Attended by: Anne Vermeesch, Kay Proos, Madeleine Bowman, Sonia von Bornemann, Fran Bailey, Sue Russell, Lisa Woodland, Suzy Carter, Max Pontin, Stacie Connor, Jeff Hockey, David Allen, Liam O’Sullivan, Catherine Watts, David Saffis, Bronwyn Jones, John Hart, Andrea Connell,

Apologies: Jen Halbert

Previous Minutes: Amendments: date should read 2/3/09 not 2/4/09. Jeff Hockey was in attendance, spelling of Jeff’s name.

Business Arising
Vacant Positions:
• Treasurer: Max Pontin nominated by Lisa Woodland seconded Anne Vermeesch. Meeting voted in favour of Max being Treasurer
• School Council Representatives: Two positions to be Narelle Wardman and Anne Vermeesch nominated and seconded. Meeting voted to endorse both nominations.

Principal's Report
I would like to formally thank the parents of the Leichhardt campus P and C for their generous and sustained support throughout by time as the Principal of the campus, from 2002 to 2009 in the formative years of the Sydney Secondary College.

The transition from stand alone comprehensive high school to a campus of a three-school college was difficult at first. There were many unknowns and a fair degree of scepticism that the advantages would outweigh the dislocation and disruption of a well established and functioning school, which Leichhardt was at the time of the gazetting of the college.

Without parent support the passage of change would have been almost impossible. The first community forum in June 2002 which focused on Middle Schooling and what the term implied, was energetically embraced through excellent attendance and intelligent debate. The parents who had taken the “leap of faith” and enrolled their sons and daughters in the new Leichhardt school, were consistent in their attendance at P and C and constant in bringing issues to the attention of the Principal. While some of these issues were problems which needed solving, the fact that the communication happened through appropriate channels, was a very positive process.

Highlights of parent contribution and creation of the campus’ evolving identity include:
• The final construction fo the oval after a 15 year campaign
• The opening of the Library and the drive for resources
• The agreement to establish and run a P and C Uniform shop
• The support through a parent committee for the expansion fo the Band program
• The refurbishment of the rural property at Lostock and the revitalization of same
• The introduction of committed fundraising for the school through Trivia Nights and in 2008 the inaugural Art Show, and wine sales.
• The creative solution to the vexed problem of purchase of high quality lockers
• The bold decision to access the Commonwealth Government funding for Chaplains in order to employ a Community Outreach worker
• Leading the writing of submissions to government for the Investing in our Schools Program
• Letter writing to political representatives about school issues such as funding for junior campuses/guidelines for overseas excursions

Parents have contributed through active participation on the School Council, the College Advisory Council, representatives on merit selection panels, fund raising at election time on polling day, working bees, and consistently supporting the school on Open days and evenings, Orientations Day and many official occasions.

My particular thanks to the office bearers of the P and C through the past seven years, especially the Presidents:

• Jeff Hockey
• Maggie Smyth
• Suzy Velkou, and at the current time,
• Lisa Woodland

Each of the Presidents have contributed very significantly to the school and given selflessly. They have been genuine partners and wonderful to work with.

Issues which are still current at the start of term 2 2009:

• The sign off on the agreement with Leichhardt Council to allow community use of the oval
• The commitment to the work of the new School Council, reinvigorated April this year.
• BER: Building the Education Revolution submissions
• Literacy review and planned community forum (implementation phase 2009/2009)
• Homework policy to suit the needs of all
• 50 year celebrations in September 2010
• Positive Behaviour for Learning

I am confident to P and C will work with the senior executive and new principal to resolve and advance these issues.

Many thanks to all,
Andrea Connell, Principal

Presidents Report

Lisa moved that Leichhardt P&C become an incorporated association under the NSW Federation of P&C Associations. This means the P&C would become a legal entity and removes liability from each member as individuals in the event of facing legal action. Felt this prudent given the involvement in Lostock and other ventures. This involves a small amount of paper work and a one of fee of $100. Further information was circulated to P&C email list.

