

**Newbattle Community High School
Friends of Newbattle Meeting
14th November 2018**

Present

K Maynard	Parent
J Kettrick	Parent
A Westaby	Parent
C Beattie	MSP
P McIntosh	Parent
A Donaldson	Parent
S Fairley	Parent
C Park	Parent
G McMillan	Advisor
W Wilson	Clerk

Apologies

M Leslie
M Horsburgh
E Watson

Minute of previous meeting agreed.

Christmas Concert

S Fairley will contact McLeod in relation to which areas in the Bitesite that FoN can use to service teas and coffees.

L Lamb will assist with refreshments.

A Donaldson is going to contact J Frame to enquire if the Dana Cup pupils would like to do the sweet stall. Discussions followed regarding a bottle stall, tombola and raffle depending on the number of parent helpers. P McIntosh offered to do a "Guess the Birthday" with a build a bear teddy.

Grants Available

S Fairley advised that funds were available. Requests should be made via the school office and they would be considered at future parent council meetings.

A.O.C.B.

FoN asked if C Burt could kindly provide a Treasury Report

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 23rd January 2018 – Borthwick Suite.

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Agreed

Matters Arising

The Parent Council and Friends of Newbattle would like to formally thank Christine Burt for her many years of service. Very much appreciated.

Duke of Edinburgh

G McMillan advised that current S4 pupils who have commenced the DoE scheme will be able to complete the expedition part of the award with assistance from Midlothian Council. There is also a Friday afternoon group running at the moment with LLE. C Philp is currently looking into possibility of running DoE as an elective course within the 2019-2020 Curriculum, more information to follow.

The parent Council would like to pass on their gratitude and appreciation to all staff volunteers who run the DoE scheme.

The possibility was discussed of having a list of expedition dates in advance so parents may also be able to assist. Once a member of staff is leading the scheme, this will be proposed.

Usher Hall Concert

Grateful thanks to all staff, pupils and parents who make this fantastic event possible. Free music tuition should be applauded as it is offering great opportunities to our pupils. There have been rumours circulating that this year was the last concert however C Beattie advised there had been no plans confirmed as yet and he has raised this matter with Midlothian Council but to date has not received a response. C Beattie advised he would forward on the link for Midlothian Council's budget proposals.

S Fairley queried the option of curricular core choice of music. G McMillan explained music is not a core subject but if offered as a choice to all pupils in every year group. At present, there is a shortage of music teachers across our area.

ParentPay

W Wilson advised ParentPay is now up and running for all parents/carers. All excursions/trips are available to pay via ParentPay however lunches will not be available until the Catering System is updated. We have no definite time limit on this at present.

S4 Work Experience

The request was asked if more information for parents could be sent home in advance and suggestions were made regarding the booklet pupils need to complete. Discussion took place regarding pupils finding it difficult to secure self-found placements. There is a database that is used to find placements for pupils however it is not always possible for employers to host every pupil that requests. Some suggestions were made regarding approaching employers. C Beattie offered to contact some employers on our behalf. It was noted that parents were grateful for all the work and input Mr Porteous provides in order to make this important week a success for the pupils.

AOCB

Foundation Apprenticeships: The question was raised regarding funding for 4 year foundation apprenticeships. A parent has been advised that if a pupil does 1 year of a foundation apprenticeship at school then prospective employers can only be awarded 3 years funding for that young person. G McMillan advised he would take this to the DYW Board to confirm.

Groupcall: As a school, we are now able to email all parents/carers with important information. This will enable communication to go direct to parents in a more cost effective and reliable manner. However, we do not have up to date email addresses for all our pupils. A letter will go home with pupils asking for this information.

Official School Opening: The opening was a massive success with the school receiving many compliments. G McMillan would like to formally thank everyone for their support. Mr Sweeney was very impressed especially with the caricature that the pupils of 2G designed for him.

Staffing: The DHT long leet interviews took place on Tuesday 22nd November with 3 candidates going forward to short leet interviews in the near future. PC Kerry Wilson has been employed as a Positive Relations Officer and has made a fantastic contribution so far. The search continues for a Teacher of English and Teacher of Music.

Future Parent Council Meetings: Any future agenda items should be emailed to W Wilson 1 week prior to the following meeting to enable the agenda to be circulated to all members. The minutes of meetings will be available for all parents/carers to view on the Newbattle High School Website.

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