

## Maitland Grossmann High School P & C Association

Minutes of Meeting – Date: 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009

### Meeting opened at 7.10pm

#### 1. The President's welcome:

- The President welcomed the 13 people in attendance.

#### 2. Apologies:

- Kim Rogers, Fiona Edwards, Sharon Brewster, Louise French

#### 3. Minutes from last meeting:

- Minutes were circulated and passed (Jenny Davies, Liz Porter)

#### 4. Business arising from minutes:

- Water leak – although the current problem has been fixed, it is expected that due to the age and nature of the pipes that there will be future problems. School is refusing to pay any bills associated with the water leak.

#### 5. Correspondence:

- Letter from Yr11 student Kirsty Hatton seeking funding assistance from the P&C for her trip to America on 25<sup>th</sup> June to play in two tennis tournaments and attend coaching at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch. It was generally agreed that the P&C only assists students representing MGHS/Hunter Region/State at school competitions (eg State School Carnivals), and as Kirsty's trip is not specifically school related, it was deemed inappropriate for the P&C to assist. Past minutes will be checked to confirm this and a letter will be sent to Kirsty advising her of the P&C's position and suggesting that she consult the school for other suggestions for assistance.

**Action: Kaye/Kim to check past minutes regarding the P&C's position on supporting individual students and send letter advising Kirsty**

#### 6. Guest Speaker: Tracey Breese, Deputy Principal

- MGHS is futures focussed and looking at where we need to take students to prepare them for a future beyond school in a technological world
- Emphasis on skills and a 'peeling' back of content
- Futures Focussed Team:
  - Capacity
  - Relevance
  - Responsiveness
- Yr12 team teaching – group work, students encouraged to think for themselves, be resilient, take initiative and find their own answers
- Computers are an everyday tool – students are multidimensional – mobile phone/ipod/TV/computer
- World of students now is very different to the past – 'knowledge is power' has gone
- Landscape of teaching is changing – technology is no longer used as an add-on but is integral to teaching

- [www.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au) has a step by step technology guide for parents
- Laptops for learning are due to arrive in August
- The laptops are Lenovo brand and completely wireless with a 6 hour battery life. School needs enough wireless connections and the Library is the first wireless port. There is no DVD burner or slot. Adobe and Microsoft software is installed.
- Other computers at school need to be compatible, so it is expected that there will be some teething problems
- Following the Parent/Teacher interviews on 25<sup>th</sup> July, there will be an information session for Year 9 parents to explain the policy and procedures for the distribution and use of the laptops.
- Students will need a laptop bag
- Security – laptop is only usable by the student as it requires a login and is traceable if stolen
- There will initially be 27 laptops for teachers – they are different to the regular network and staff developments will be held on Wednesday afternoons.
- Elements of classroom management need to be considered and red tape to work through – eg period time, time setting up blogs, access etc
- [www.teachertube.com](http://www.teachertube.com) is a video sharing website, similar to and based on YouTube, allowing educational resources to be shared
- Other tools include Web 2.0 (multi-literacy focus), Wikis, Blogs, social networking, Moodle (online course management system), Delicious (bookmarking site)
- Smartboard purchased by the P&C will be installed on 12<sup>th</sup> June
- Currently individualised programs for Aboriginal students and generally moving towards individualised programs – develop student by determining where they are at before trying to teach content

#### 7. SRC Report:

- Shave for a cure raised approx \$1000
- Victorian Bushfire appeal raised \$4700
- School Captains spoke at the Anzac Day dawn service and Prefects and SRC members marched later in East Maitland, presenting a wreath at the Anzac ceremony
- School disco made a net profit of \$1400
- Three SRC members are to attend the regional SRC conference
- School captains attended an excursion to Government House in Sydney
- Friday Breakfast is scheduled for the last two Friday's of second term - 3<sup>rd</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> July
- Visit from MLC Robyn Parker, the Opposition Education and Aboriginal Affairs spokesperson. Whilst on her tour of the school and various school programs, she attended a special SRC meeting. She observed procedures and engaged in a discussion on Cyber Bullying and 'Sexting' – two issues she is covering in a current Legislative Council commission
- Trivia Night moved to 12<sup>th</sup> August – will be in the School Hall, starting at 7pm – tables of 10 people, \$10 per person and bookings can be made at the front office
- Prefect and SRC Handball competition was so successful that a paper aeroplane competition for Year 7 is now planned

#### 8. Treasurers Report:

- The Treasurer's Report was tabled
  - Balance of \$53,482 after donation from Canteen Committee (\$15,000), Investing in our Schools payment (\$57,089.20) and payment of debating team jackets (\$470)
  - \$40,000 to be invested in term deposit – longer term rates are higher – as interest rates are constantly changing, Liz suggested putting part in a short term deposit and the remainder in a longer term deposit, creating a 'rollover' effect and maximising interest received plus retaining flexibility
- Action: Liz to meet with the bank to determine the best combination of term deposits and invest accordingly (Roz Smee, Lesa Tewkesbury)**

