Sydney Secondary College P&C Leichhardt Campus
Minutes June 2013

Attendance: Recorded in attendance book. 23 P&C members, 3 staff members, 1 apology.

1. Welcome by president, Nick Potter.

May 2013 minutes accepted and moved by Fiona Law. Seconded by Vanessa Palfreeman.

2. ‘Positive Behaviour for Learning’ presentation.

Mr. O'Donnell, PDHPE teacher, gave a presentation on the ‘Positive Behaviour for Learning’ (PBL) programme that he is running at the school.

Mr. O'Donnell was requesting financial support from the P&C to put signage around the school as part of the structure of the programme. Attached are the breakdown costs of this signage. The P&C is to discuss this further. It was suggested that the Bendigo Bank be approached to help fund the signage but the ethics of a business being involved in funding such a programme was questioned.

The PBL team meets fortnightly to discuss the running of the programme.

3. Student Representative Council (SRC) Presentation.

Members of the SRC gave a presentation on the disrepair of the toilet blocks at the school. Many of the toilet cubicles don’t have doors and of those that do have doors, many don’t have functioning locks. Consequently there are privacy issues and there is often a long queue for the girl’s toilets as only 3 out of 12 are currently usable. The SRC requested funding from the P&C for some new doors, locks on doors, hooks for hanging bags on the back of doors, smoke alarms to prevent students smoking in the toilet blocks, soap dispensers and hand dryers.

Parents questioned why basic toilet block maintenance is not part of the school’s maintenance budget.

A working bee was suggested to help keep the costs down.

Establishment of a building maintenance fund was suggested.

Ms. Bright will inspect the toilets and has committed school funds to have the doors and locks repaired/replaced as a matter of urgency. The P&C will look at funding dryers, soap and hooks and organising a working bee for installation.

4. Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Mr. Thao Nguyen, acting head teacher maths, discussed and answered questions about the Duke of Edinburgh Award that is running at the school. This year SSCL has a high level of participation in both the Bronze and Silver levels of the award. The Balmain campus is also
running this programme.

The award involves 4 key activities: Learning a new skill, partaking in a sport or recreational activity, doing some voluntary work and going on an adventurous journey. The time commitment for each activity depends on the level you are aiming to achieve. i.e. bronze, silver or gold.

For the adventurous journey, SSCLLeichhardt does a bushwalk, organised and run by the school staff, whereas, SSCBalmain does a canoe trip, the running of which is outsourced to a private company.

Parents felt it would be helpful to have an information night and/or an information sheet outlining the basic requirements for the award. Patricia Ware offered to assist Mr. Nguyen with organisation and communication.

5. Reports

5.1. Principal's report:

The school has been discussing opportunities for the acceleration of students who are performing well. 26 current yr 7 students will be offered accelerated Italian to start in yr 8 next year. This programme will follow through to the HSC and will be completed in yr 11. i.e they will sit the HSC for this subject in yr 11. Both comprehensive and selective students are eligible to apply. Yr 9 studies will commence in term 4 of yr 8 and the yr 10 class will have a maximum of 24 students.

5.2. President's report

The president attended the ‘Selection Committee for Selective High Schools Placement’ meeting and was pleased to see a big increase in the numbers of students choosing the selective stream at SSCL.

The 413 bus route remains a problem with respect to overcrowding and this issue is a work in progress.

5.3. Treasurer's report

Bendigo Bank- paperwork set up and waiting to be accepted by the bank. This will happen when they see the approved May minutes. Lyndell Webster to be 3rd signatory.

Income and Expenditure Statement for Jan 1 to June 1 attached.

5.4. Secretary’s report

Nothing to report
5.5. Lostock
Donations of the following household items are most welcome: boardgames, pedestal fans, heaters and a lounge. These items can be taken straight to Lostock on your next visit or sent with anyone you know that is going!

6. General Business

 Strategies for Girls at SSCL- The school has sent a survey to parents of the school regarding how they feel their children’s needs are being met. As the school is fairly boy heavy, approx 60:40 boy to girl ratio, the school wants to be sure the needs of the girls are being met.

 School Acquisition of Cable/Tram Sheds- SSCL is in the process of lobbying the government to have the ownership of these disused buildings next to the school transferred to the Department of Education. The school would have many uses for these buildings including instrument and sports equipment storage, college minibus parking, performance space for the various ensembles and staff parking in the outdoor space. A group comprising residents, school community and local representatives are meeting to form an action plan. Howard Charles, representing the IMP, is part of this group. Judy Kelly also in discussions with Dept of Education.

 Sports Programme Questions-
It was asked why the Leichhardt and Balmain campuses are not able to compete as individual schools at zone level swimming and athletics carnivals but instead combine to compete as the one college. It is done like this because there are very few times during the year in which the whole college gets together and it is felt that this is a valuable exercise.

At school and college X country carnivals the age groups are all run together in order to save time. A request was made for each age group to wear some sort of identification so that students know who the other students in their age group are. e.g bibs on backs or coloured arm bands. This is particularly relevant at the college X country event.

 Blackwattle Bay (BWB) Crossover- concern was raised by a parent who has moved on to the BWB campus that there is very little commitment to the P&C committee there. 5 positions were available this year and there were only 5 attendees at the meeting. It is felt that parents find it difficult to commit to the BWB campus when they are only really there for 18 months.

Previously there has not been any facility to transfer parent contact details from SSCL to BWB but now a gmail account has been setup to facilitate this. Another suggestion was to give the p&c ‘contact sheet’ to parents at the yr 10 subject information night. An intercampus P&C meeting 1-2x yearly may also prove helpful.

TRIVIA NIGHT
Trivia night is on Saturday 17th August so continue organising your tables of 10.
Donations for the silent auction are coming in but we need lots more!
All donations of cake/slice for the tea/coffee stand and alcohol for the ‘alcohol locker’ raffle are welcome.
We have a mystery trivia master lined up for the night!

Meeting closed 9.15pm

7. 2013 meetings and key dates

P&C Meetings
No meeting in July
Monday, August 5
Monday, September 2
No meeting in October
Monday, November 4
Monday, December 2