

## Newton Families Together Annual General Meeting

24<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 (held virtually via Zoom)

**Present:** Nik Arestis (Chair, NFT), Gillian Oldham (Chair, NPSFG), Gisi Mehlstiebl (Treasurer), Lesley Clinkenbeard (Secretary, NPSFG), Linda Kane (Headteacher), Emma Alison (Deputy Headteacher), Sarah Rennie, Kirsty Macfarlane, Glenda Carruthers, Fiona Peterkin, Penny Williams, Ruth Banning, Yvonne Wyroslawska, Emma O'Halloran, Nic Russian, Lyndsey Hamilton

**Apologies:** Kirstie Speed (Vice Chair, NPSFG), Katrina Arestis, Fiona Eyre

Agenda Item		Action owner	Action by Date
1. Welcome	NA welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies		
2. Fundraising Team Report (Gillian Oldham)	<p>GO advised that the Chair Report, Financial Statements (covering 2019/20) &amp; Objectives for 2020/21 covering NPSFG &amp; the Charitable Trust have been completed and submitted to both the school leadership team and the NPSFG office bearers. These will be shared more widely with the group following this meeting.</p> <p>GO outlined the highlights from the report as follows:-</p> <p>Office Bearers (NPSFG):-            Chair: Gillian Oldham            Vice Chair: Kirstie Speed            Treasurer: Gisi Mehlstiebl            Secretary: Lesley Clinkenbeard</p> <p>Trustees for Charitable Trust –            Gillian Oldham, Gisi Mehlstiebl, Veronica Duncan</p> <p>Objectives &amp; spending for the school year 2019/20 were agreed, in line with the school's own objectives, and focussed mainly on IT &amp; nursery equipment, as well as the Memorial Project for Mrs McManus. Having previously carried out their own fundraising, the nursery are now included in all NPSFG fundraising efforts.</p> <p>Figures summarising fundraising from August 2019 to February 2020:-            Amount raised - £6,926            Costs - £940 (focus on keeping costs to a minimum)            Profit - £5,986</p> <p>This was a really strong start to the school year, considering major fundraising events typically occur in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year. Record ever fundraising came from:-            Sports Fun Run &amp; Outdoor Disco (£1,002)            Halloween Disco (£1,112)            Xmas Market (£1,509)            Quiz Night (£1,349)</p> <p>Funds raised in previous year, together with the above, meant that a total of £15,771 was donated to the school which was spent (amongst other things) on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 new smartboards (£3,600 each) – this brings the school total to 10</li> <li>• New shed for the ECO Garden</li> <li>• A class set of headphones</li> <li>• Interactive workbench for the Nursey</li> <li>• Waterproofs for the Nursery</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donation of £900 to the family of former pupil Leah Kirk who was undergoing cancer treatment</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the usual Fundraising activities, NPSFG have also been assisting with the coordination &amp; sourcing of funding for the Memorial Project for former headteacher, Mrs Jane McManus. At the end of 2019/20 session the funding plan had been agreed, Scottish &amp; UK grant applications had been identified and progressed, and a JustGiving page had been set up.</p> <p>Newton Charitable Trust – GO reminded everyone that the Trust allows us to reclaim back Gift Aid on any donations. There is the option to merge the Charitable Trust with the PSA account in the interest of efficiency and still retain Gift Aid option. GO and GM to investigate further.</p> <p>GO thanked GM for pulling together the financial reports for NPSFG and Kirsty Crockett for finalising details for the Charitable Trust. An independent audit of the accounts now needs to be carried out – Emma O’Halloran confirmed that her husband, Barry, would be willing to do this.</p> <p>Office bearers GO advised that she will be stepping down as Chair in Jan 2021 and so the team is now looking for someone to partner her in the role until the end of the school year.</p> <p>NA thanked the entire Fundraising Team for their efforts in continuing to support the school under difficult circumstances.</p> <p>Penny Williams asked if a summary of the amounts raised &amp; what it was spent on will be issued to the wider school community. GO / KMacf confirmed that this will be done via the regular NPSFG Newsletter. PW advised that she would be happy to assist with compilation of the Newsletter going forward.</p>		
<p>3. School Development Plans (Linda Kane)</p>	<p>LK thanked the Fundraising team on behalf of the school for their ongoing support and provided an update on the school’s Improvement Planning.</p> <p>A focus on Digital Learning – looking at continuation of projects that could not be completed at the end the last school year (as a result of the closure), in addition to things that need to be done going forward. Details of the Schools Improvement Plan are on the school website.</p> <p>Raising Attainment &amp; Achievement - Areas of focus are on Literacy, Numeracy and Health &amp; Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on school library – following on from the work done last year to refurbish the library, plans had originally included involving parent groups &amp; community to support the growth of the library. There will be a focus on building a reading culture within the school &amp; refreshing the reading policy, Fresh Start literacy programme in addition to adding Spanish for P5-7</li> <li>- Numeracy – work is being done to refresh the current outdated policy (from 2013/14/15), adding P3 to RIK and extra challenges for able learners</li> <li>- Health &amp; Wellbeing – purchased Emotion Works. Focus on Diversity &amp; Equality – all staff to use new Scottish resource – possibility of having a parent review to provide comments.</li> </ul> <p>Creativity &amp; Employability</p>		

	<p>Digital Learning &amp; Teaching – EA advised that Newton have been given a Digital School award from Education Scotland &amp; have been asked to be a Mentor School going forward for others aiming to achieve this status. Three teachers (Mr Edwards, Miss Guthrie &amp; Mrs Spence) are Google trained.</p> <p>Moving forward – a commitment has been given from Stirling Council for P7 chromebooks, which should be issued shortly. In addition, all teachers are to be provided with laptops. Looking at obtaining feedback from parents about how general information / information on children’s progress is shared.</p> <p>Wellbeing, Equality &amp; Inclusion Nurture – LK &amp; Mrs Campbell are currently working on becoming Nurture Ambassadors. Will look at parents sharing their views of the schools Nurture policy, as they have done with other previous initiatives. Aggression training provided to all staff last year which will be taken forward this coming year. As with other initiatives the school will look for parental involvement in taking this forward. Play framework – this year the school will be looking at the inclusion of play at both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> level.</p> <p>A single page summary of the programme will be issued along with the Newton Note.</p> <p>NA asked LK to reach out to the NFT team for assistance when parental involvement is required. LK also confirmed that they are looking at how the various learning groups which the children take part in can be included in such discussions going forward.</p>		
4. NFT Class Reps (Nik Arestis)	NA advised that the meeting on 10 <sup>th</sup> September went well and agreement was reached that the role of the Parent Reps was useful however it was noted that the role is one of facilitation only and not a channel for airing individual problems. A leaflet outlining the role of the parent representative has been prepared and will be issued shortly to clarify the position and hopefully attract other parents to offer their assistance.		
5. NFT Office Bearers & Roles	NA advised the meeting that, like GO, he will also be stepping down from his role as Chair from the New Year and a replacement is therefore sought. It is important that some form of continuity is maintained as both groups are largely represented by parents from children in older year groups. Glenda Carruthers confirmed to the group that she would be happy to assume the role of secretary for NFT for next year.		
6. AOCB	A question was raised about the future of flexible drop off times at the start of the school day – LK confirmed that the school are happy to continue this going forward if it benefits parents.		
7. Other items	NA closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.		