Minutes NHSPA P & C meeting
6pm, 8 April, 2014
School Common Room

CHAIR: Katie Mann

ATTENDANCE:

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION: Katie explained how the two deputy presidents would share the acting president role for the time being.

MATTERS ARISING:
AGM: Kelly circulated a description of the committee roles at March’s AGM.
Fridges: The new fridges are slightly too big, Dennis is contacting a parent carpenter to remediate. Terry has organised the repairs to the fire door. Ross will forward Terry's email.
St George’s Hall: A meeting needs to be scheduled with Stephen to discuss the St George hall renovations. This should be scheduled for early next term.
School planning forum: The school planning forum will start at 5pm on 13 May in lieu of the regular P&C meeting. Betty will give the details to Kelly to post on google groups. It is expected the forum will finish by 7pm.
Sub-Committees: The P&C is looking for volunteers for the Building, Environment and Creative Arts Sub-committees.

RELIEVING PRINCIPAL’S REPORT (Betty Romeo)
US Tour: Stephen Gray is on tour with 24 students, along with Leisa Munns, Peter Shields and Fiona Burg. They are presently at Disneyworld. The students participated in classes at Alvin Ailey. Nine out of the 10 students who applied were granted scholarships. Stephen will give a report on his return.
WEF: Betty thanked the P&C and Dennis Dumlao in particular for a successful World Earth Festival and apologised for the last minute change of date due to wet weather.
School report: The annual school report is now on the school website. Stephen will address it in Term 3.
School planning forum: Participants should read the school report first and start coming up with ideas. It is an opportunity to reflect where the school has been and what to strive for over the next three years.
Co-curricular review: The school has started work on the terms of reference, including audition. It will be led by School Education Director Rod Megahey so it will be truly independent. The group will make recommendations. It is expected to take place early next term.
Parent teacher nights: This is the second year the school has offered online appointments. The May 6 evening for Year 7 is expected to be very busy so the session will run from 3.30 to 7pm. A message will go out tomorrow to Year 7 and 10 parents, with bookings open on Friday.
Song writing workshop: It ran for two days and was very successful. 25 students attended. The school would like for such opportunities to interface with professionals, something the P&C strongly supports.
NAPLAN: Scheduled for 13, 14 and 15 May for Years 7 and 9. Abbi Clifford queried the school’s policy of scheduling some students to sit the exams in the afternoon. Two sessions were necessary because of the size of cohort. Students will be getting their timetable shortly. Year 12 assessments have started. Year 11 assessments will start next term.

Staff changes: Bran Lazendic is leaving the school to take up a position with the Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre. Bran is congratulated on this promotion and he will be much missed.

CAREERS ADVISOR’S REPORT
Ula George thanked the P&C’s Faculty Sub-committee for helping refurbish the learning space. Ula can now keep track of the Open High School students. The design and colour scheme of the room has the senior students’ approval.

ACTING PRESIDENT’S REPORT
The P&C is looking for volunteers for the Building, Environment and Creative Arts Sub-committees.

TREASURER’S REPORT
After the locker project payment, there is $15,000 remaining in the account. Last year the P&C spent $36,000. There is $92,000 in the St George’s Hall fund. Ross is still awaiting clarification. Ross is looking at an electronic system for the new signatories instead of the previous cheque book system.

ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT
There was no Environment Sub-Committee report

PAVA SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT
Michael Scott-Mitchell said Philip Quast, a recent parent at the school, was offering free Shakespeare masterclasses. The P&C are keen to accept this offer. Michael will discuss with Tim Alwood whether these classes could be incorporated into Drama Dept or held as a separate program. Lisa said it was important for the P&C to communicate masterclass ideas with performing and visual arts faculties to ensure there is no conflict with the curriculum or the ideas require excessive extra teacher input. The next Afternoon Tea With event is taking shape, although it is still undecided on a starting time. While the school prefers early afternoon, Lisa believes it will be easier to get professionals to attend a 5pm event. The Performing and Visual Arts Sub-Committee needs more members. It would be good to have parents join whose children are studying dance, visual arts, music or drama.

OTHER BUSINESS
Holroyd High School: Abbi discussed the idea of a collaboration with Holroyd High School where about 90 per cent of the student population are refugees, many who are in detention. There is the potential to develop writing and drama programs with the school. Betty said there would need to be some explicit curriculum links. Ula said it could have the potential of allowing Year 10 to give something back to the
community. Abbi and Lisa will come back to the P&C with a proposal, which could be discussed at the school planning forum.

**Parent communication:** Kelly mentioned a request by a parent for teleconferencing P&C meetings for parents who are unable to attend in person. Abbi said the P&C should also start using Twitter to communicate with parents. These ideas should be worked through at an executive level.

**Meeting ended: 7.20pm**
**Next meeting: 10 June, 6pm, school common room.**