Newtown High School of the Performing Arts P&C Association

Minutes NHSPA P&C Meeting
6pm Tuesday 9th February 2010
Studio Theatre

Chair: Darren Mitchell (Acting president in Steven Allen’s extended absence)

Attendance: The meeting was attended by 22 parents, Principal Stephen Gray, and Deputies Betty Romeo and Peter Shields

Apologies: Hector Abrahams, Lyn and Mark Wise, Michael Manuell

Welcome and Introduction: Darren Mitchell welcomed all parents and Stephen Gray back from extended leave last term. He thanked Betty Romeo for her efforts in the acting Principal role.

Minutes of November Meeting: Read and accepted (moved by Chris Wilkinson and seconded by Jeremy Challen)

Matters Arising: None

Correspondence:
The P&C has received Student Injury Insurance policy for 2010. This policy has not been taken up previously. Jeremy Challen will review the policy and report back to the P&C on the detail and whether it’s worthwhile to consider. It was suggested that he find evidence of other schools taking up the policy and review the existing NHSPA coverage.

President’s Report (Darren Mitchell):
2009 Achievements:
Successful application for various grants improving the school environment
- NHSPA Water and Energy Saving Project ($79,000). More detail of this project can be found further down in the Environmental report.
- National Solar Panels grant ($50,000).
- Dept of Sport and Rec 50% of total cost grant (up to $16,000) to upgrade the Basketball court. The upgrade has made the court multipurpose with lines for netball and tennis plus new fencing has been installed.
- Volunteer grant ($4,036) for small equipment purchases to support the P&C.

Voluntary Fundraising Contribution established
- $22,258 raised in 2009.
- Funded Studio Theatre upgrade initiatives.

Supported Showcase twice / year with Front of House refreshments.
Improved costuming storage facilities.
Upgrading of girl’s toilets.
Recarpeting of Studio Theatre foyer.
Purchase and installation of a Studio Theatre sign.
Opening of the new building (2 level extension to the Studio Theatre).

**2010 Plans:**
World Earth Festival (WEF)
  - Will be held on Friday 5th March. Parents to attend from 1:30pm. Event to finish at 4:30pm to allow time to setup for the Welcome BBQ for new parents from 5pm.

Studio Theatre Drapes
  - Final measuring completed and revised quote to be provided. It will take a couple of months for completion.

Voluntary Fundraising Contribution
  - Proposals for 2010 funding were presented. To be discussed and agreed upon at March P&C meeting.

Showcase/Musical Front of House support
  - ‘Bugs’ the musical will appear over 5 nights from Mon 15th to Friday 19th March in the Studio Theatre. The P&C will organise a roster for Front of House duties each night.

P&C Google Group
  - There have been ongoing issues for people trying to subscribe. This may be due to a change in the subscription email address at some point without notification to the P&C. To subscribe to P&C google group a blank email should be sent to: nhspa+subscribe@googlegroups.com

AGM:
  - The AGM will be held on Tues 9th March
  - Stephen Gray will be absent so Peter Shields will chair the AGM.
  - Darren Mitchell will be absent so Gina Richter (Vice President) will chair the P&C meeting following the AGM.
  - Darren outlined the opportunities for parents as P&C members and as executive office bearers.

Treasurer’s Report (Jeremy Challen):
Main item of note for 2009 was the success of the voluntary fundraising contribution – a total of $22,258 was raised. Commitments have already been made to spend these monies on the Studio Theatre upgrade. Other fundraising of $7,540 comprises $3,670 from Front of House/Barbeques and $3,870 from Pavers.

A total of $55,620 was donated to the School in 2009, of which $41,305 has still to be issued in payment.

Principal’s Report (Stephen Gray):
Stephen thanked Betty Romeo and Peter Shields for doing a great job in Term 4 during his leave.

My School Website:
Stephen is very concerned about the publication of data and how the media will use it. Although largely positive for NHSPA, he is concerned for other schools and how their results are being portrayed. He is also worried about simplistic comparisons. All the information and more can be found in the School’s Annual Report.

**Numeracy:**
In 2009 work was started with Y7 to focus on the highest achieving students and this will continue in 2010.

In 2010, students who are highly involved in the performing arts and miss classes due to rehearsals/performances will be able to attend catch up classes.

**‘BUGS’ The Musical:**
Stephen encourages parents to buy tickets to this musical. There are 5 nights of performances plus a matinee on Tuesday 16th March. The preview performance on Monday 15th and the matinee have tickets priced at $20 Adult and $10 child/concession. All other performances the tickets will be $30 and $20 respectively.

