

NBHS P & C Association

1st Meeting - Tuesday 10 February 2009
Meeting commenced: 8:00 pm, Chair: Pevlin Price
Apologies: Ganesh Luharuka

Part 1 - Opening Session

Principal's Report:

- Ladies and gentlemen, could I begin firstly by welcoming you all to our school and to the first P&C meeting for the year. I am particularly happy to be welcoming those of you who are new parents to the school. I hope that your association with the school and the P&C in the years ahead is one that you will find both rewarding and enjoyable.
- We have had a very smooth start to the year. The boys have settled into their classes quickly and our new students in Year 7 have made what appears to be a very smooth transition to High School, no doubt partly due to the Orientation Camp and the great work done by their Year 11 Peer Support leaders. The industrial issues that had threatened to disrupt the start of the school year were averted and an agreement negotiated between the Department and the Teachers Federation. This augurs well for a much more settled year, free of the disruptions that took place last year.
- Almost all of the students we expected to return to school have done so. We have a full compliment of students, ie 120 in each of years 7-10, 119 in Year 11 with an offer of a place made today yet to be confirmed and 113 students in Year 12.
- Our staffing numbers will remain the same as last year, one of the beauties of being in a school such as ours is a fixed enrolment where fluctuating enrolment figures can cause changes to staffing entitlement.
- We have 2 unfilled positions – the Head Teacher TAS position vacated last year by Craig Anderson and a classroom teacher position in Science vacated by Jim Seabrook. Phil Rumbelow is acting HT TAS until that position has been filled. Jim Seabrook is back filling his own vacancy until we can appoint someone permanently. Both of these positions will go on merit selection. We have currently only 2 parents trained in merit selection procedures and they have been asked to be part of the panel. I hope to advise you in the near future of workshops that the region will conduct to train teachers and parents.
- Our HSC results from last year contained much to be happy about with some areas of disappointment that will need to be addressed. We had outstanding results in Information Processes and Technology, with 66% of our students achieving a Band 6 and all of the others achieving a Band 5. Particularly impressive was the performance of the Year 10 accelerated students in this group, with Jeremy Dean ranking 3rd out of

5,184 students in the state who did this course and Martin McCarthy ranking 9th. In Extension 1 Mathematics 43% achieved in the top band, Extension 2, 52% in 2 Unit Mathematics 48% scored Band 6, in General Maths 62%. These were superb results that saw our school placed 10th in the State. There were many other pleasing results. On the other hand, our biggest challenge in 2009 is to lift the English results. Critical if our boys are going to achieve even better UAI results. I will be working closely with the HT English and the English faculty to put into place strategies to improve the number of Band 6 results our students achieve.

- You will by now all be aware of the Commonwealth Government's economic stimulus package for education. It is still currently being debated by the Senate so there remains a little bit of uncertainty about how things will proceed. I have no doubt that the majority of the funding proposal will proceed and this will mean \$3.5 billion of new and additional building and refurbishment work in public schools by March 2011. We need to start giving some thought as to what our priorities are as a school because when the funds are announced we will have to make a quick application. I might suggest that given our discussions last year, the upgrading of the toilets and the provision of shade would be the two main areas that we should submit a request for funding.
- Whilst on the subject of improving the school environment two big projects will be completed this year that will enhance the learning environment of the boys. I am very happy to say that the air conditioning of the library and the upgrading of the ventilation facilities in the science laboratories have been approved. It will now go out to tender and we have been advised that the anticipated date for completion of the works will be during the next school holidays.
- I have a meeting next week with architects from the Department who will be bringing the final plans for the upgrade of our science laboratories. It will involve a fair amount of disruption to classes and I will be asking that the work commence in Term 4 and completed over the Christmas vacation.
- The school zone on Pennant Hills Road, Normanhurst, has been identified as one of the first 25 school zone sites, of an expected 100 sites to receive school zone flashing lights in 2009. This project is part of a 4-year program to install flashing lights in 400 school zones across NSW. The new school zone flashing lights are solar powered with back to base monitoring by RTA and will operate during normal school zone hours. It is anticipated that progressive installation of the first 25 sites for 2009 will occur by the end of the first school term for 2009.
- The School Plan is taking shape and a draft will be available shortly. It is difficult to complete because of the changes that are taking place, particularly in the area of technology. We have also been waiting to incorporate elements of the Northern Sydney Regional Plan into our own. This is due to be released tomorrow.
- Our staff has also been working on putting together the Annual Report. This needs to be completed by the end of term. Distributed to the school community in June.