## 9. Principals Report:

- Year 7, 2010 offers of enrolment have now been posted – acceptance due back by 19<sup>th</sup> June
  - There were more applicants this year than any other year
  - Criteria included balance of student's aptitude to learning, sport, creative arts, siblings, step-siblings – some applications gave no information about the student
  - Letters were sent to all in-zone and out-of-zone applicants – there will be 7 classes – very competitive, school is not allowed to have a waiting list – 2 places in every class are held for students who may come later in the year
- Sponsorship has been made available to families through Westpac Bank and Athletes Foot at Greenhills
  - Westpac Bank – sponsorship via mortgage
  - Athletes Foot, Greenhills – offer a 10% discount on purchases plus \$5 sponsorship to school – Club Fit Member
- Middle School Project for Year 7 – 2 classrooms with 2 teachers team teaching – emulates primary school environment – B strand – restricted movement
- Anne McKinnon has been appointed advisor for Year 7, 2010
- Researcher from University of Newcastle researching and tracking changes in teacher practice – pre-test now and will follow up in 6 months
- Australian Government Quality Teaching program called Marvin to drive a special learning program for disengaged indigenous students
- Working to establish alternative programs for students remaining until 17 years of age who would not have otherwise remained at school - we wish to retain our academic performance and provide alternatives to engage students who require different learning eg different classes, vocational skills
- Director General has instructed that any student or teacher who has visited Melbourne must be quarantined for 7 days
- 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary update
  - signs are up, calendars are still on sale, wine glasses available, port has been ordered
  - badges, sports uniform and scarves available – coloured scarves not allowed after end of term
  - Cocktail Party 3rd July Frank Terenzini,, Bob Baldwin invited
  - Trivia night 12<sup>th</sup> August
  - Open Day Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 10-2pm
  - Mercury to do a feature on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September – copies to be purchased from the Mercury and handed out on Open Day
- School Photographs on 18<sup>th</sup> June
- Josh Blatchford has been chosen to compete in the World Orienteering Championships in Italy

## 10. SCR Report:

- The School Council did not meet on 21/05/2009, as there were not enough people in attendance.
- The School Council normally meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 5pm.
- The School Council is like a 'filter' of the P&C, similar to the Senate – works with the community, looks at school interests and ongoing financial management and includes 2 teachers, SAS representative, SRC student, Principal, P&C President, community member, parent representatives
- The question was posed as to whether we want a School Council, and if so, to reduce the number of meetings to 4 times per year
- Next meeting will be held in the SAS staffroom on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 5pm
- **Action: Lindsay to investigate the School Council constitution and to discuss whether we want a School Council at the next meeting**

### 11. Canteen Report:

- Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were read
- In summary:
  - Paper towels still to be supplied to the toilet area in Canteen
  - Notifications of class absenteeisms improving
  - Professional cleaning carried out
  - Cost of recycling bins in Canteen is too expensive at the moment
  - New freezer has arrived
  - Laptop to be supplied to the Canteen
  - Canteen staff and deliveries having problems with the timing of when the gates are open
  - Treat days are to be held this term and publicity to be organised
- Next meeting Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 2.30pm

### 12. Fundraising:

- Currently 80 books have been sold which has raised \$960
- There are still 62 books outstanding
- Due to the work involved in chasing up payment and outstanding books, it has been decided that next year the books will be offered to the whole school on a pre-order/pre-pay basis
- The P&C expressed their appreciation to Jenny Davies for her time and efforts with the entertainment books.
- The 125 year anniversary open day BBQ has been allocated to the P&C
- Other 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities will include:
  - a stall selling medallions and wrist bands
  - a silent auction where approx 20 items will be offered at \$1 per bid
  - engraved pavers – number of pavers will be restricted – pavers will be pre-ordered and pre-paid – a number of pavers will be reserved for sale on the open day - a decision is still to be made as to where to place them. It was suggested that placing them in a wall would be preferable to on the ground, possibly across the front of the school and incorporating a feature with the school name/logo

### 13. General Business:

- Permanent music teacher position still has not been filled – anticipate advertising
- Quality of the band, choir and musical performances at the Education Week assemblies was praised
- P&C agenda, minutes, newsletter and general information has been posted on the P&C website page and the email address [mghspandc@gmail.com](mailto:mghspandc@gmail.com) has been set up. The P&C newsletter will be incorporated with the next School newsletter. It is planned to produce the P&C newsletter each term.  
**Action: Kaye to continue to coordinate the P&C newsletter and P&C web page**
- Draft ideas for a possible P&C voluntary contribution were handed out for further consideration
- Concerns about visibility of footpath steps at night  
**Action: Dr Di to organise for a reflective strip to be put on footpath steps**
- The meeting concluded with a tour of the new administrative office and entertainment room

**Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009**

**Meeting Closed at 9.45pm**