

**CHERRYBROOK TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES OF P&C GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 13 Oct 2015**

Meeting commenced at 8.00 hours.

PRESENT: As per the attendance book.

APOLOGIES: Gavin Poole, Alyse Collins, and Alka Mahajan.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

The previous meeting minutes proposed by **Tim** seconded by **AJ Kumar**

Guest speaker, Mrs. Amber Sorensen Librarian –CTHS. 21st century library conversion which was the project for next year was presented in detail. The facilities, books and resources that are going to be available were presented. Mrs Sorensen mentioned that our fiction section is organised by genre. The students have been learning about genres in library class so they will be able to find what they want on the shelves. She also mentioned that a Library festival for year 7 is proposed for term 4 next year. Mrs Sorensen mentioned that students are gradually introduced to searching and retrieving data; they are trained in appropriate referencing techniques.

Mrs Sorensen also handled the question answer session well and the audience enjoyed the informative session. P&C Stephen appreciated of Mrs Sorensen for her detailed and informative presentation.

Principal's report by Mr. Gray Johnson is given below:

Curriculum and Administration

- The Year 12 HSC examinations commenced yesterday. Students are well prepared and at this stage appear to be coping well with the stress the tests bring. Channel 7 reported on the school's start to the HSC and several students were interviewed. All acquitted themselves superbly.
- I'm confident students will achieve the results they deserve!
- Year 11 students have now commenced their HSC courses. Their Year 11 reports are in the process of being finalised. On Tuesday night 20 October there will be a meeting for all year 11 students and parents. The meeting will look at the demands of Year 12, what is expected of students and also allow the students' reports & assessment booklets to be handed out.
- The year 12 Big day out, concert, graduation and formal were all a great success. Students are to be congratulated on the way they conducted themselves during this time. All staff involved did a marvellous job and were most supportive of the students. A huge thank you to the P&C functions committee for all their support of the evening and the wonderful table decorations, marvellous cakes and catering.
- Work has commenced on the 2016 timetable and will continue for the next few weeks. Student numbers are approximately 1980. This is approximately the same as in 2015.
- Planning for our new building continues. Fortnightly meetings are taking place with all stakeholders. Hopefully, architectural plans will be completed by year's end. My thanks to Rod Cuevas for being the parent rep on the panel. A traffic survey is being prepared by a team of consultants and will be sent to parents in the near future. The results will help inform the building timeline. If you are surveyed please take the time to complete the online questionnaire.

Welfare

- Year 10 Peer support leaders for 2016 were trained over the past few weeks. Staff now have the difficult task of selecting 50 students to be leaders for our 2016 Year 7.
- The Year 9 camp is underway with students and staff leaving yesterday.

Other

Staffing:

- The vacant HT Teaching and Learning will be advertised in the near future. Thanks to Tim Spencer for agreeing to serve on the panel.
- Year 8 Lifesaving commences in late October 2015
- MADD concert is on 18th Nov 2015
- The French & German exchange trips were a great success. All back safe, happy, tired and well.
- Mr Woo was presented with 2015 Premier's Prize for innovation in Science & Mathematics Education in NSW.
- Mr Woo and I have been invited to a national think tank on STEM education to be led by Adrian Piccoli and involving all state education ministers early in November.

A word about the press and their recent reporting of the radicalisation of students in state schools. I believe the Sun – Herald article of Sunday 11 October was a very poor representation of the situation. Discussion of Chris Bonnor letter to follow.

If you think that jihadists coming mainly from state schools is worth a headline (Sun Herald October 11) then here is another scoop: there are more redheads, nurses and footballers coming from state schools. All unsurprising, because state schools enrol two out of every three kids.

But there is more. Your story blames state schools and pitches religious schools as the solution to teenage jihadism. But the My School website shows that the kids in Islamic schools come from above-average socio-educational families. It would be hardly surprising if their advantages in education, employment and family circumstances didn't create some differences.

