

**Any Other Business –**

Cyber Bullying Presentation.

A presentation on Cyber Bullying and Bullying was presented by Sheila O Malley of Practical Parenting in the college theatre on 26th November. There was a small attendance, which was disappointing given the important topic being presented. However those who were in attendance felt that the presentation was very beneficial. It was noted at the meeting that Newbridge College authorities were very pro active in tackling the issue of bullying in the school and were commended for such.

Gavin Duffy –

Gavin Duffy of Dragons Den will be presenting a motivational talk to both 5th and 6th year students in the theatre on 12th December.

Agreed Actions:

The Legends Night – update as necessary. JOC

The use of technology in the School – update as necessary MoS

Student council to consider canteen menus Note

Cheques to be issued for flags, table tennis , library and

medevac chairs KC

Gavin Duffy presentation- update PB