Minutes NHSPA P&C Meeting
6pm Tuesday 10th May 2011
Staff Common Room

Chair: Darren Mitchell

Attendance: Principal Stephen Gray, Deputy Peter Shields, Head Teacher Science Brett Stone, Head Teacher HSIE Ms Rachel Mules and 17 parents.


Welcome and Introduction: Darren Mitchell welcomed all parents and staff and introduced Ms Mules and Mr Stone.

Presentation by Head Teachers of HSIE and Science on how they are using the technological items funded by the P&C last year.

HSIE have purchased 3 desktop and 1 laptop computers after adding funds from their budget. The benefits are both educational and administrative, faster and more efficient, lesson preparation, marking and reporting. The exciting side is the access to online resources and activities which can be utilized in lessons and the moodle site.

All subjects have a moodle site which offer students a wide range of web links, activities and resources relating to topics being studied. Students log in using their school login and password to complete activities set by the teacher and also for help.

Science have purchased ten data loggers and probes to be used with them. Over the past few years the faculty have been integrating technology into the classroom. The addition of data loggers ensure that the experimental aspect aren’t diminished. The data loggers interface like a computer, the probes take real time measurements and are being used during senior lessons. For example they can be used on Biology field trips to take light and temperature readings. The class members can take multiple samples and upload the data in class to analyse as a group by projecting onto a screen using the emulator function. Recording of sounds in situ eg bird call could be used to enhance a presentation. Chemistry students can use them for things like measuring the PH of acids and Physics students for measuring radiation emissions.

The existing probes can be used with the loggers and they have plug & play and USB functions. These have added another dimension to the laptops in the digital education revolution enabling students to create spreadsheets, graphs, formulas etc with the software. The junior students have been introduced to the equipment and it will be gradually integrated into their lesson plans in the future, firstly yrs 9&10 and then 7&8.

Both teachers fielded questions from the parents. Moodle was explained in more detail and the use of computers by students was covered.

Minutes of March Meeting: Accepted by Yolanda Schmiga Seconded by Glen Scholfield

Matters Arising: None
Correspondence:
Fund raising - Art Exhibition – passed on to Di
Site Systems Outdoor seating – passed on to John
Felton Industries -School Aluminium Furniture- passed on to John
2x Parent Membership applications- passed on to Edi Condack
World Earth Day Receipt from office-passed on to Jeremy Challen
Cheque for P&C Membership $4580-passed on to Jeremy Challen
Bills for faculty purchases-passed on to Jeremy Challen
Dept of Ed & Training letter School Global Funding
P&C School mail out, including information about the Annual conference, Ministerial Reception Awards night
criteria, nomination forms and closing date of 1 July 2011.
P&C Journals

Matters Arising form Correspondence:
Request for a second person to nominate as representative to the P&C Sydney Regional meetings and Annual
Conference in Tamworth. No response from those in attendance was forthcoming.
Darren Mitchell moved a motion to accept Carmel McCallum as NHSPA representative. Motion was passed
unopposed.
The Dept of Ed & Training letter re Global Funding of $395,000 approx. was tabled.
Stephen Gray pointed out that 1/3 pays for casual relief teachers.

Principal’s Report: Stephen Gray
Showcase starts next week Tuesday the 17th of May. Yr 9 hospitality showcase elective class will be
providing the food for intermission on both the opening night and the Thursday the 9th of June when the other
showcase elective classes are performing. Booking forms are in the Newsletter and on the website.

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.
The three year School Plan forum will be held on Tuesday the 23rd Aug in St Georges Hall. It It is hoped that
many teachers, students and parents will attend.

Peter Shield is going on leave and Nicki Wilkinson will be Relieving Deputy while Andrew Benson will take
on Relieving Head Teacher of Welfare.

The Parent/Teacher Interview nights have been completed in a new format this year.
Feedback was asked of those who were able to compare it to previous years. The general opinion was that it
ran more smoothly this year but some appointments were still a bit tight.
There is still some experimentation for the best combination of years on each night, as yrs 7 and 11 always
have heavier traffic.
There was a question raised by a parent regarding implementing an online booking system. Brett Stone has
looked at a few places that use them. Parents felt it would be the best option.

President’s Report: Darren Mitchell
The priorities for this year are Master classes for the 4 Performing and Visual Arts Faculties and also
Technical Company as well as the upgrade of the Studio Theatre Foyer all of which have had P&C
expenditure approved.
Master Class proposals of how funds would be spent have been received. The classes are aimed at assisting
the faculties to get external involvement of professionals and to build connections in the Performing and
Visual Arts world.
The proposals will be reported on at the next P&C Meeting.

Foyer Upgrade – 1st stage is the set up of a small committee from the PVAsC and Building Sub Committee comprising of Michael Manuell, Hector Abrahams and Terry Bail who is an architect and new parent. They will be creating a plan with phases for completion. This will be a continuation of the past improvements to the Studio Theatre of seating and drapes etc and the Robyn Amm building. The aim is to bring the foyer up to the same standard and will hopefully also improve the storage area between the Foyer and the toilets as part of the project.

