Minutes NHSPA P & C meeting
6pm, 9 April 2013
School common room

CHAIR: Darren Mitchell
APOLOGIES: Lyn Wise, Miriam Perl, Donna Huggart, Nicole Wilkinson, Theodora Fetsi, Ailsa Weaver, Kati Westlake, Tony Ryan.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION: Darren welcomed all parents, the acting principal and deputy principal.

MATTERS ARISING
Donna and Lisa will represent parents on the Showcase review panel. The next meeting will take place on 2 May.
Kelly tabled John’s environment report, to be attached to the AGM minutes.

RELIEVING PRINCIPAL’S REPORT: Nilaufer Rajwar
Stephen Gray and Peter Shields left with 70 students to tour China on Sunday.
The parent teacher interview online booking system appears to be working well, the school will report back after the third and final night early in term 2. Feedback from parents has been mainly positive, although parents of senior students have said they would like longer times with each teacher and/or the interview be spread over two nights.
Darren suggested a strong message should be sent to parents reminding them of the five minute time limit.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Darren Mitchell
Showcase begins in 4 weeks from 21 May.
Next term is only nine week so Showcase runs right up to audition period.
Nilaufer said the school had received close to 1000 audition applications.
At the last principal’s meeting, the P & C Executive brought up the subject of the school’s duty of care re students participating in after school hours activities.
An emergency contact name and number will be provided to parents of students rehearsing for Showcase.
Patron: It was agreed students would benefit from a junior patron. Although the patron program is a P & C initiative, it needs the school’s support to continue effectively.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Ross Moffat
Ross tabled the accounts for the end of March. The St George’s Hall Trust Account holds $76,000 to be specifically used for the creative and performing arts. The Studio Theatre foyer project is nearly completed so the P & C welcomes new ideas on how it may enhance the performing arts co-curriculum.
The P & C general account holds $57,000 for general purposes. Last year the P & C assisted student travel to the tune of $5,000. The Faculty Sub-committee should discuss ways of funding non-performing arts related projects. John suggested making it clearer to parents the tax deduction benefits of donating to the St George’s Hall fund.

ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT: John Caley
The broken water pump has been repaired to the cost of $586.01. John to forward the invoice to Ross. The working bee will involve tasks of normal maintenance, including weeding and planning the vegetable garden, converting the adjacent stair area into a storage facility, and high-pressure hosing of the concrete. It was noted the area on Norfolk Street behind the car park was in need of maintenance. John will send out a reminder and RSVP option on google groups. Depending on numbers, a barbecue could be provided. Terry will explore options of planting climbers in the concrete circular quadrangle with water storage underneath. A tree is cracking one of the ground’s retaining walls. There is the possibility of re-routing the wall to save the tree. Council permission would still be needed. John to obtain a costing. Abbi has confirmed the school is not eligible for a government environment grant. Terry will look at other funding avenues, including City Of Sydney. The school environment group won a prize for a DVD it made, and will order $600 worth of plants to be planted at working bee, so there will be some students turning up. Darren pointed out that parents must supervise their children if they attend the working bee.

PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT: Lisa Penlington
The 14 May is the date for the inaugural “Afternoon Tea With” event which will see United Management agents Natasha Harrison and Trish McGaskill speak to students and parents. It is expected the talk will go for about an hour. The Sub-committee is now looking for a guest for the next event in the third term. Michael said the Studio Theatre needed a new PA system, with the P & C to contribute half the cost. This is supported by Stephen. It is expected to cost about $14,000, subject to confirmation of price. The proposal was seconded by Abbi. Darren explained Stephen’s reluctance for the P & C to fund a staff member’s travel overseas to explore links with performing arts education institutions, on the grounds it may not be a cost-effective or time-effective use of resources. However, opportunities are being explored for a student tour to Europe/UK, from which an accompanying teacher could be tasked with a study of potential links.

BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT: Terry Bail
The Studio Theatre concrete was polished last weekend. The school was concerned at the amount of dust the workmen left behind. The concrete still needs sealing. In the school holidays work to the timber fixtures will be completed, the firedoors will be fixed, painting and furniture installation will take place. The project is on track for the opening of Showcase on 21 May. Further details to be discussed at the 14 May P & C meeting.
FACULTY SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT: Kelly Burke
Funding of new text books may have to be deferred until after the new national curriculum is in place.
Terry suggested buying new lockers as they are in short supply and many are in poor condition. He will look into the costs of buying new ones and speak to staff to establish how many may be needed.
Emma and Katie have joined Kelly and Abbi on the faculty sub-committee.

GENERAL BUSINESS
John passed on a thank you from the teacher who supervised the Tournaments of the Mind team.
There was no other business.

Meeting ended: 7.10pm
Next meeting: 7pm, 14 May, Studio Theatre.