State schools enrol more of the strugglers who start from further behind - it is a tribute to these schools that their students overwhelmingly emerge as productive and valued citizens.

Your story quotes an expert who believes that religion may not be creating the current wave of radicals. So perhaps we should join the dots between the dangerous antics of disaffected youth and the fact that we increasingly concentrate them in disadvantaged schools?

Staff Development Arrangements for 2016

The Principal has sought the views of the P & C about proposed changes to the School Development Days for 2016. The proposal is to move the last two Staff Development Days to four half days earlier in the year. P & C were unanimous in their support of the proposal expressing the view that time spent would be far more valuable earlier in the year than the last two days. As a result the P & C are happy to have the school conclude on Fri 16 Dec for students at 12.30pm with suitable arrangements made for any students unable to finish up at this time.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

P&C federation sub-committee report:

Tim mentioned that the P&C Federation are participating in a lot of representation at the moment. Tim has been selected to attend the STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics) summit which will be held in November 2015. This will bring together a wide range of leading experts from industry and education to discuss STEM as part of a national curriculum.

The P&C Federation have all been involved with the Local Schools, Local Decisions (LSLD) reform, as well as providing specific feedback on the allocation methods being developed for the Wellbeing Framework. The federation has sold out the current office building and looking to relocate. The present building is currently under utilised and with a number of offers being made by local developers the possibility of sale was investigated by the Board and an offer accepted.

A delegation (P&C federation, SPC and PPA) is going to Canberra in next 2 weeks to meet the new education minister and the prime minister.

Fundraising sub-committee report:

Rod mentioned that things are getting organised for the 1st cherrybrook market day on 24th Oct 2015. Letters sent to Eastwood police, Hornsby council and the P&C federation.

Update on Alumni Association:

AJ mentioned that one of the alumni members Dwayne delivered a talk in the year 12 graduation. He is very supportive of the Alumni. He is working with Brett on the coaching and mentoring programme. Next alumni's meeting is scheduled to be on 31st Oct 2015.

Infrastructure and building subcommittee report

Building Program Update: Gary mentioned that a statement of principle has been signed off. Sustainability, aesthetically pleasing and technologically rich is the three things that we want. The architect is listening to our views clearly. They want to run a traffic survey to understand the traffic in the morning and in the afternoon. The initial concept plans is being reviewed and it will be customised.

In term 2 or 3 in 2016, Gary will discuss with the council and make arrangements regarding alternative places for HSc trials and exam venues.

CORRESPONDENCE

OUT:

Letters on Cherrybrook markets went to Hornsby Council, Eastwood Police and P&C federation.

In

- Federation Magazine
- The Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales media release titled 'Public Education is the Governments responsibility'.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

P&C account balances at 12th Oct 2015

	NAB	ST GEORGE	TOTAL
General	\$755.52	\$77,202.72	\$77,958.24
Grounds	\$247.37	\$34,928.92	\$35,176.29
Building	\$250.00	\$189,940.14**	\$190,190.14

** \$152,154.08 of this is in a six month term deposit @ 2.6%

A profit of \$37662.71 was reported by Liz.

Canteen Accounts (Westpac)

Savings \$65,917.10
Transaction \$221,809.40

Canteen Report

Janice started spending time at the canteen now. Hornsby Council has agreed to conduct a separate food handling session at our school exclusively for us. Invitation would be extended to John Purchase School and Cherrybrook Primary School.

Stephen insisted that as P&C our priorities should be

1. Ensuring the safety of people working in the canteen
2. Procedures appropriate for canteen are in place.

We are working on meeting all the financial obligations in a timely manner.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

On behalf of the P&C a condolence card and flowers would be sent to Heather's family as Heather's mother has passed away.

Mark Wade would be invited to address us during our next general meeting and talk about the Cambodia project. Stephen thanked the P&C members for attending the meeting. Meeting closed at 21.10 hours.

NEXT MEETING: To take place in the Staff room on Tuesday 24 Nov 2015 at 8.00 pm.