Showcase Front Of House- Is primarily a support for students and parents attending the showcase performances while it does bring in a small amount of funds to the P&C. The role of FOH coordinator is in the process of transition between Bettina Pearson and Mark Rolfe. It is a great way to help out and get to know other parents and students. Volunteering involves serving beverages and food before show time and during intermission. Parents are encouraged to bring cakes etc to be sold. It is possible to volunteer to serve on a night when you have tickets and there will be a team leader present to coordinate volunteers.

21st Birthday – There is to be an end of year celebration and a committee led by Peter Shields has been set up. They have begun talking about the logistics required and alumni students etc. An invitation to the P&C to have representatives on the committee has been accepted by Donna Huggart and others were encouraged to see Donna or Peter if they were interested.

Treasurers Report: Jeremy Challen
The report was tabled with Income of $80841-30 and Expenditure of $99-00. 2011 Voluntary Contributions to date is $59650.
A parent raised the question of how this compared to funds raised by other measures before the introduction of the voluntary Contribution and were told it was previously between $20,000-$25,000 which involved a lot of work by a few people. Trivia nights and raffles were the types of fund raisers employed. Daren Mitchell pointed out that the $16225 income listed as Community Grant in schedule 1 was a reimbursement of the funds already spent on the basketball court upgrade last year.

Performing and Visual Arts Sub Committee Report: Lisa Penlington Co Convener
Lisa introduced herself and informed the meeting of Michael Scott Mitchell and Di Solomon as the other Co Conveners and Camilla Lawson as the Secretary of the sub committee. The Master Classes were discussed at the last meeting and wish lists from each of the departments except Visual Arts have been received. As the Foyer upgrade is the priority a walk through was undertaken to gather ideas. The storage area will hopefully be included into the foyer. There have been three meetings with the architects and the head of the Technical department, Dave Ferguson, so far. A request is made for parents skilled in Interior design or Design and Graphics to get involved in the project.

John Caley questioned whether the subject of the Studio Theatre becoming compliant as a Place of Public Entertainment was being addressed. The answer was that a consultant would be employed to make a risk management assessment and to give advice on requirements for compliance

Faculty Support Sub Committee Report: Jenny Shay
The English Head Teacher, Michael Fischer, has advised the completion of installation of the data projector and related items in C5 classroom during the last school holiday break. A meeting has taken place with the Head Teacher of Welfare, Nicki Wilkinson, with the goal of finding out what the role of the Welfare dept is in the school and how funding could help the current strategies. The Esmart School program was discussed and will be looked at further in the 3 year school plan as a possible inclusion in the information technology education plan.
The Language Head Teacher, Ms Civitella, is seeking quotes.
The Mathematics Head Teacher, Ms Pearn, is purchasing text books and teachers resources with the P&C funds
Building Sub Committee Report: Included in the PVAsC report.

Environment Sub Committee Report: John Caley
A walk through of the grounds was taken with Peter Shields and Bran Lazendic. It was determined that there were trees which needed to be removed by a tree surgeon and chipped. A working bee is to be organised, with participation of parents and students encouraged. This will be held in Term 3 with the date to be advised. Most likely the 27/28th Aug or 9/10th Sep, to be confirmed. Weeding and mulching is required with the planting to be next autumn. Plant lists will need to be created in good time for orders to be placed. Parents keen to get involved are asked to meet in front of the admin office by 4.25 pm on Tuesday the 17th May for an inspection and short discussion of the grounds. The aim is beautifying the school and is not necessarily restricted to gardening. Ideas like tiling the riser of the stairs are being considered as well. There will be 2 working bees for preparation and one for planting over the next 12 months. Bran Lazendic will be supervising activities for students in co operation with the goals.
Question was raised by a parent regarding Council assistance with the school environment. John responded that none is available at the moment.
A parent mentioned the Long Bay Prison Plant Sale. John will investigate.
Question was raised by a parent re thefts of plants previously planted. John responded that not too many thefts have occurred.
Plants will need stakes and bags for protection etc.
Three quotes for a tree surgeon are to be obtained by John Caley for consideration for funding by the P&C.
Work will continue on the Environment page of the school website by Yolanda Schmiga and Bran Lazendic
The walk through on the 17th of May is advertised in the Newsletter and will be posted on Google groups by Jenny Shay
Darren Mitchell spoke to the meeting about how active this sub committee has been with projects for saving rainwater and power in the school.

General Business: A parent brought to the attention of the meeting the new parking restriction to be brought in by Marrickville Council for the Newtown/Enmore area on the 16th May. The information, including links to Marrickville Council, will be posted on google groups by Jenny Shay as it may affect parents attending showcase performances.

Meeting Closed at 7.15pm
Next Meeting 14th June 6pm Staff Common Room