Minutes 11th September 2012 6pm
Staff Common Room

Chair: Darren Mitchell

ATTENDANCE
Staff: Betty Romeo, Peter Shields, Brett Stone, Mimi Trifunovic
Parents: Donna Huggart, Ross Moffat, Tony Ryan, Jenny Curtis, Rodney Monk, Katie Mann, Ailsa Weaver, Peter Denholm, Callum Gibson, Kelly Burke.

APOLOGIES

Welcome and introduction: Darren welcomed parents, the relieving principal, the deputy principal and relieving deputy principal.
Minutes of August meeting accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE
- Letter from the office of Carmel Tebbut requesting the school participate in a road safety survey. This has been announced in the school newsletter.
- Brochure from the P & C Federation about alcohol and end of year celebrations for HSC students.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
- Major works by Year 12 students are being finalised and congratulations to the eight students whose drama performances have been nominated for OnStage.
- Year 12’s last day of scheduled lessons will be Monday, September 17, with the students and staff to attend a concert from 2:15pm. This will mean an early finish for students in Yrs 7-11.
- Yr 12 Graduation ceremony on Thursday, September 20, at 12pm. The students in Yrs 7-11 will be dismissed at 11:50am to allow staff to attend the ceremony. Playground supervision will be provided for some students. A letter has been sent home outlining the details of both events and it has been posted on the website.
- The Year 11 exams are going well and finish this week.
- The Spring Prom Concert will take place on Tuesday, September 18, and bookings can be made online. All parents welcome.
- Stephen Gray will be returning from LSL. Betty thanked Peter and Brett for their support during Stephen’s absence.

TOURNAMENT OF THE MINDS
Congratulations to Mimi Trifunovic and her students who won the state Tournament of the Minds final last weekend.
The team comprised of four Year 7 students and three Year 8 students. They were required to write their own script and make their own props, based around a parody of a nursery rhyme.
Ms Trifunovic said it was beautifully acted and was a major achievement, given the team was one of the youngest in the high school division and most had never competed in a Tournament of the Minds competition before.
The school has been competing in these events since 1993, but this this is the highest achievement so far.
The team will now go to Perth for the national final in October. Teams from New Zealand, Hong Kong and Singapore will also compete.
Ms Trifunovic requested the P & C consider a grant to contribute to the students’ cost of travel to Perth. Costs of approximately $5000 will be incurred, including airfares and a registration fee of $200 per child.

TREASURER’S REPORT
Ross tabled the P & C’s accounts.
$5,250 has been collected in P & C membership fees this year.
There is $112,282 in the St Georges Hall Trust account and $45,405 in the P & C bank account.
The biggest expense has been the renovation of the Studio Theatre foyer. There are still three outstanding bills for this project which should be settled in the next few weeks.
The insurance will be paid early next week, and there are new forms which must be filled out before any event and lodged with the Federation.

WORKING BEE REPORT
Kelly read John’s report in his absence. The day was a great success, with special thanks to Glen Schofield for staying late and finishing the fence painting and Frank Verheyden who took the green waste to the tip.
Expenses are expected to be around $500 - $1000 for herbicides, gloves, painting rollers and turps, $300 for tip fees and $100 for a tap key and sundry items.
Jobs still outstanding include: moving the mulch off the oval, weeding and mulching the Norfolk Street garden and cleaning up the garden and paving on the Newman Street side of the Studio Theatre.
A date of October 21 has been proposed to finish these jobs.
Darren thanked John for organising a successful working bee and it was agreed the Newman Street section of the school was the highest priority for a smaller working bee on October 21.
Kelly will remind John to put out a notice on google groups.
Betty and Peter agreed that the rubbish which collects under the side stairs to the gym is an ongoing problem and it is possible to have that area sealed off in the near future.

BUILDING REPORT
The final touches to the Studio Theatre foyer refurbishment will be conducted during the October school holidays.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT
The school’s patron, Lynne Williams, the performing arts heads of departments and the school executive recently met to explore ways the school can benefit from its links with Lynne and NIDA.
Darren thanked Betty for her leadership during the meeting and Tim Ailwood, Leisa Munns, Peter Shields and Brett Stone for their contributions.
The creative arts national curriculum was also discussed at the meeting, both the school and NIDA seeing themselves as leaders in this terrain.
Lynne agreed to discuss with NIDA’s head of drama about the possibility of establishing a relationship similar to that which the school has with the University of Western Sydney, where drama student teachers worked with the school’s drama ensembles. Darren said it was likely that such an arrangement with NIDA would take the form of short, intense periods, rather than weekly involvement, as is the case with the UWS arrangement. Lynne said she was happy to include a clause in future visiting artists’ contracts allowing for NHSPA drama students to attend talks and master classes. The possibility of sharing technology was also discussed at the meeting, as both schools have similar technology platforms such as Moodle, which NIDA is already using to connect to WAAPA. Betty said this technology sharing system was already working well for events such as the Schools Spectacular. The school is examining ways the drama faculty can forge links with overseas institutions, particularly in the UK, along the same lines the dance faculty has in the US, which has been highly successful. The performing and visual arts sub-committee is pursuing the idea of a series of evenings featuring industry professionals. These could start as early as the first term of next year, with a Sydney talent agent likely to be the first guest speaker. Betty said Lynne will probably attend the end of year presentation day and may even be the guest speaker.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

$500 for each Tournament of the Minds student was approved to assist with travel expenses to the National Competition in Perth. Ross will liaise with Ms Trifunovic and parents involved. A parent asked if the school had examined the possibility of using the Carriageworks facilities. Betty said the Dept of Education had some form of regional involvement with the venue. The school had no direct link but this could be examined in the near future. She said one of the difficulties in forging local relationships was that many of the teachers did not live locally, so it was reliant on the student and parent body to a large extent. The school has fostered a successful relationship with the Seymour Centre. Darren said there were 37 performance venues close to the school.

Meeting closed: 6.55pm.
Next P & C meeting: October 16, staff common room.