Newtown High School of the Performing Arts P&C Association

Minutes NHSPA P&C Meeting
6pm Tuesday 14th September 2010
Staff Common Room

Chair: Darren Mitchell President

Attendance: The meeting was attended by Stephen Gray Principal, Peter Shields Deputy Principal, Nicki Wilkinson Acting Deputy Principal and 8 parents: Darren Mitchell, Jacqui Fine, Michael Manuell, Jenny Shay, Yolanda Schmiga, Mary Mooney, Anita O’Connell, Jeremy Challen.


Minutes of August Meeting: Read and accepted (moved Michael Manuel and seconded Jacqui Fine)

The meeting opened with a welcome to all present.

President’s Report:

*The Fund raising contributions have doubled in the last month to $33800. Thanks to Donna and John Huggart for their promotional efforts. (note: this increase was later found to be partly due to an error in posting of receipts – the fund-raising amount at 11 October was $21,574).

This will allow the 5 areas of PVA to access up to $5000 each for master classes, repayment to the school for the cost of the sound mixing desk in the Studio Theatre. There will be no further promotion of the contribution this year. Further improvements to Studio Theatre Foyer to be discussed at a later date and depending on other priorities which may arise will be first on the agenda for next year.

Information about the fundraising contribution has gone out to all new families for 2011.

2009 funds resulted in the recent installation of Drapes/ wings in the Studio Theatre.

*Sydney Fringe Festival is running for 2 weeks from the 10th September and while the school community is interested in the potential for involvement with this event there was a clash in the timing. The P&C are waiting to see how the first one goes before looking into how we can be involved next year.

Ideas were discussed briefly about how the students may be able to be involved if the timing next year allows.

*Discussion has taken place between Stephen Gray and the P&C Executive regarding a Patron. A draft of expectations has been passed on and the process of consultation with the faculties about possible nominees has begun.

*Darren has encouraged P&C members to be involved in the Strategic Planning process which will be open for school community input at the end of Term 1 / beginning of term 2 next year.

* P&C exec will meet during the school holidays then meet with Stephen Gray in Term 4
Principal’s Report:

*Most efforts this week have focused on caring for Yr 12 after the tragic event of last week. A meeting was held with the Yr 12 students to discuss the grieving and funeral arrangements. Students who choose to attend the funeral on Thursday can avail themselves of a bus arranged by the school. Approximately 40 students are expected to attend.
*Yr 12 Reports will be sent home this week
* Notes sent home re Monday 20th September Y12 Farewell Concert (Rest of school leave 2.15pm) and Tuesday 21st September Y12 Graduation Day (Rest of the school leave at 12.00 Midday)
* A note is also posted on the front page of the website
*China tour depart Sydney Wednesday 22nd September with the last rehearsal this Sunday
9 staff are going, Stephen Gray, Peter Shields, Gemma Thomas, Emily Lewis Jones, Deborah McGowan, Ned Manning, Chris Miller, Jacqui Boone and Brett Stone. Returning 3rd October.
Drama piece rehearsed for China will be performed at the graduation and maybe again at the Presentation Day.
*Naplan results were posted on Monday and Stephen Gray will report on them at a later date.
Sydney Region office phoned to say NHSPA was listed as an exemplar school for the Yr9 results in growth in writing demonstrating the programs put in place over the past year had a positive effect.
*Parent and teacher night will be held on the 20th October and is aimed at parents who need to follow up on concerns and teachers interviews by invitation.
A major review of Parent Teacher night may result in the Term 4 night being dropped depending on the attendance of this upcoming event. Next year may see 3 nights with 2 year groups on each instead of 2 nights with 3 year groups.
Treasurer's Report: Report was tabled and moved for acceptance by Jeremy and seconded by Yolanda Schmiga.

Sub Committee Reports:
Environment: no report – John Caley on leave
PVASC:
*A get well gift has been sent to Susan Sukkar, a parent of the school who was instrumental in organizing the China Tour for Sydney Region as well as performances at the Opera House etc. who has been unwell but is on the mend.
*Mary Mooney spoke about the pilot program of invitational directors from UWS. Mentored by Dave Ferguson and Tim Ailwood we have 4-6 UWS students undertaking teacher training in Drama working in pairs with some of the drama companies. Benefitting the teachers by relieving them from the hands on duties of directing and allowing them to step back and observe. The goal is to scale up to include other faculties in 2011.
*Ideas are being gathered for the setting up of two registers. One for the advertising of performance opportunities in a bulletin style website format to be administered by a parent.
*The visit by the P&VA faculty heads at the last P&C meeting was greatly appreciated and went a long way toward quelling the unrest of some parents by presenting the opportunity to explain the nature and operation of the curriculum and the co-curricula program as well as showing steps were being taken in response to some of their concerns.
*Funding for the VA exhibition in the St Georges Hall was approved.
Faculty Support Sub Committee Report

*HSIE- have purchased a Mac desktop and Mac laptop from the P&C donation - thanks on behalf of the HSIE faculty was noted. Also, we are developing our Moodle resources next term and would love to come to a P&C meeting to share some of our work with parents and thank the P&C personally next term if possible?

*TAS -Thank you, from a very grateful TAS Staff. This money will make an enormous difference.

To benefit as many students as possible it will be spent on

Power tools for the Industrial Arts room where all Yr 7&8 work as well as replacing the 20yr old microwaves in the kitchens.

*Science has purchased probes to be used with the data loggers purchased earlier this year.

Mr Sturgiss’ offer to attend a P&C meeting to show us how they are utilizing the new equipment is still on the table.

*PDHPE will go ahead with the purchase of a smart board and thank the P&C for enabling the purchase.

General Business:

*Communications will go out via Google group for upcoming events like the Showcase Front of House which Bettina Pearson will be heading.

*Jacqui Fine thanked the staff who attended the snow trip for making it possible.

*Short discussion was had about the idea of the register of performance opportunities. This will be discussed at the PVASC meeting as part of the preparation for the Strategic Planning process.

Meeting Closed at 7pm.

Next Meeting 9th November 2010 at 6pm in the Staff Common Room.