Minutes NHSPA P & C meeting  
6pm, 10 June, 2014  
School Common Room

CHAIR: Katie Mann

APOLOGIES: Michael Scott-Mitchell, Lisa Penlington, Emma Walter, Lisa Murray, Bill Martin, Dennis Dumlao

ATTENDANCE: Abbi Clifford, Serena Pinzin, Jenni Wilkins, Haryhana Dhillon, Peter Denholm, Nicki Wilkinson, John Caley, Amelia Caley, Callum Gibson, Christine Williams, Tony Ryan, Ross Moffat, Donna Huggart, Kelly Burke

PRESIDENT’S WELCOME: Katie welcomed parents, teachers and Millie Caley, a representative from the SRC.

CORRESPONDENCE:
Katie tabled the Department’s Having Your Say report which includes a recommendation of one extra school in the inner city.

MATTERS ARISING:
April’s minutes: Accepted by Callum and Abbi.
Fridges: The new fridges have been installed. The P&C will purchase a safe to keep the float in. If it is installed behind the locked roller door it won’t need to be bolted to the floor.
Sub-Committees: The P&C is still looking for volunteers for the Building, Environment and Creative Arts Sub-committees. Kelly received no responses after putting out a call in the school newsletter and on google groups.

RELIEVING PRINCIPAL’S REPORT (Peter Shields)
Stephen Gray is attending a principals’ conference in Bathurst.
US Tour: The tour was a great success, with nine of the 10 Year 12 dance students achieving scholarships. The students were part of a school lock down in Dallas while a gunman was on the loose. In New York the students attended Alvin Ailey classes every day, before travelling to the US Dance Festival in Miami.
China Tour: Stephen will take 22 Year 8 and Year 9 dance and music students to Beijing where they will participate in a children’s TV show. The tour was short notice and students who qualified to go were accepted on a first in basis.
School planning forum: Communication was a big issue, especially school to parent communication and the school website. Other high priority areas included school grounds maintenance, healthy choices from the canteen and a more flexible school day to better accommodate curricular and co-curricular activities. Recognition and accommodation of minority groups was also considered a priority. The next stage will involve writing a plan. Once drafted it will be sent to all stakeholders, probably at the August or September P&C meeting. The school’s input on teaching and learning will be added. It is expected by the end of the year the new school plan for 2015-2017 will be completed.
School growth: Peter said there was a limit to how many portable classrooms can go on oval, yet the school needs more buildings. This might take up to 10 years. It is anticipated the school will need three more generalist classrooms in next 3 years, so about 100 extra locals students are expected. The school was designed for 730 but will by then reach 1,100.

More local students are auditioning successfully into the school. The local primary schools have helped.

CO-CURRICULAR REVIEW
Betty Romeo: Recommendations will be forwarded to the executive and approved recommendations can be included in the school plan.
98 students were interviewed, 42 staff and 20 parents.
Draft findings:
The co-curricular program is highly valued, it is integral to what we do and unique to NHSPA. The program should be a vehicle for excellence and extend gifted and talented students in the creative arts. Issues were raised such as audition feedback, communication on rehearsal times, variance between disciplines (eg. number of rehearsals and timing) and clashes in rehearsal schedules.
Showcase is seen as a valued performance opportunity, but the length of the programs needs to be looked at. Attendance is up and down, and there is considerable doubling up in performances. Finding staff to manage Showcase nights is also an issue.
In terms of financial and human resources, the co-curricular program runs at a $50,000 loss each year so we need to look more creatively how we deliver it.

Donna Huggart: It was a privilege to be part of the review process. All groups spoke openly. Communication was a big thing. There was some confusion over what was considered co-curricular, particularly among Year 7 parents. It is clear teachers are giving beyond what is expected in terms of hours and energy to sustain the program. We are looking at how it can run more efficiently. Parents indicated they would be prepared to contribute more financially.

Katie thanked Betty and Donna for their reports and wished Betty luck on her maternity leave.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT (Katie Mann)
Katie will step into the President’s role for the remainder of year with Dennis as VP. The P&C may need another VP.

TREASURER’S REPORT (Ross Moffat)
So far $19,000 has been collected from general parent contributions. The St Georges Hall trust account has $148,000 so about $56,000 has been collected so far this year, which is in line with previous years.
So far raise Showcase has raised over $900.
Ross is in the process of getting digital signatories for the bank accounts.

ENVIRONMENT REPORT
A working bee needs to be organised for spring. John will speak with Peter Shields. Students want to green the quad. John is getting prices for a concrete cutter to plant climbers to grow up the poles. This will have to be done in the school holidays due to
noise. Solar panels can give a 30 per cent return on investment for improving energy efficiency. John will get quotes and bring to the P&C.

**PAVA REPORT**
There was no report. Lisa to update P&C on Philip Quast offer to conduct free Shakespeare workshops.

**BUILDING REPORT**
There was no building report

**FACULTY REPORT**
There was not faculty report. The faculty sub-committee needs to meet.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**
A parent has requested study skills sessions for students. Bridie McGoffin is happy to do the research and she will contact Peter. Donna said might be good for Year 10 students and it could be included in the after school study program.
The Showcase roster didn't come out on google groups, Kelly to check with Dennis on messaging problems.
John asked about progress with the St Georges Hall renovation, Katie said Terry was looking at seating. An update will be provided at the next meeting.
On the subject of BYO devices, Katie said a timeline on how to support the school and acceptance of what the P&C can and can’t change in terms of school policy would be ideal. Parent and Deputy Principal from Arthur Philip HS said NHSPA had rejected her invitation to see how her school runs the BYO device policy.

**Meeting ended 7.15 pm.**
**Next meeting: 12 August, 6pm, school common room.**