



**Minutes from Newtownhamilton High School Association Meeting
held on Tuesday 10 January 2012 at 7.30pm**

Present

Mr Jim Harrison (Chairman)	Mr Garnet Mullan	Mrs Jillian Blackwood
Mrs Beth Harrison	Mrs Anne Geary	Mr Jonathan Black
Mrs Sandra Dodds	Mrs Kellie-Ann Coulter	Mrs Sandra Acheson
Mr George Blackwood	Mr Leonard McBride	Mrs Jacqueline Knight
Mrs Carol Sloan	Mrs Beth McNiece	Mrs Jean Watt
Mrs Allison Johnston	Mrs Denise McNiece	Mrs Ruth Smyth
Mrs Carol Alexander	Mrs Joanna Ferris	Mr Neil Megaw
Mrs Charlotte Anderson	Mrs Pamela Bradshaw	

Apologies

Mrs Amanda Blackwood	Mrs Janice McCartney	Mrs Wendy Barbour
Mrs Ruth McBride	Mrs Sandra McBride	Mrs Elaine Glenny

Chairman Mr J Harrison opened the meeting by offering the condolences of the School Association to the Henry family following the sudden death of Year 12 pupil James Henry on 21/12/11. Association Members stood to observe a minutes silence before Principal Mr G Mullan closed the time of remembrance in prayer.

Minutes from the previous meeting (08/11/11)

Mr N Megaw reported that the minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed via email on 09/11/11 and were also posted on the school website. Hard copies were also provided during the meeting. As there were no issues arising Mr G Mullan proposed that the minutes were an accurate account of what had been discussed. Mrs K A Coulter seconded the minutes.

Matters arising from previous minutes

Insurance – Mr G Mullan reported that he had contacted SELB on 09/11/11; David Wilson (Legal Department) had stated that the situation regarding insurance for PTA activities was somewhat of a “grey area”. If the PTA was a separate entity with their own constitution, they could organise events independently of the school. In this scenario, there would need to be a “Use of facilities” application and they would need insurance.

However, if the PTA is in name only and there are teachers on the committee (with representatives from parents), then it would be like a

sub-committee of the school. As a part of the school, the school was in control and there would be no need for insurance. Some smaller schools have a Parent's Committee, but it is not run by parents.

Mr G Mullan was of the view that "grey area" and "insurance" were terms that should not be used to describe events. He would be keen to have insurance in place and one possible solution was to hear from Jayne Thompson of PTA-NI and avail of their scheme that was already operational and acceptable.

Child Protection – Mr N Megaw stated that he had been in contact with the SELB regarding funding for the vetting of Association Members but that this was no longer available due to the current financial climate. Furthermore he reported that a teacher should always be present if Association Members are running an event that is attended by children/pupils. Following discussion, it was agreed that Child Protection Officer Mrs A Lavery would be asked to provide basic training for Association Members.

External Funding – A discussion took place on external sources of funding or grants that could be awarded to the School Association. Mr G Mullan reported that he had attended a PTA information seminar in November that was delivered by Mrs Jayne Thompson from an organisation called PTA-NI. For an annual fee, this organisation provides support to PTAs on a wide range of issues such as insurance, constitutions, finance, safeguarding children, fundraising, external funding etc. It was therefore agreed by all members that no applications for external funding should be made until a meeting was arranged with Mrs J Thompson. It was agreed that Mr J Harrison, Mr G Mullan and Mr N Megaw would represent the School Association at this meeting.

Mr J Black explained that he was currently working with the SELB PE Adviser Mr Philip Campbell on an application for a grant of £9000 for sports equipment (spin bikes). If successful, the equipment would be used for PE lessons and also for interested community groups.

Mr J Black stated that he had been advised that the application may have more chance of being successful if it was submitted on behalf of the School Association. This was agreed by all members and possible community groups were identified as beneficiaries.

Contact Details

A document was then circulated in order for Association Members to record their email addresses so that future correspondence could be forwarded. Association Members were encouraged to check their email account on a regular basis.

Report/feedback on Christmas Fayre

Mr J Harrison reported that the Christmas Fayre held on 24/11/11 had been a huge success. A healthy profit of £827.00 (after expenses) was raised while the strengthening of community links was also important. Mr J Harrison thanked all members for their support with this event.

A discussion then took place on whether another Christmas Fayre would be held in 2012/13 or if alternative fund raising event (eg concert) should be held. No decision was taken on this matter, other than the school would approach relevant teachers regarding the possibility of a concert at a date to be decided.

School Association Bank Account

Treasurer Mrs A Geary stated that the Association Account had £5085.30 tied up in a bond with a favourable interest rate that is due to mature on 17/10/12. It was also reported that the current account balance is £827.00.

Future Events

Mrs B McNiece reported that local fitness instructor Gerry Murphy is ready to commence the Community Fitness Classes. After discussion, it was agreed that these would commence on 31/01/12 (starting time 7.00pm) at a cost of £3 per session or £15 for 6 sessions (payable at the first session). Participants must be 18 years old or over and are expected to complete an enrolment form that requests personal information such as contact details and health condition.

Following further discussion on fundraising events, it was agreed that a 'Can't Cook, Won't Cook' evening would be held on 15/03/12. A sub-committee (Mrs B McNiece, Mrs B Harrison, Mrs R Smyth, Mrs J Blackwood, Mrs C Sloan, Mrs S Acheson and Mrs J Watt) was appointed to organise this event.

It would be proposed by Mr J Harrison that a final event should be held during term 3 and it was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

School Association Website Page

Mr N Megaw showed members (via the interactive whiteboard) the 'Association' page that had recently been created on the school website. This page included forthcoming key dates and relevant documents such as minutes and letters.

Information and pictures on the Christmas Fayre were also displayed. Mr N Megaw thanked Mrs R Smyth for providing the photographs.

Any Other Business

A member suggested that reports and photographs of School Association events should be forwarded to the local press for publication in their weekly papers. Both Mr G Mullan and Mr N Megaw expressed their frustration with one particular local newspaper office that did not publish information that had been sent, published information anything up to 6 weeks after the event or printed a report with mistakes.

Other members stated that a local primary school were also encountering the same problems and that there was a general opinion in the Newtownhamilton area that this particular newspaper was not supporting local organisations but yet was still expecting to sell papers within the community. It was agreed that Mr G Mullan would make contact with this newspaper company in order to highlight the issues that had been raised.

Date and time of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **Tuesday 27 March 2012 at 7.30pm.**

Mr J Harrison closed the meeting by thanking all members for their attendance and continued support.

This being all the business, the meeting ended at 9.15pm.