Newtown High School of the Performing Arts P&C Association

Minutes NHSPA P&C Meeting
6pm Tuesday 14th June 2011
Staff Common Room

Chair: Darren Mitchell

Attendance: Acting Principal Betty Romeo, Deputy Nicki Wilkinson, and 16 parents.


Welcome and Introduction: Darren Mitchell welcomed all parents Ms Wilkinson and Ms Romeo.

Minutes of March Meeting: Accepted by Mark Rolfe Seconded by Donna Huggart

Matters Arising: Master Class update covered in Presidents Report.

Correspondence:
Donations to Faculties & Fire Inspection of Studio Theatre Receipt from office-passed on to Jeremy Challen
P&C Journals
Advertising information for portable stages – passed on to Chris Miller and Dave Ferguson
Email from parent Jan Idle re Coal Seam Gas mining.

Matters Arising from Correspondence: Matter of Coal Seam Gas mining deferred to general business.

Principal’s Report: Betty Romeo
Stephen Gray is attending the Principal conference.
Thanks to teachers, students, P&C and parents involved in this semesters showcase. There has been an increasing number of students involved in the performances including Yr 9 hospitality showcase elective class.
The Off Broadway dance showcase is on 25/6/11 at the Seymour Centre. Tickets can be purchased from the Seymour Centre Box Office and you are encouraged to attend.
This week’s music nights finish off the showcase season in the Studio Theatre.

Yr 7 and Yr 11 auditions begin on 22nd of June for 8 days making this a very busy time for the Performing Arts Staff.

The Annual School Report is also on the website and parents are encouraged to read through it. Stephen Gray will answer questions relating to the report at the P&C Meeting on the 9th of August.
Reports for Yrs 7-10 will be in the post by the last week of Term 2. Yr 12 have received their reports and Year 11 students will receive their reports and attend interviews with a member of staff to discuss their progress.
Last year we successfully trialled Personal Best goal setting activities with Yr 9 and will be doing so again with this year’s Yr 9.

CCTV is to be installed, at entry and exits points around the school and the basketball courts, to improve security of the grounds. These will be funded from the school budget and will provide 24 hour/day footage for review if necessary.

Australian Curriculum
This year the school has created a cross faculty team of teachers who have been tasked with preparing for this inevitable curriculum change. Particularly phase 1 subjects, Maths English history and Science. It is expected that by the end of this term the draft syllabus should be available for comment and consultation.
Australian curriculum for The Arts has also gone through its consultation process with much of the feedback being from our school community. Thank you to all who contributed.

A letter was sent home today about an incident outside of the school involving 2 junior students being approached by men offering internet services to entice the students to a van. A yr 12 student overheard the situation and guided the juniors back to school. The police have been informed and will increase foot patrols. This is a good time to remind your children about stranger danger.

Questions posed by parents and Ms Romeo’s responses.
1. What sort of commendation will the year 12 student be given?
   He has been thanked personally by Ms Romeo and will be commended at the next school assembly.
2. How will the HSC be affected by the changes to the curriculum?
   There has been no mention of any changes.
3. Will students currently in Yrs 7-12 stay with the current curriculum?
   Yes they will
4. Is there any safety precautions in place for students involved in after school activities?
   There are no official measures but the students are encouraged to travel in pairs or groups and our students are very good at looking out and supporting each other.
5. The basketball courts are out of bounds at the moment. When will that be lifted?
   The courts were placed off limits after an incident of a student throwing a bench over the fence into the public space. The courts will place out of bounds to make a point to all those who were involved in encouraging the offender. The ban will be lifted before the end of term.
6. Will the CCTV be monitored by personnel, what are the implications to those entering the grounds?
   The CCtv won’t be manned or watched 24/7 but is for reviewing if necessary. It is a security and prevention measure for detecting vandalism. Information will be sent out to parents.
Welfare: Ms Nicki Wilkinson tabled the Draft Anti Bullying Policy. It is aligned with the DET policy and has been presented to the Staff and SRC. The policy takes in the dimensions of cyber bullying and encourages bystanders to speak out and be proactive. Parents are encouraged to read the policy and give feedback to Ms Wilkinson before the end of term 2.

