

NEGS Parents and Friends Committee Meeting

Monday 14th July 2014

Meeting opened: 6.38 pm

Attendance: David Fenwicke, Heather McPhie, Joanne Campbell, Tracey Whitehill, Graeme Hollis, Jenny Swan, Etoline Galbraith, Anne Crabb, Clive Logan.

Apologies: Sophie Carter, Helen Smith, Libby Parry, Sally Strelitz, Josie Knox.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Moved by Tracey Whitehill as a true and accurate account of the Meeting. Seconded: Etoline Galbraith. Carried.

Board and Principal's Report: See attached report.

Upcoming Events: Rifle Shooting Competition (Hornsby), IGSSA, Toowoomba OGs, Sydney OGs, AHISA meetings.

Professional Development: Reviewing pedagogy in our school. A lot of teaching can be carried out through the Learning Management System (Moodle) – the dynamic how teaching is carried out will change. There will be a parent portal on Moodle. The role of the internet, the lap top policy play and the LMS will be reviewed.

Commonwealth Funding Agreement: Will be a two year agreement and not a four year one. Staff morale is very positive.

Review of reports: Change in the way the Reports are presented as they are quite subjective. Changes to boarding have been positive. The Tutor system has been an improvement.

Enrolment numbers: Nine new students in Senior and Junior Schools. Two departures last term.

Head of Junior School: Ms Shannon Rosewood, to team teach with every staff member for the remainder of 2014. Her teaching role next year will be in either Years 5 or 6.

Head of Music: Ms Kirilli Williams has appointed a Benn Tracy to carry out administration work.

Sustainability: The roof space over the teaching block is covered with solar panels. This will save 15% off the energy bill. Five inverters have been placed in the school. The installation has not cost once cent as the school is leasing equipment over the next seven years.

Marketing: Nucleo producing marketing material. Radio and cinema advertising is being conducted which is cheap and effective advertising. Working on defining NEGS, St John's and Equestrian Centre website. Good promotion in Qantas magazine.

President's Report: Term II was a busy term with the St John's Athletic and Senior School Athletics Carnivals. The P&F raffle raised \$430 dollars. The One Day Event (ODE) meeting was held today.

Equestriad due to be held the following weekend has been cancelled so there will be fewer riders coming from Queensland on their way to Sydney. The Rotary Club is organized to cater for Saturday night of the ODE (for a fee). Camping will be allowed on the oval. The soil has been leveled on the oval. Meeting with Clive about Wish List and approved \$1000 sporting equipment, \$2200 worth of curtains, \$200 for Annabel Campbell's D&T project (kitchen garden).

Wish List: Two picnic tables @ \$500 per table are being built, \$700 for BBQ, (purchased). Additional requests include \$850 for 2 iPads for St John's (Liane Nixon). \$300 to complete Annabelle Campbell's T&D project herb and vegetable garden. \$1,000 for English Department Wide Reading Program. \$1100 for Science Department for Lego Mindstorms EV3 and cathode ray oscilloscope (Belinda Stone). \$1500 for Health Centre, new office chair, three timber venetian blinds and doona's and covers for the beds. Heidi Dent – new St John's signage for the white bus (22 seater) Total \$5,000. Mark Fisher \$2,000 as a starter for Agriculture shed and additional \$2500 for pencil augur and hopper (these are required for safety reasons). COLA (St John's) – renewed quote and there is a donor available to provide sufficient funds for its completion. Total for Wish List : \$12,000.

Treasurer's Report (see attached): Opening balance \$49,184.80 and closing balance at \$48,759.39. Not a lot of movement in the account. Most expenditure occurred for the Netball Carnival, the Audit with Forsyths and Sporting Carnivals. The cheque for the Oncology Department was not presented, has been cancelled and rewritten.

Boarding Parent's Representative Report: Attached.

St John's Parent's Representative Report: Nil Report

NSW Parents' Council Report: Nil Report.

Correspondence In/Out: Thank you from Oncology Department for donation from 2013 Spring Fair.

Letter to Board regarding changes to Constitution and inclusion of a patron. Awaiting response.

Thank you letters: Thank you letter from Clive for nomination for the prestigious Principal's Award 2014 from the NSW Parent's Council Awards for Excellence of which he won.

Business arising from previous meeting:

Community Mutual and S30 Accounts: Forms completed, account is open and brochures completed for events so the NEGS' community know of this initiative.

Netball Carnival: Scheduled for Saturday, 19th and Sunday, 20th September 2015. Marketed as an end of season event.

Sports Carnivals: – great success, slow cookers successful for soup for Junior School. St John's raised \$341.70 and the Senior School raised \$741.00.

Spring Fair: One meeting held to date of Old Girls, Spring Fair, EC ODE. Next meeting date yet to be established.

School Wish List Vote on additional items: \$850 for 2 iPads, \$300 for Annabel Campbell's T&D Project, \$1000 for English Department's Wide Reading Program, \$1100 for Science Department, \$1500 for Health Centre, \$250 for St John's sign on the white bus and \$2500 for pencil auger and hopper for Agriculture Department. Moved David Fenwicke and seconded Jenny Swan. Carried.

