Newtown High School of the Performing Arts P&C Association

Minutes NHSPA P&C Meeting
6pm Tuesday 10th August 2010
Staff common Room

Chair: Donna Huggart-vice president

Attendance: The meeting was attended by 16 parents, Stephen Gray Principal, Peter Shields and Betty Romeo Deputy Principals, Alison McKeller Head Teacher, Dance, Tim Ailwood Head Teacher Drama and Gemma Thomas Head Teacher Music.


Minutes of June Meeting: Read and accepted (moved Lisa McManus seconded Jenny Shay)

The meeting opened with a welcome to all present and an explanation of the meeting process and a thank you to the three heads of performing arts departments.

Principal’s Report: Stephen Gray
Stephen explained to the meeting that he would provide an arts report rather than the usual report to allow time for the performing arts department heads to do their presentations.

- Stephen mentioned, for everyone’s information, that 850 student auditions were conducted in the audition period.
- Additional Showcase electives: In 2009, 10 courses covered 6 key learning areas; in 2010, 14 courses covered 8 key learning areas; in 2011 additional electives includes courses such as commedia dell’arte, puppetry, costume design, set design, graphic design and ‘Create your own musical’.
- The NHSPA co-curricular program policy will accompany each offer to all new students of a place at the school.
- The current three-year school plan will finish at the end of 2011. The consultation process for the new plan 2012-2014 will take place at the end of term 1 or beginning of term 2 in 2011. This community forum will be held in Saint Georges Hall.

Stephen Gray pointed out some of the targets that have been met in the current plan. These include an increase in the retention of students in performing arts across their school lives. Students’ involvement in co-curricular program is up by 5%. The number of students achieving band 6 (90+ marks) in HSC performing arts is up by 4%.

- Stephen is working on recruiting a school patron by the 21st anniversary of the school’s opening.
Presentation to Meeting by Performing Arts Department Heads – Drama, Dance, Music

All PA Heads were involved in developing NHSPA Co-Curricular Program – (copies of which were available at the meeting.) The program is accessible on the school website. Stephen Gray encouraged everyone to have a look at it.

Head Teacher Drama: Tim Ailwood
- The HSC results 2009 were high.
- This year “Bugs” the musical was premiered. Bugs is the biggest production the school has produced to date. This musical production – script, music and design – was developed entirely by the school. A DVD of Bugs has been produced.
- In the semester 2 Showcase season, 11 drama ensembles will perform, which is another record for drama. Of the 11 ensembles three comprised year 11 students.

Tim took questions and is always happy to answer further enquiries from families or students.

Head Teacher Dance: Alison McKeller
- A master class in dance, run by an American guest of the dance department, made possible by a grant from the P&C. This proved a very rewarding multi-faceted opportunity for students.
- The Flash Mob involvement with other DET schools (see YouTube clip) was exciting for all students who took part.
- Contemporary dance will form a part of the standard master class on a rotation occurring every 3rd week.

Alison is also available to answer questions from parents and students.

Head Teacher Music: Gemma Thomas
- The China tour takes place the last week of term 3. This will be a 10-day tour, with 105 students participating from music and Drama. Rehearsals are scheduled on Sundays in September.
- Ensembles – there is a high level of student engagement in ensembles. There is a hierarchy of engagement; so to be a part of some smaller ensembles students participate in a gateway ensemble.
- Two guitar ensembles are a recent addition. There is also a Blues and Soul band and numerous other small groups that cover other areas of music.
- 120 students participate in the personal tuition music program.
- Gemma asks that if your child will not be attending a practice session or tuition to kindly notify the Department before the rehearsal/class.

Correspondence
Invoices for payment, for which expenditure has already been agreed.
Treasurer’s Report:
Donna Huggart presented the treasurers’ report in which it was stated that contributions to the Voluntary Contribution fund are currently at $17,380.00 which is in line with what was collected last year but is less than was anticipated for this year. The Voluntary Contribution Fund is the P&C's major fundraiser and allows the P&C to focus on helping the students and the school rather than the business of raising money. It was suggested that parents may have been confused, and thought they had paid the contribution as part of the larger payments at the beginning of the year.
It was noted that this contribution is equivalent to a dollar a day for each school day.

President’s Report: No report

P&C Sub-Committees:
- Environment Committee- no report
- Performing and Visual Arts – The next meeting is 6.30pm Thursday 19th August in the studio theatre. The committee will take the year 12 drama teachers to dinner on 25th August, parents are welcome to come along to thank the teachers.
- Faculty Committee – Report tabled by Jenny Shay.

A MOTION WAS PUT BEFORE THE MEETING:
'That up to $12,000 be shared amongst the 4 faculties of HSIE, Science, PDHPE and TAS to fund their specified requirements. That is up to $3,000 per faculty.’ The motion was moved by Jenny Shay, and seconded by Darren Mitchell. The motion was CARRIED.

General Business:
Discussion around communication between school and parents e.g. daily notes and other information. No resolution.

The meeting closed at 7.52pm

Next meeting Tuesday 14th September at 6pm in the Staff Common Room