

NBHS P&C ASSOCIATION

Meeting held 8.00 pm Tuesday 8th April 2008

Part 1 - Opening Session

The President welcomed all in attendance and outlined the agenda.

Principal's Report

1. Our Year 12 boys returned to normal classes this week after completing their Half-Yearly examinations and will receive their results before the conclusion of this term. I will look with interest at their results and teachers comments because they will indicate how well they are progressing in their HSC courses.
2. Since our last meeting, both our Year 8 and Year 11 camps have been held and I'm happy to say that all went well and the boys and their teachers returned safely after very enjoyable trips to Jindabyne and Lake Burrandong.
3. On Thursday of this week, I will be attending a special ANZAC Day memorial service in Hyde Park which will involve a number of schools's laying memorial wreaths. Of particular significance for us is that one of our Year 11 boys, Grahame McIntyre has been chosen to be the Master of Ceremonies, the 2nd time in recent years that one of our boys has been given that honour.
4. Year 11 completed a successful Study Skills seminar. This covered the skills that they will be needing in order to make strong progress in their HSC courses. Thanks to Mr John Spoor who coordinated.
5. 30 of our Year 10 students participated in the High Resolve Training Program on Monday and Tuesday of this week . The program is designed to give students a perspective of the world and enables them to work towards the idea of being a global citizen. Thank you to Mrs James for organising this.
6. I was very happy to hear news during the week that the school will be given up to \$20,000 to be used to rectify issues with the concreted areas in the school. This will involve work being done on eliminating trip hazards where the concrete levels have shifted. It wasn't money that we were expecting but it will be gratefully accepted.
7. I will be welcoming our new English teacher, Miss Claire Ormiston to the school at the beginning of Term 2. I decided to seek a permanent appointment for the casual vacancy that has existed in the English Faculty and we were fortunate to be able to appoint Miss Ormiston who comes to us as a targeted graduate. She will replace Miss Perkins who has been filling the position on a casual basis for most of Term 1.
8. In response to a number of requests from parents, I am continuing to explore the feasibility of SMS messaging to notify parents when students are absent from

school. I am using my connections with Cherrybrook Tech to get their provider to have a look at the options that we have available. An E-Newsletter is also being considered.

9. Thank you to all the parents who gave so generously of their time on Saturday morning for the working bee. In particular, thank you to Jonathan Sanders for the wonderful work that you are doing organising with the landscaping plan for the school and for sourcing the plants and materials we need to get the project underway.
10. Our concert band consisting of some 40 musicians, many parents and accompanying staff head off on Saturday morning for a tour of China. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our boys to experience a different culture. They are scheduled to perform at three concerts.
11. Like most schools in NSW we faced some disruption to our routine this morning and were unable to commence normal lessons until Period 3. Further industrial action is planned for May 22, subject to negotiations between the Teachers Federation and the government. Same day as our Athletics Carnival which has been booked for Homebush. We will consult with the Teachers Federation as to our position.
12. (The Principal made clear his position in fulfilling the role of providing school leadership. He indicated he would be asking head teachers to specify in what ways the methods of teaching were different to those of comprehensive high schools.)
13. Parents are most welcome to attend the school development day on Monday 28 April. This activity will include consultation on planning and directions for the future. Contact the school if interested to attend.

(Recess)

Part 2 - Business Session

Grounds Report

The first Working Bee session was held on Saturday, April 5th. About 35 volunteers participated in this excellent effort. More than 250 plants were planted on the day. These included mainly native species but also included Morton Bay Fig, Red Cedar and Queensland Bottle Tree. Some weeding will be required in the coming months. The next Working Bee session is planned for Sunday May 25th. As per suggestions from a number of volunteers, the next session will also have weeding and clean up tasks for volunteers who do not want to plant trees. Parents (and students) are requested to volunteer for at least 1 Working Bee session per year or donate \$35 to the P&C to support this excellent initiative

Apologies: None recorded

Minutes from last meeting: Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed, moved by Helene Mountford and seconded by Mai Brett, the motion was carried.

Business arising from previous meeting:

- P&C and the school needs trained parents to participate in staff selection processes. The next training session for this purpose is on May 15th at North Ryde. The training is for 2 hours (4:00 Pm to 6:00 PM) and volunteers should contact Mr. Jeff Bruce or Mr. Pevlin Price.
- Class Lists – There was good support for Class Lists. Rani Sekhar is co-coordinating the class lists and will provide an update at the next meeting.
- The school is exploring options for establishing a system of sending an SMS to parents if their child is absent from the school. There was a strong support from the parents for the initiative although the small amount of truancy needs to be considered

Correspondence:

IN

- Deborah Young tendered her resignation from the role of Functions Co-coordinator of the P&C.
- School fundraising promotional material (various)

OUT

- P&C Federation forms were completed to notify P&C Federation of the new office bearers for Normanhurst P&C.