The question of the negative aspects of being incorporated was raised. Possibilities suggested were the $100 fee and need to adopt the Constitution of the P & C Federation. Possibility of downsides to having to submit accounts to the P&C Federation was raised. No issues foreseen.
Motion was seconded by Liam O'Sullivan.
Meeting voted in favour of the motion.

Bus Stop Balmain Road
Concerns have been raised about the bus stop outside the school near the pedestrian crossing. Key issues are the narrow footpath and students spilling onto the road whilst waiting, posing a danger to themselves and drivers.
Two bus stops are located within a short distance. – one about 100m to the north in the bus bay and the other about 100m to the south – Much discussion about what could be done – Whether these bus stops could be used as alternatives or fencing erected at the current bus stop. Also the question of driver safety and speeding on Devonshire St was raised by Cathy and whether we could request a police blitz on drivers in the area.
Concerns re the safety of the bus stop were raised at a meeting with Leichhardt Council attended by Lisa and Andrea last week. For action to be taken we need to send a letter to Council.
Action: Letter to be sent to Leichhardt Council requesting the relocation of the bus stop and stating that it is not wanted in its current form. Lisa to draft.

School Council Meeting
The School’s 50 Year celebration is to be held Term 3 week 4, 2010. Various options were discussed. These are to be circulated electronically for discussion.
Sun safety and hat policy also discussed. Hats: must wear for kayaking and to be heavily promoted for gala and sports days. Also the need for teachers to take sunscreen to outdoor sport/PE lessons must be promoted.
Need to change culture of attitudes to hat wearers. A school based competition mirroring the Cancer Council’s national Sun Smart competition (closes November) was proposed by Lisa. School winners could then enter the Cancer Council’s competition.
Lisa moved the P&C donate $500 for prizes.
Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report
Jeff Hockey looking forward to handing over to new Treasurer. Meeting for handover with Jeff, Max and Lisa on 22nd April.

New signatories for the cheque account were appointed: Max Pontin, Lisa Woodland, Sue Russell and Jeff Hockey.

Secretary’s Report
Ongoing correspondence discussed:
Excursion Policy: P&C received a reply from Mr Whelan, Director, School and Regional Policy (dated 27 January 2009) rejecting the proposed changes to the Departments Excursion Policy.
Andrea said although the school trip to Japan had been approved there was suggestion that the school should reconsider the need to conduct further excursions.
Need to follow up with Canterbury GHS to see what their application for approval was like.
Anne to do
Cathy and Janet to review Whelan’s letter, research the issue and bring findings to the meeting after next for consideration.

Bus Shelter
Letter from Leichhardt Council dated 31st March stating that DA for bus shelter will be considered in April and should take about 4 weeks to build once approved. Council has said the graffiti is a school issue.
Need to keep track of the progress of the DA.
Graffiti issue had been raised at School Council and the need to do some planting was discussed.

Funding
Letter from Verity Firth dated December 2008 essentially saying that current funding formula should be adequate.
This issue has already been taken to Teacher’s Federation without success. Seems to be a balance in the funding between the Middle and Senior campuses so further action needs to be careful not to jeopardize funding levels for the senior campuses. The issue was discussed at a recent Middle School’s Principals meeting and is now being referred to a meeting of Senior School Principals. Further action should await the outcome of this meeting to see what their position is.

P&C Federation Student Personal Injury Insurance
Offer of policy for students at a cost of $4.85 per student. Not sure of the need for this. Max to look into it.

Lostock
John said response for working bee has been low. Have people from Blackwattle and Balmain Campuses but not Leichhardt. Further report held over till next meeting.

New Business
Welcome to new Assistant Principal David Allen.

Community Forum on Literacy
Date needs to be set. Original proposal for early next term now too soon. School needs to check availability of Debbie Francis (Literacy Consultant).
Need people to set up and organise the forum. Madeleine and Cathy with help from Lisa and possibly Sue.

Curriculum Topics for 2009 and Fundraising Ideas for 2009 held over until next meeting.

Meeting closed 8:06