

**North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School
Parent Staff Association Meeting
Monday 28th January 2019.**

In attendance: Natalie Butler; Hellen Dalton; Yasmin Fortune; Evan Furlong; Angela Higgins; Samantha Holman; Karin Janssen; Ciara O'Mahony; Niall O'Malley; Conn O'Midheach; Caitriona Rogan; Meadhbh Rolff; Niamh Swan; Seamus Young.

Election of Officers

Chairperson: Ciara O'Mahony

Vice-Chair:

Secretary: Angela Higgins

Treasurer: Seamus Young:

Volunteers: Meadhbh Rolff

Communications/Social Media: Natalie Butler

Events:

Matters Arising

None. Minutes of meetings on November 5th 2018 and January 3rd 2018 approved.

Correspondence

Thanks and appreciation from Jonathan for organisation, running and fundraising associated with the Pub Quiz.

Child Safeguarding Checklist received from Jonathan Browner.

Transition Year presentation received from Jonathan Browner

School Self-evaluation

Jonathan Browner has requested that PSA members become familiar with 'Looking at our School' – the background documentation for School Self-evaluation, and has sought volunteers to read the documents, which take the form of a Quality Framework for Post-primary Schools, published in 2016.

The theme for School Self-evaluation in 2019 is Special Education Needs. Mick Heffernan will present to the Board of Management on Wednesday 27th February, and the PSA has also been invited to attend.

Actions

- Angela Higgins and Samantha Holman to read and summarise at next meeting.
- Agenda item for next meeting.
- Ciara O'Mahony to respond accepting the invitation to Mick's presentation.
- Agreed to schedule next meeting for Wednesday 27th January either before, or after the presentation.

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Child Safeguarding

The PSA received the 2018 Child Safeguarding checklist from the Principal.

Action

- Ciara O'Mahony to respond to the School Principal indicating receipt of the document.

Transition Year (TY) Group

PowerPoint presentation discussed in brief. Some slides were not visible to recipients.

New members expressed interest in getting involved in the TY group. Some additional ideas were suggested, for example model UN; Social projects such as mentoring, paired Reading and sports coaching for younger children.

Actions

- Ciara O' Mahony to request greyscale or black and white version of presentation.
- Yasmin Fortune to join TY group.
- Ideas to be forwarded to TY Group.

Senior Cycle Reform

2nd Year parent Brid volunteered to represent parents at NCCA for the Senior Cycle Review.

Events

Cinema Night in December.

This evening went well and could be improved if communication with children was improved; the event was synchronised with in-school events, and if there were more Garda vetted volunteers available.

Actions

- Date for next film night is March 14th, coordinated by Natalie Butter. Place on agenda for next meeting.
- Ciara O Mahony to check date with Jonathan Browner.

Maintenance of pots in yard requested. Seamus Young and Niall O' Malley to coordinate.

Actions

- Seamus Young and Niall O'Malley to organise this project when weather is slightly warmer.
- Meadhbh Rolff to review volunteer list for those with interest in horticulture.

Parent Induction evening on Thursday 31st January.

Action

PS.A. stand to be hosted by Yasmin fortune, Meadhbh Rolff, and Evan Furlong.

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Parent Teacher Meetings: 5th March.

Actions

- PSA café and volunteers sign – further details to be confirmed. Place on agenda for next meeting.

Writers' week and Arts Week (1st and 8th April respectively),

Actions

- Guests to be sought. Add to agenda for next meeting.

Communications.

Jonathan Browner suggested a Twitter account for the PSA. Members expressed concern about the openness of Twitter and the need for a PSA social media policy was also raised.

The PSA calendar is to be synchronised with the school calendar. The following dates were agreed for PSA meetings: Wednesday 27th February; Monday 25th March; Monday 29th April; Monday 13th May.

Communications platforms. Publication of the PSA newsletter to the school app is not working at the moment. Natalie will test uploading the newsletter to the school website and adding the link to the app.

Actions

- Ciara O' Mahony to ask JB for more information about the purpose.
- Natalie Butler to look into social media policy recommendations.
- Ciara O' Mahony to inform J B of the agreed calendar dates, together with proposed dates for other events.
- Natalie Butter to test use of website link to post newsletter to NWETSs app.
- Student Council Liaison: Natalie Butler is to discuss this with Sarah Kernaghan, and to explore what PSA can do for the Student Council.
- Natalie Butler to ask Neil Butler to set PSA up with an alias for Office 365 if this is possible.
- PSA to consider key dates for annual planning and dates up to December 2019 at next meeting.

Volunteering

- Ciara O' Mahony to send Google doc sheets to Meadhbh Rolf in order to create a volunteers list.
- Volunteers engagement – introductory e-mail opportunities ???

Next meeting : Wednesday 27th February. Time tbc .