Newtown High School of the Performing Arts P&C Association

Minutes NHSPA P&C Meeting
6pm Tuesday 8th March 2011
Library

Chair: Darren Mitchell

Attendance: The meeting was attended by 27 parents, Principal Stephen Gray, and Deputy Peter Shields

Apologies: Betty Romeo, Yvette Vamos, Deborah Charlton, Lyn Wise, Beth Daly, Jacqui Fine

Welcome and Introduction: Darren Mitchell welcomed all parents and thanked all those who helped the previous Friday at the 21st Birthday Festival and the Welcome BBQ.

Minutes of February Meeting: Darren apologised for there being no minutes from the previous P&C meeting, but copies will be available at the next meeting.

Matters Arising: None

Correspondence:
A letter regarding finalisation of the Basket Ball Court grant had been received and was handed to Jeremy Challen for his attention.

President’s Report (Darren Mitchell):
21st Birthday Festival:
Darren thanked Peter Shields for chairing the organising committee for the 21st Birthday Festival. Peter thanked Donna Huggart and other P&C members for their support of an event that was bigger and better than ever before. Donna Huggart thanked Joe and Brian (school maintenance staff) for their cheerful help during the day.

Welcome BBQ:
Darren thanked all the volunteers for their help at the BBQ.

Voluntary Fundraising Contribution:
Priorities for funds in 2011
1. Master Classes – continuing from first year in 2010 for Dance, Music, Drama, Visual Arts and Technical Company. Up to $3,000 for each faculty/company.
2. Upgrade to the Studio Theatre foyer.

Treasurer’s Report (Jeremy Challen):
The 2011 voluntary fundraising contribution (VFC) has raised $54,000 to date. This represents approx 25% of school families. The increase from the two previous years is due to the inclusion of the VFC payment on the school fee sheet at the start of the year.
Principal’s Report (Stephen Gray):
21st Birthday and Welcome BBQ:
Stephen thanked the P&C and all who helped with the 21st Birthday Festival and Welcome BBQ. At the end of the year there will be a more formal concert to celebrate the 21st birthday. He is looking to involve the school alumni both as audience members and performers. As performers they would be working with existing students. Other smaller celebrations will be held during the year.

Next School Plan:
Consideration is being given on whether to run the school forum in May or August. The main reason no decision has been made is due to the state election. Things may change post the election but may take some time to filter through so it may be better to leave it for a couple of months so that the school executive knows what plans are coming from the state government.

School Newsletter:
Stephen apologised for the March newsletter going out a little later due to the shorter 3 week gap since the February newsletter. He also apologised to any new families that did not receive the February newsletter.

Y7 Camp:
Betty Romeo is at the camp hence her apology for the meeting. Stephen reported on an accident at Vision Valley whereby a worker was seriously injured and taken to hospital with head injuries. A Y7 boy had rope burns on his hand, he was given treatment and on his request returned to the camp. The school counsellor was already at the camp and counselling was provided to students. Students were able to call home and could also speak to other staff. Stephen commended the staff on how hard they had been working to support the children.

Environment Committee Report (John Caley):
Over the last 2 years the committee has concentrated on implementing the Water and Energy Saving Project funded by a grant from NSW DECCW. A lot of water has been saved in the school. Mains water usage has dropped by a third, saving the school $10,000 in the first year. DECCW were very pleased with the project and used it as a case study. The plan is to continue the program by focussing on power usage. A lot of ground maintenance is required.
Yolanda Schmiga has helped to get the environment page up on the school website which shows usage information etc.

Performing and Visual Arts Sub-committee Report (Michael Manuell):
The purpose of PVASC is to support the Performing and Visual Arts faculties in any way possible. Achievements in 2010 included the refurbishment of the Studio Theatre with a new stage floor and replacement of drapes. In 2011 the goal is to complete the Studio Theatre foyer upgrade in conjunction with the Building Committee. The Master Class program will continue with industry professionals invited into the school to share their knowledge. Guest Directors from the University of Western Sydney (drama teaching students) will again work with students in directing selected drama companies as part of the co-curricular program.
Next PVASC meeting is Tuesday 22nd March at 6:30pm in the Studio Theatre. Mary and Michael are looking forward to new parents coming along with new interests and ideas.

**Faculty Support Committee Report (Jenny Shay):**  
During 2010 the P&C supported the faculties of HSIE, DT, PDHPE and Science with up to $3000. The Head Teachers in consultation with their staff made the following purchases:
- HSIE – 2 Mac Computers
- DT – Microwaves, Electric Woks and Power tools
- PDHPE – Electronic white board (Smartboard)
- Science – Probes for Data loggers

The Head teachers of English, Languages, Math and Welfare have been approached with a similar offer for this year.

**Building Committee Report (Hector Abrahams):**  
The Building Committee has been revitalised for the Studio Theatre upgrade project. There will be a few meetings to create a design proposal. Looking for parents with interest or professional experience in architecture, building, design and interiors.

There was a query from John Caley on whether existing restrictions around the school’s performance space being available to outside people due to OH&S guidelines could be addressed with the foyer upgrade project. Hector felt this would be possible.

**General Business:**
There were some questions from parents:
1. Do relief teachers follow the curriculum?  
Peter Shields explained the procedures for day to day relief (no notice) vs organised relief (where an absence can be planned). There is more capacity for an organised relief teacher to follow the curriculum because the regular teacher will usually have had time to leave prepared class work. If the absence is for more than one day then the relief teacher will be engaged for the whole period of absence and the school tries where possible to get someone who is experienced in the specific subject. This is more difficult for day to day relief.

2. Why in Y8 are classes mixed up? There are no extension classes eg, music, so it feels that all the work done in Y7 is not continued, they have to go back to basics. Peter Shields explained that there is a very crowded curriculum in Y7 and Y8. There is the opportunity in Y9 and Y10 to do extension courses.

3. If you wish for your child to attend the Study Centre on Mondays, is there anything else you need to do besides completing the form?  
No, just send the form in to Brett Stone.

**Meeting closed at 7:05pm**
Next meeting Tues 10th May 2011 at 6pm in the Staff Common Room