**Newbattle Community High School - Friends of Newbattle Meeting**

**27th February 2019**

Present Apologies

K Maynard Parent M Horsburgh

J Kettrick Parent A Donaldson

A Westaby Parent S Fairley

C Beattie MSP

P McIntosh Parent

C Park Parent

Jena McGhie Parent

M Leslie Staff

G McMillan Advisor

W Wilson Clerk

Minute of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Account Balance/Transaction Summary

C Burt had prepared the account update and this was distributed to all members present.

Donations/Funding Requests

A breakdown of costs was received from Mr R Watt in relation to the VEX Championships in Telford. A donation of £500 was agreed.

Dates for Diary

28th March – Fast Track Celebration Evening. FON/Parent Council can use this as a promotion event and will arrange refreshments.

AOCB

None

**Newbattle Community High School - Parent Council Meeting**

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Matters Arising

Music Tuition

C Park would like to thank everyone who assisted with the recent protest and the letter which was sent to Midlothian Council regarding music tuition in Midlothian Schools. Discussion followed regarding the Council Meeting which took place on 12th February and the outcomes.

G McMillan assured parents/carers he still plans to subsidise the cost of Music Tuition, Home Economics, CDT etc.

C Beattie provided information on government and council statistics, budget & finance.

Senior Course Choices & Staffing

A parent asked if pupils had meetings with pastoral staff prior to course choices being confirmed. G McMillan advised that individual meetings are being carried out and staff are also consulting TAMAR when considering individual pupils choices.

C Philp provided the following response regarding the Coursing Evening that took place: *The event was set up and ran in the same way as previous events.  The only change made was that we moved the date forward to allow us to begin coursing earlier in January.  As a result, the House Teams requested that they handed out the coursing information to the students when each year group were beginning their course choice (there were different dates allocated to each year group between January and March).  We felt it was important that this information was issued by the House Teams to ensure that the students were given the correct guidance and information.  As a result on the night the students did not have their actual course choice sheet.  To allow for parents/carers to see what the sheet would look like and to show what courses would be on offer, copies of a BGE and Senior Phase coursing sheet were available on the night.  They were being issues to parents/carers as they arrived into the Ashleigh Gray Theatre, S6 Prefects were also handing these out to people who were already sitting down and did not have copies.  We will look at how these are issued next year if the feedback is that not everyone was given this handout.  It was mentioned on the evening that all information would be on the website and a group call went out when this information went live.  A full course choice booklet was not printed for every pupil this year due to it being available digitally, but paper copies were issued to each House Head if anyone could not access the digital copy.*

G McMillan thanked C Philp for the hard work she has put into planning next sessions timetable to allow for all the coursing options available.

Dual level coursing was discussed and the possibility of students attending various other schools within the authority to be presented for Advanced Highers.

Further discussion took place regarding staffing for next session and the availability of various subject NQT’s.

The Mental Health Ambassadors are looking at a bespoke job description for future additional mental health support staff. They plan to visit Wallace High School in the near future to ascertain how this has improved the Health & Wellbeing of student.

AOCB

Study Leave

Letter/Email will be sent to parents/carers regarding study leave in due course. SLT are currently looking into the possibility of a “S6 Leavers Morning” prior to study leave commencing.

Tracking Report

Parents commented that the “Comments” and “Next Steps” sections were not populated. G McMillan advised he would investigate this further. *Update: An error occurred during printing. Reports will now be re-printed and a Groupcall email was sent home to advise parents/carers.*

Funding

Information was passed to G McMillan regarding the possibility of funding from Cala Homes.

Review

Newbattle High School Review takes place 12th – 14th March. Members of the Parent Council will be invited to attend on the morning of Wednesday 13th March. G McMillan will contact members in due course.

Date of next Meeting

Wednesday 27th March 2019

Friends of Newbattle 7.00pm

Parent Council 7.30pm

Borthwick Suite, Newbattle High School