

NEUTRAL BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL

P & C ASSOCIATION

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF P&C MEETING 09/07
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 8.00PM

1. Welcome and apologies

Welcome – Paul Fraser opened the meeting at 8.00pm and welcomed all present.

Attendance – Paul Fraser (Chair), Gai Collett, (Principal), Fiona Hearne (Fundraising & Functions), Annette van Dommelen (Treasurer), (Assistant Treasurer), Linda Petrone (Canteen Coordinator), Jane Wilder (Secretary), Mona Martyn-Smith, Martijn Wilder, Peter Carre, Neil Schafer, Alison Auld, Marion Braslin, Dianna Govth, Susan Metcalf, Zoran Novicic, Michael O’Sullivan, Peter Crimp, Hugo Harmsdorf.

Apologies – Owen Taylor, Geraldine Margarey, Paula Fletcher, Naty Miller, Karen Cooper, Anne Whitehead, Rob Lellman, Jeanette Adams.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Motion:

*That the minutes of meeting held on 12 August 2009 be accepted as true record of that meeting.
Moved: Fiona Hearne. Seconded: Hugo Harmsdorf. All agreed.*

3. Business arising

No business arising.

4. Correspondence

The P&C Federation of New South Wales has foreshadowed a restructure brought about by 50% of the available roles remaining vacant. Methods of election will revert to regional and local. A copy of the Federation’s Annual Report is available on request.

5. Towards an Ethics-Based Option to Scripture in Primary Schools: Pilot Project

Coleen Mackinnon from the St James Ethics Centre gave a power point presentation outlining the historical background to the instruction of Scripture in NSW public schools and the differences between legislation requirements and government policy. The progress to date of the mooted introduction of an Ethics-Based Option was also charted. It was noted that the support of a Pilot Project available to years 5 and 6 does not bind the School to participation in the programme. If the Minister accepts that there is community support for this program, its availability is still some time away given that Ministerial policy must change and Professor Cam from The St James Ethics Centre must first draft the curriculum and devise and provide teacher training.

It was noted that Gai Collett, being Principal of the School and an employee of the NSW Department of Education could not support the proposal. Ms Collett noted that space constraints and the availability of teaching staff to teach an Ethics course were relevant inhibiting factors.

Motion:

That the P&C Association sign a letter to the NSW Education Minister, Verity Firth, expressing interest in the Pilot Program for “Towards an Ethics-based Option to Scripture in Primary Schools”.

Moved: Martijn Wilder. Seconded: Zoran Novicic. All agreed.

6. Principal's Report

Gai Collett advised 712 students are expected for 2010. Natplan results will be sent out this week. The school is being re-keyed as the system is over 20 years old, meaning old keys will no longer work. There is no new news on the Building Works, although a project manager from Bovis Lend Lease will visit this week.

7. Council's Report

There was no report as the Council has not met since the last P&C meeting.

8. Treasurer's report

Mona Martyn-Smith reported that the Carnival had made \$36,000 profit, a fine effort given that the entry fee had been halved. Mona was thanked for her management efforts and presented with a bunch of flowers. Annette van Dommelen thanked the following people for counting money on the night of the carnival: Michelle Innis, Ian Pemberton, Jody Latham, Elaine Huang, Sarah Inglis, Rachel Chuah McNamara, Carma du Plooy, Fiona Hearne, Ian Neuhaus and Jenny Batten.

Naty Miller was thanked for raising \$1115 from the proceeds of sale of the Entertainment Book.

Annette van Dommelen noted that the P&C accounts were available for inspection and will report to the next meeting on the breakdown and method of calculation of the bank fees payable annually.

Motion: Tabled for final approval at the next meeting

That 50% of the cost of a science teacher being a total of \$35,000 be paid from funds in the P&C accounts to support the science program which is not part of the NSW curriculum. This project has been supported by the P&C for a number of years and provides our children a unique opportunity to experience science at an early age.

Moved: Martijn Wilder. Seconded: Annette van Dommelen. All agreed.

9. Sub Committees' Reports

9.1 Band

There was no band report. An overall Band coordinator is still sought as Jan Prichard reaches the end of her three year term at the end of 2009.

9.2 Canteen

Linda Petrone gave a power point presentation on the new on-line ordering system for the canteen. It is scheduled for a trial among K-2 during Term 4 and for introduction at the start of the school year in 2010. School24, the on-line ordering system selected, was favoured due to its development by a volunteer parent from Killarney Heights Primary and the fact that it will not pose an extra cost to families. It can be extended to facilitate payment for other events. Its functions were demonstrated and once the user logs on, the system is not complex, easy to use and friendly for the non-computer literate.

Motion:

That a laptop computer and label printer are necessary to implement the online ordering system in the canteen and the incurrence of their cost being \$1275 and \$100 respectively be hereby approved.

Moved: Linda Petrone. Seconded: Marion Braslin. All agreed.

9.3 Functions and Fundraising

Fiona Hearne reported on activities as follows –

- Fiona and Year 3 coordinators organised the Father's Day breakfast which was a great success.
- Year 1 is organising the end of year thank you event for parents on 14 November, which will be a rock trivia-type of occasion, supported by a band formed from some parents and catered by the canteen.
- Organisational efforts behind the kindy orientation event are underway, as is the Year 5 night.

9.4 Grounds and Properties

No report

9.5 Uniform Shop

There was no report although Karen Cooper had advised by email that sales are quiet and all the ordering has been done ahead of the kindy orientation programme. The main orientation night is October 28 and uniforms will be sold before the proceedings get underway. Existing members of the school with children starting next year are encouraged to buy their uniforms before the rush.

10. Other Business

It was noted that a standing motion exists that all athletes representing the school at a National level are to receive \$200 contribution towards the travelling expenses to and from the event. It was noted that such allowance has been granted and paid only twice in the last nine years. The allowance fixed many years ago should be updated and increased to \$300.

Motion:

That –

- 1) *the allowance payable to students representing the school at a national level be increased by \$100 to \$300; and*
- 2) *Remy Faint receive this allowance in order to defray the costs of his representation of the School in the sport of snowboarding at Falls Creek.*

Moved: Paul Fraser. Seconded: Mona Martyn-Smith. All agreed.

The next P&C Meeting will be the AGM and the last for the year. All of members of the executive will stand for re-election and current eligible incumbents are encouraged to re-stand. Nomination forms will be available on the website. Owen Taylor will be the returning officer. Paul Fraser has served his three year term as allowed under the P&C Constitution so must stand down. Volunteers for this position should contact either Paul Fraser or Gai Collett.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR

DATE