**HSC Results:**
Stephen is very proud of NHSPA’s HSC and School Certificate results for 2009.

The trend has been upwards over the last few years. There has been a focus on Maths in the last 3 years and improved results are now being seen. Stephen congratulated the Maths faculty on the work done and in achieving the flow on to results.

**Security:**
**Staff Car Park**
During the school day, outsiders have broken into cars in the staff car park. They have broken windows looking for money. A review is underway with a security company to determine what can be done to upgrade security in the car park.

**Student’s belongings:**
As a result of discussion on google groups about issues around students belonging and thieving, Stephen suggested:
- Parents advise children to take responsibility for their own belongings.
- If things go missing students should let the deputies know ASAP so they can still try and address the issue at the time. It is more likely they will be successful than if they are acting retrospectively. However success in finding the belonging and the perpetrator cannot be guaranteed. If this procedure is followed there is more chance of the student getting their property back and it sends a message to thieves that there is more likelihood that they will be caught.

Due to the number of issues reported by parents concerning the dance change rooms, Stephen will look into the possibility of locking change rooms.

**Lockers:**
Lockers will be removed from less secure locations around the school ie. Those not in corridors or near staff rooms. The school is not in a position to fund the replacement of lockers for new ones.
A new locker coordinator has been appointed, Jeremy Atkinson (assistant Y7 advisor). He is currently reviewing the locker system with Betty Romeo.

Darren invited Stephen to report back to the next P&C meeting regarding progress on the security matters raised.

**Staff Selection Panel Training:**
Two parents, Chris Wilkinson and Donna Huggart will attend this training on 18\textsuperscript{th} February so they can be P&C representatives on future selection panels.

**USA Dance Tour:**
This tour is undertaken every 2 years. The group will leave later this term for 2 ½ weeks, departing 7\textsuperscript{th} March. Peter Shields will be acting principal in Stephen’s absence.

**Performing and Visual Arts Sub-committee Report (Mary Mooney in Michael Manuell’s absence):**
Guest Company Directors Program:
In the 2009/2011 School Plan there is an objective to invite industry professionals as guest speakers. As one avenue of achieving this the PVASC committee has been working with the Drama department to create a pilot program to introduce guest directors for showcase companies. The program will commence this semester with students from the University of Western Sydney studying drama teaching, pairing up to work with Judith Hoddinott, Tim Ailwood and Dave Ferguson. There are certain conditions to be fulfilled by the UWS students. Expressions of interest are to be received by Tim Ailwood by 5\textsuperscript{th} March.

**Environment Report (John Caley):**
NHSPA Water & Energy Savings Project – Funded by NSW Gov DECCW ($79,000):
Construction work is complete for the Gym, main students and Studio Theatre toilets
- Dual flush toilets
- Spring loaded timed basin taps
- 6 litre trough urinals
- Rainwater harvesting system to supply all toilet and urinal cisterns
- Remote monitoring of the school mains water usage and each of the rainwater tank’s usage
Installation of a 5kWatt Photovoltaic Power System on the Admin building roof. This is mostly funded by the National solar schools grant. Power from the solar panels is fed into the school with any excess flowing out into the local grid. It’s estimated this may generate approx $2000 per year of electricity for the school.

The school will be able to view the solar panel power generation and the school’s power usage from the new Webgraphs webpage. Bran Lazendic and Yolanda Schmiga are working to add the water and energy monitoring to a new web page.

Science, HSIE and Maths faculties are working to incorporate the new water and energy saving systems into their curricula.
More Energy Saving Systems for 2010:
  o Solar hot water heater for the teaching kitchen
  o Solar hot water heater for the science dept/canteen
  o Energy meters for testing electricity usage of machines
  o Timer switches to turn off zip boil heaters overnight
  o Replace some fluro lights with T5 replacement kits, targeting security lighting

General Business:
Stephen Gray addressed issues raised on Google Groups re Presentation Day
  o St Georges Hall holds 300-400 people.
  o The event was moved to change the culture and make it more formal and to
    highlight and showcase what the school is about.
  o The school has never communicated or discouraged students not receiving
    awards not to attend.
  o Seymour Centre holds 700 people
  o This venue is appealing for budget purposes as the school is given a good deal
    due to holding two end of year showcase concerts there. Presentation day is
    charged at cost.
  o The venue won’t change for 2010 as it is already booked but the school exec
    will look at other options with a capacity of 1000 seats for following years.

Meeting closed 7:40pm.

Next meeting Tues 9th March 2010 at 6pm in the Staff Common Room.