Review of Policy/Procedure for booking catering trailer: Bookings should go through the school. Graeme Hollis established an on-line booking system. Catering trailer booked for Spring Fair. Approaches made through Amy at Reception and the request is referred back to the Presidents who have the final veto. \$150 cleaning deposit required and is banked if it comes back dirty or broken. Maintenance advises the P&F about the issue. Resolved that riding lessons to run at the Spring Fair will be a quid pro quo for the trailer being returned dirty after the North West Horse Expo at Coonabarabran.

Other Business:

Guest Speaker - Anne Crabb, Executive Officer of the NSW Parents' Council, Address: Represent rural voice of parents. Unique and remote parenting is difficult. Council of 23 and of that 3 are rural. A grant has come from NSW Government to support volunteers to attend meetings. The Council has been in existence for 52 years. Its origin was a Catholic School in Goulburn in 1962 which had inadequate facilities for boys and girls and the Government advised the school to build toilets at their own expense. 1200 students walked into government schools as a form of protest and Government funding became available as a consequence. Students with disabilities suffer discrimination at non-Government schools. Parents should have the right to choose a school for their child. The Australian Parents' Council has a seat at the table in the Federal review, which is important in terms of the Gonski review.

Concerns remain about children with disabilities as the level of funding is substantially less in non-Government Schools than in Government schools. It is quite discriminatory as a child might get \$38,000 in a Government school whereas a non-Government School gets \$3,000 for such a student.

Catholic Parents' Association and Independent Schools have recognised parent engagement as an issue – teachers are good at pedagogy and poor at dealing with parents. Teachers do not have the skills sets to deal with parents.

The Council acts as an Advocate: the publicity surrounding the first day of term when disabled students did not have transport available. The Council avoids publicity and works behind the scenes.

The Federal Government new funding model has been adopted for next 4 years. The Federal Government is committed to a CPI 2.3% average. Whereas cost for Government schools is 5-7%. Council endeavours to address funding mismatch. Council recommends that parents sign up to the newsletter designed to keep them informed.

VET courses – inequitable. Free for Government schools, however, for those that pay school fees the VET fees are on top of them at around \$1800 and \$1500 a qualification. There are issues of discrimination.

Australian Curriculum Review started this year. Some of the curriculum has not been implemented however, we have been asked to review it. Concerned that the quality of the HSC is not diminished.

Council plays an advocacy role and helps parents with experts on the latest research. Provides forums, on Twitter and Facebook. The Council is funded at \$3.70 per child per year and tries to support rural and remote parents. The Multi Enterprise Agreement runs out in March 2015. There is an 8 – 10% difference in teacher salaries between Government and non-Government schools. The Independent Education Union proposes to bring the differential back to a 3 – 5% to help with funding.

Fifty percent of school fees are paid by grandparents. The perception that Independent Schools are wealthy schools is inaccurate – most parents honour their choice. There are pressures on the rural sector through low commodity prices. 67% schools are low socio-economic schools at \$400 per term. There are a number of schools with under 200 students which raises questions of sustainability.

Congratulations to Clive Logan for his Award – NEGS should be very proud of the School and parent environment.

New business:

Parent Information Packages: Include a letter from P&F welcoming parents to the school on behalf of P&F. Advise what the P&F does, when meetings are scheduled etc. Advise of Parent Boarding representative and St John's representative. Liaison parents need to be included in welcome as a point of contact.

Review the content of P&F on website: School seeking feedback. Nucleo measuring metrics and getting statistics from whomever is accessing the website.

Lack of numbers attending P&F Meetings: An email reminder to go to Liaison Parents as well as a Notice on Facebook and Twitter. Also list the Meeting in the last Newsletter of the term. P&F Meetings need to be on the school calendar (Sally Olsen to update calendar to include P&F Meetings).

Name Tags: Kate Blackmore has sourced BadgeLink as a provider. NEGS logo and parent name in red to differentiate from staff badges which are in blue. Prices for mini resin dome with magnetic fitting range from \$8.90 for 10 and \$7.12 a badge for over 100. Heather proposed that the NEGS P&F cover the cost for the Executive, Liaison Parents, Boarder Parent and St John's Representative badges. Resolved that badges be made available to parents in Years 7 and 8 and all new parents to the school (two badges per family).

National Polocrosse Championships in Darwin (July): NEGS sponsored under 16 year old girls. This was a great marketing opportunity at an event where there were no other schools and has resulted in enrolment enquiries.

Meeting closed: 8.20pm

Next meeting: 6th October @ 6.00 pm

Issue	Action	Who
Wish List	Payment to Accounts	Tracey Whitehill
Spring Fair	Meeting date to be established	Heather McPhie
Catering Trailer	Advise EC that Spring Fair Riding lessons are quid pro quo for dirty trailer	David Fenwicke
Parent Information Packages	P&F Welcoming Letter	Heather McPhie
P&F information on school website	Review site	P&F Executive
P&F Meeting Notices	Ensure P&F Meetings are on social media, in last Newsletter and on the school calendar	Jo Campbell Sophie Carter
Name Tags	Order names tags	Heather McPhie