

Mackellar P&C Association

Minutes of General Meeting – 2nd July 2008

Meeting Opened 7.45pm

Present 9 parents and the School Principal.

A quorum (11 members) was not achieved. It was agreed to continue with an informal meeting.

Welcome Wayne welcomed the parents and noted that there would be no prefect representatives at the meeting. The new prefects have been announced and will receive their badges next week. School Captains will be announced shortly.

Minutes of Last Meeting Accepted informally.

Matters Arising None.

President's Report

Wayne discussed the ongoing efforts to build up membership and attendance. Next term the school newsletter will come out just before each P&C meeting. This is not usually the case but Christine said she would try to set it up for all of next year.

Principal's Report

- There are lots of good stories of 'team' achievements. See the newsletter.
- 6 Aboriginal paintings from Biala Hostel will be presented to Dionne Smith who will shortly finish her appointment as the Regional Director.
- 60 year 9 girls have taken part in Project Penguin involving mentoring year 4 students at local Public Schools such as Curl Curl North and Manly Village. A presentation of project work was given recently at a function at the Sydney Zoo. Some significant members of the DET hierarchy were present, but only as a temporary exhibit.
- The Mackellar Concert Band gained a Silver Medal at the Yamaha Music festival. The College Band won Bronze.
- The Touch Football and Soccer teams are through to their finals.
- The College Softball team won the State competition. Mackellar was strongly represented in the team.
- The school will take 210 students into year 7 next year (from 277 applications). There will be 7 classes.
- Staff and year 11 will be voting for the positions of School Captain and Vice-Captains.
- Christine foreshadowed various changes to the Gifted & Talented programmes. G&T education is Christine's particular speciality.
 - Academic G&T students will all be together in two classes. The other G&T students will be in a class together.
 - There will be enrichment days, in 3 blocks of 2 days for each type of G&T student.
 - Dance G&T students in years 7 & 8 will do course work of years 9 & 10, then again when they are in years 9 & 10. No students will be doing School Certificate early. (Parents pointed out that the current Dance G&T students are expecting to sit School Cert early and not to repeat years 9 & 10. Christine will issue some more formal clarification).

Treasurer's Report

- The P&C is signed up for EFT banking. We will start paying staff and suppliers this way next term.
- Since the school has changed to Westpac and ANZ will no longer pick up the P&C cash, we will investigate whether to also change to Westpac.
- The Canteen is going well.
- Prices will go up next term, as previously announced.
- The Canteen committee needs to be re-established. Doug will be writing to volunteers.
- Bank statements have not been received. A financial report will be presented at the first meeting next term.
- Melanie, the P&C book-keeper will only come in once per month (currently twice).
- Jim asked for copies of the Canteen and P&C Admin Financial reports for 2006. He asked for the invoices submitted by Nelson Business Consultants for the preparation of the reports.
- Doug is still trying to find someone to take over the role of P&C Treasurer.

Uniform Shop

- Helen reported that the account balance is approx \$27,000, reducing to \$17,000 with the writing of recent cheques.
- Helen presented a cheque for \$5,000 to the Acting Treasurer. The Uniform shop has now presented \$15,000 for the year so far.
- Helen reported that she was disappointed that at a recent performance of the School Choir, the choir members were not all wearing the same clothing. Helen noted that on occasions she has temporarily provided students with necessary garments for group performances. She offered the choir the same help.
- Helen proposed not to trade on Orientation Day. She said that the logistics of setting up in the Performance Space are difficult and the time available for business was too limited. Instead the shop will be open longer on the Saturday before and after Orientation Day (Dec 4th). The meeting agreed with Helen's proposal.
- Doug asked for a list of shop volunteers. Helen will provide a list to Wayne.
- Christine reported that a lawyer from DET had contacted her about the issue of intellectual rights. She had just taken up the case and will be writing to Christine shortly.
- It was agreed to press Lowes for a meeting, possibly next Friday.

Award System for High Achievers

- Wayne reported that the Executive had discussed the issue. It decided to recommend that the main body of the P&C should not operate an awards system, but sub-committees could do so provided they raised their own funds.
- Several reasons were quoted for the Executive's decision. The likely costs would be difficult to predict but would probably be unreasonably high if the scheme were applied to the full range of student activities and if the individual payments were large enough to be thought worthwhile. Wayne provided a table showing the numbers of likely candidates as listed in recent newsletters. Even using the most recent award amounts, which are low, the costs would be unreasonably high. It was also suggested that such payments would be fundamental inequitable. It was argued that the P&C has a duty to disperse its funds in a way that assists as many students as possible, and preferably all, rather than just an elite few.
- Robert expressed disappointment with the Executive's recommendation. He felt that an award scheme of this type was exactly what the P&C should be supporting, rather than subsidising the school for general expenditures that should

be covered by the State. He felt it was particularly unfair to reject the case of Hannah Klaes, whose application had initiated the re-assessment of the award system while other students had in the meantime received awards.

General Business

Alumnae: The 40-year anniversary day is set for 5th September. The school committee has established that the total budget would be \$3,600. Items required include 1,000 cup cakes, a big cake, tea & coffee and balloons. Doug offered to seek sponsorship deals with local suppliers and also seek advice on caffeine and sugar overdoses. Christine clarified that the school's policy on sponsorship was that any donations would be acknowledged on the day itself and in the school newsletter.

First Aid Courses: suggested that it would be useful for students to do a first-aid course. This would be particularly relevant to those doing baby-sitting. She has contact with a paramedic who is qualified to teach. Courses could be run out of hours. A minimum of 10 students is required. Cost would be \$55 for each student for a 3-hour course.

Debating: Further to previous discussions about the coaching of school debating teams, Cathy Griffin reported that the school's junior team had excellent victories over teams from Manly Selective and Balgowlah Boys to win their division of the Manly Rotary competition.

Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 6th August 2008, 7.30pm.