Once the policy has been finalised it will be available for viewing on the school website. Parents are invited to attend a presentation by the Australian Communication and Media Authority on Cyber safety at 3.30pm on Wednesday 15th June in the School Library. The target group also receiving a presentation is Yr 10, some of the issues that will be covered are digital footprints, I/D theft, cyber bullying and reducing vulnerability.

Presidents Report: Darren Mitchell
Update on the Master classes for the 4 Performing and Visual Arts faculties and Technical company. Members of the P&C Exec and PVASC have reviewed the submissions. Some minor details of the Technical company submission need to be finalised. The School Annual report is on the website and Principal Stephen Gray will be answering questions from parents at the next P&C Meeting on the 9th August. We encourage all parents to review the report and invite you to attend the next meeting.

Tuesday 23rd August is the date for the forum, of the 3yr school plan, to be held at the school.

Showcase – Thanks to Bettina Pearson and Mark Rolfe for coordinating the Front of house roster and Audition morning teas roster and all parents who were able to help out.

21st Birthday Committee – Donna Huggart
The end of year mixed showcase at the Seymour centre will be the 21st celebration this year. The aim is to invite past P&C executive and Alumni. Gemma Thomas will be in contact with Robyn Amm.

The planning is in the early stages of setting budgets etc. Each faculty will be inviting ex students to come and work with student on items for the show.


NB $16 listed as income is a reimbursement for funds already spent on the basketball court upgrade.

2011 Voluntary Fundraising Contribution total is now $60,150.

Other income comes from Membership to the P&C and Front of House from Showcase and Auditions.

Commitments to Master classes and the Studio Theatre Foyer upgrade total approx $100,000.

Environment Sub Committee – John Caley
Two quotes have been received for Tree removal both approx $6000 +gst. Council approval is needed and Principal Stephen Gray will be asked to sign the form and send it to Council. The working bee on the 20th August will address the most important areas first and will be a general clean up of the front of the School and the Studio Theatre entrance areas.

Peter Shields and Bran Lazendich are involved and it is to be a whole school project with student and teacher involvement. Permission notes for students etc will be sorted out by the Peter Shields and sent out around two weeks before the event.
Darren invited parents to offer to help out John with the organisation of this event which will probably include a bbq lunch. A budget for the working bee and bbq lunch will need to be set. Negotiations will be made with the school executive to detail costs involved in the whole project and P&C donation amount.

Performing and Visual Arts Sub Committee Report: Lisa Penlington Co Convener
The next meeting of the sub committee will be held at 6.30pm in the Studio Theatre on the 2nd of August.
Wish lists from the Performing and visual arts faculties have been finalised. As there are limited funds available, due to the Studio Theatre Foyer upgrades, each faculty has been offered $1500 each towards the wish list.

Building Sub Committee Report: Michael Manuell
Studio Theatre Foyer upgrade- 2 parent architects and 2 parent builders are involved in the project.
The current storage area between the toilets and the existing foyer will be incorporated, including a new storage area. Discussions and plans are continuing and include weather proofing, maximising light , creating seating and a formal box office.
A budget to be presented to the P&C meeting of the 9th August.

Faculty Support Sub Committee: Jenny Shay
We are trying to set up two initiatives.
Parent assistance in Supervision of HSC Trials. Week 1-3 T3, 3 hrly sessions.
Working with rostered teachers to free a teacher to do marking.
Non financial Assistance to Faculties Trial
1 day per term on a set date. For example: Stocktake, book covering, laminating, clean ups etc

The language Dept has begun purchasing the interactive projector equipment through Adam Oliver ( IT Coordinator)
English Dept has installed a smart board and Math Dept has purchased text books.
Further discussions will take place with Ms Wilkinson regarding funding for Welfare now that the Esmart school program has been postponed for consideration in the 3yr school plan.

General Business:
Jan Idle brought up the issue of Cal Seam Gas mining proposed for St Peters and how it may impact on the school community and nearby suburbs. John Caley responded with some information about the process of pumping chemicals into the seam to extract the gases. NSW has banned the worst of the chemicals which can be used. Betty Romeo is going to make enquiries with the Dept of Education.
Meeting closed 7.15pm
Next Meeting: 6pm 9th August Venue to be announced.