Minutes NHSPA P & C meeting
6pm, 19 November, 2013
School common room

CHAIR: Katie Mann
STAFF: Stephen Gray, Peter Shields, Nilaufa Rajwar, Adrian Shipp.
ATTENDANCE: Hollis Scoggin, Kati Westlake, Donna Huggart, Briony Magoffin, Christine Williams, Nicki Wilkinson, Mark Rolfe, Tony Ryan, Jenni Wilkins, Dennis Dumlao, Susan Miles, Ross Moffat, Emma Walters, Kelly Burke.

APOLOGIES
Lyn Wise, Michael Scott-Mitchell, Ross Moffat, Darren Mitchell, Donna Huggart

Minutes of October’s meeting accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE
P & C Federation journals

MATTERS ARISING
The lockers audit to be discussed at the next executive meeting. Kelly to invite Emma Walton to the meeting. Darren will speak at the Year 7 Orientation and John at the Year 11 Orientation.

ADRIAN SHIPP’S REPORT
28 mini iPads were provided to a randomly selected Year 8 class at a subsidised rate. Assessment tasks comparing Year 7 and 8 results were analysed in both the iPad class and the rest of the Year 8 cohort. There did not appear to be any difference in the learning outcomes between the two groups.
Therefore, from next year the school will introduce a “bring your own device” model that will include access to the school’s network system.
The students appeared to enjoy the iPad use and a strong sense of ownership was noticed, in contrast to the government-issue laptops.
Adrian said the pilot program was undertaken partly to see if increased technology could assist with student engagement in the middle years of schooling, but there was no noticeable difference between the two groups.
Under the bring your own device model, the same firewalls as the laptop system will apply.
Students will be given a clear definition of what devices will be acceptable by the end of the year and smart phones would not be permitted.
The school is looking at a range of generic apps that can work across a variety of devices.
Students unable to provide their own device will be given laptops handed back by Year 12 students. The software will be enhanced for better usability.
Students will be able to access textbooks online.
It was recognised that teachers have varying levels of computer skills to sufficiently support technology-based student learning.
Tony said too often teachers were provided with technology but not trained sufficiently to use it, citing the smartboard as an example.
No iPads were lost during the pilot, but some were dropped and had cracked screens.
The P & C thanked Adrian for coordinating the pilot and reporting back.
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
The school is one of 229 participating in the ELS pilot program. An executive conference held earlier in the term looked at the leadership survey results. There is a need to develop mentoring and coaching programs for staff to build leadership capacity. There will be two school project coordinators next year, concentrating on professional development and student assessment, particularly in the junior school. There will be a third deputy position, with each deputy overseeing two year groups. The Showcase summer series includes an extra show at the Seymour Centre, although ticket sales are not as strong as hoped. The concept of last week’s opening night with multiple sites was good but the structure and organisation needs tightening up. There will be a full Showcase review early next year. There will also be an attempt to involve visual arts exhibitions, with the foyer of St George's Hall showcasing art in the future.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Darren is overseas.

TREASURER’S REPORT
There was no Treasurer’s report.

ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT
There was no environment report.

PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT
The first afternoon tea event for 2014 will be scheduled in school hours to boost attendance. Stephen said a suitable time would be 2.30 on Thursday afternoon when school finishes early. It is hoped a theatre and film composer will be the guest, with Lisa open to suggestions on other guest speakers.

BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT
Terry is working with Emma on the lockers project. Dennis to obtain quotes for new fridges in the Studio Theatre from Bing Lee.

FACULTY SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT
After the new computer system is installed Ross will transfer the agreed faculty funds to the school. Stephen said faculty heads understood the funds could be carried over to 30 June 2014.

GENERAL BUSINESS
Abbie suggested developing a relationship with Holroyd High School, which has a student population of about 90 per cent refugees and has an intensive language centre. To be discussed further at the executive meeting.

Meeting ended 7.10
Next meeting: 11 February 2014