President's Report - Pevlin Price:

- Faculty 2007 reports and 2008 goals and budget requests received (but P&C not involved in formal review process). The Principal is reviewing the budget process and will communicate the revised process to the P&C.
- Met with Mr. Jeff Bruce on April 1st and had a very positive and productive session with him.
- The school has invited members of the P&C to attend a Staff Meeting. Pevlin is expected to attend the May meeting.
- The School's 2007 report will be mailed out in June.
- Seminar by Dr Andrew Martin (planning in-progress):
 - Possible dates are 4 or 18 June 2008? (7:30-9:30pm)
 - Dr. Martin has asked for a more specific scope for the speech. Pevlin proposed "Teenage boys in an environment of high achievement". Other ideas are welcome.
 - Dr Martin's presentation to be in school hall so there is no shortage of seats.
 - Promotion of the event internally and externally should start very soon.
 - Mrs. Straw will present to the P&C on 13 May and her content will complement Dr Martin's in June.
 - Pevlin requested the parents to share ideas and any specific info needs that parents may have so that the P&C can follow up on their concerns / issues.

Vice President's Report – Helene Mountford:

- The draft constitution was not published on the school website after the last meeting. Therefore, the vote on the acceptance of the new constitution will now be held in the May meeting.
- The proposed By Laws were distributed and will also be proposed for acceptance at the May P&C meeting.
- Both will be placed on the school's website for review.
- An update on the key points from the Regional P&C AGM 31 Mar
- The Annual P&C Conference is planned for 25th -27th July in Albury. Sandeep volunteered to attend the conference to represent the Normanhurst P&C. No financial subsidy will be offered for attending this conference.

.Fundraising

The meeting was advised that Community Chest and Entertainment Books fund raising activities are under way for Term 1.

In Term 2, a Community Chest Raffle will be organized. The Meeting was invited to suggest any ideas for additional fundraising. Tracy and Mai Brett are coordinating these fundraising initiatives.

Canteen Report:

The Canteen committee had its meeting in March. The committee has decided to hire a paid support person to cover for sick and leave periods. The meeting was advised the Canteen is desperately short of volunteer helpers otherwise going well. Fewer volunteers result in longer queues and reduced profits (less funds returned to the P&C).

Clothing Pool Report

- School Blazers (new and second hand) are available or on order
- Donations of used blazers are invited.
- Summer shirts (no tie / crested pocket) for years 7-10 are anticipated to be available for sale in spring.

Functions Report

- No request had been received so far to support any events during Term 2
- Coordination will now be managed jointly by Rebecca George and _____

Treasurer's Report:

- Financial status end of last Month : \$86,000.00
- Funds collected in March : A\$385.00
- Projected income this month :
- Funds available for expenditure : approximately \$30,000.00
- Will present the detailed report at next P&C meeting

Funds approved in March:

- Grounds Working Bee 5 April \$2000.00
- Costs for T1 Fundraising \$800.00
- Dr Andrew Martin - Seminar in Term 2 \$1100
- A\$27,946.00 approved towards priority 1 issues as per the list
- Working Bee donation collected A\$385.00 deposited by Tracy Wong in the bank

50th Anniversary Celebrations

- Dates for the 50th Anniversary Celebrations have been confirmed: 29th – 31st August.
- P&C Sub-committee has been formed to coordinate P&C involvement

- Members (previously elected)
 - Chair : Judy Day
 - Members Gaynor Lawler and Rani Sekhar
 - Other parents are welcome to participate in organizing this event.
- Examining options for events/program , will meet early term 2

General Business:

- Parent Representatives are required on Selection Panels. As mentioned in Business Arising, P&C and the school needs trained parents to participate in staff selection processes. The next training session for this purpose is on May 15th at North Ryde. The training is for 2 hours (4:00 Pm to 6:00 PM) and volunteers should contact the Principal (Mr. Jeff Bruce).
- School Development Day is planned for April 28th. Mr. Bruce encouraged the parents to participate. He should be contacted for more information.
- Air-conditioning in the school. Helen Brophy suggested that the school and P&C develop a plan to provide air-conditioning in the school in planned and progressive phases. The idea was well received. It could be a target for the building fund. The school will undertake preliminary costing for the project, particularly the library which would be phase 1.
- Helen Brophy also raised the issue of students being used to ring the bell. Mr. Bruce informed the P&C that a quote has been received to repair the automated bell and this would fix the problem of students being required to ring the bell.
- The President asked all parents to consider the P&C for raising suggestions and ideas as the two previous items were examples of where feedback from parents can lead to improvements
- Ganesh raised the issue of introducing a muffler or scarf in school colours so that the boys can protect their heads in the winter months. The clothing pool co-ordinator will be asked to investigate the options.

Meeting closed: 10:45 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday 8th April 2008, 8:00 pm