- An area of concern is the trees on our school grounds and the threat that they pose. We had an arborist out last week who walked around the grounds with myself, Jonathan Sanders, Frank Johnson and our General Assistant to have a look at the condition of the trees. Whilst there are a number of trees that need to be attended to, we need to be able to do a risk assessment and prioritise what work we can afford to do. Of most concern is the big tree in the quadrangle.
- Very successful swimming carnival. Excellent attendance with about 85% of the school attending. No records, but some very strong performances. We should have a very competitive team once again going to have a very competitive team at zone.
- New format for school assemblies. We will be holding regular formal assemblies in the hall. This will give the boys opportunities for performance and allow us to celebrate achievements in a diverse range of areas. This week, the assembly will be devoted to the bushfires. Prefects will do a presentation followed by a fund raising appeal.

Part 2 - Business Session

Attendance: As per sheet

Special Presentation:

None

Minutes of last Meeting (August December 2008)

Helene presented the minutes of December 2008 meeting. .

Motion proposed: Michael Miller proposed that the December minutes be accepted.

Seconded: Tracey Wong

The motion was carried.

Business arising from the Minutes:

- The fruit platter presented to the staff for Christmas lunch was well received.
- P&C Calendar: The process has started to collate information for the P&C Calendar.
- Class Lists: New forms will be included in the school newsletter for 2009 Class Lists.

President's Report:

1. Pevlin explained to the attendees that it is important to enter your name and other details in the attendance book before each meeting. He also pointed out that only paid members of the P&C are eligible to vote on resolutions.
2. Pevlin asked the parents to get involved in the P&C activities. He asked for any ideas or suggestions on improving communication with the parent community and increasing parents' involvement.
3. The P&C was informed that the school's 3 year plan is being drafted and the P&C will be invited to review and comment on the draft plan before it is finalized.
4. The meeting was informed that two vacancies exist in the P&C Executive for the Vice Presidents' role. Members were encouraged to volunteer for the positions.

5. The structure of the Regional P&C was explained. The next Regional meeting is on 30/3/09 at Gordon West Primary School.
6. The Grounds Working Bee program was explained. Four sessions are planned for the year (one in each term – two on Saturdays and two on Sundays). The first session for the year is planned for 7/3/2009. Parents are encouraged to participate in at least one Working Bee session each year. If parents cannot participate, then they are encouraged to contribute \$35 to the P&C to support the Working Bee program.

Vice President's Report:

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report:

The 2008 P&C and Canteen accounts are presently being audited.

There was no significant movement of funds in the two months since December 2008. The current balance for the P&C is \$111,800 (\$2,800 in CBA account and \$109,000 in ING account).

Last year the parent contributions to the P&C increased by 5.5% and the P&C contributed \$77,000 to the school.

Motions presented:

Pevlin Price proposed a motion for a sum up to \$2000 be allocated for the purchase of plants for the first Working Bee sessions for 2009.

Seconded: Helene Mountford.

The motion was carried.

Pevlin Price proposed a motion for a sum up to \$3500 be allocated for the P&C Federation Student Accident Insurance for 2009.

Seconded: Helene Mountford.

The motion was carried.

Correspondence:

Nothing to report.

Canteen Report:

Nothing to report.

Clothing Pool Report:

Nothing to report.

Grounds Report:

Next Working Bee session is planned for 7/3/09.

New Business:

It was decided that the P&C will continue the following Fundraising activities:

Entertainment Books

H2GO voucher program – this is a new program for 2009 and has no costs for P&C.

The issue for Rotary Raffle program vs. a Normanhurst specific Raffle program was discussed. It was agreed that Tracey and Cecilia will present a proposal in the March P&C for approval.

It was also agreed that the School and P&C should collate ideas for a major project that the P&C can target for major fundraising. The school and P&C Executive will collate ideas for such a plan.

General Business:

- Photographs from the Presentation Day will have a link from the school website soon.

- The school newsletter is now electronic but hardcopies are available near the front door.
- The Absentee SMS reporting system is operational.

Any Other Business:

No other business was raised.

Meeting closed at 10:10 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 10 March.