P& C
Sydney Secondary College-Leichhardt Campus
Minutes 11.2.08

The meeting opened at 7.10 pm.
Attendance recorded. Apology received from Jan Flanagan

1. Welcome from the President, Suzie Velkou.
   Suzie gave an overview of the achievements of the P&C over the past 12 months. The list included the:
   - creation of a youth support position under the “Chaplaincy” program.
   - completion and opening of the school’s oval. The opening ceremony was a major celebratory event for the school community
   - school Trivia night which raised $6,370
   - new lockers were installed for students. These are available with a four year tenure for $100
   - Geoff Hockey added that December’s candle selling in Leichhardt park proceeded notwithstanding heavy rain

2. Lostock. John Hart gave an overview of the school’s country retreat ‘Lostock’ and an account of his recent building maintenance challenges. He estimates it will require an injection of $2000. Parents interested in hiring the site should consult the website for details.

3. School website. The school acknowledges that the site needs a facelift. A group of parents volunteered to collect feedback about ways to improve its appearance and to then help maintain the site for a temporary period. The volunteers are Fiona Gillies, Stephanie Searle & Tracey Grujovic.

4. New parents welcome. The welcome for new parents will be on the evening of 29 February. Parents that are veterans are requested to bring a plate of food.

5. Student loads. A concern was raised about the weight of student’s bags. Terry (Acting Principal) outlined the eligibility criteria for a free school locker (student need). The alternative is to pledge $100 for a new school locker that covers four years. Suzie will write a piece about Lockers for “Highlights”. It was agreed that information about lockers will now be included in Year 7 Orientation packs.

6. Apology to the Stolen Generation. The meeting discussed the importance of the apology and that our students should have the
opportunity to view the apology live and have opportunities to discuss it. Terry indicated the school executive will endeavour to have students participate on the actual day.

7. **Incidents at school.** In response to a question about fights involving our students, Terry gave a report about two incidents this term that involved a small number of students.

8. **School Diaries.** Students will be encouraged to use their diaries to help them plan their work.

9. **Exercise room.** A room with gym equipment is used by students during PE activities when supervised by staff. It is not available without staff supervision (such as during non-lesson times).

10. **Art show.** Suzie outlined the plan to host an art show during 2008. It will be on the school campus and use the vestibule. A number of parents volunteered to join the committee to organize the show including Julie Bedford, Fran Bailey, Pina Leyland & Tim Sussman.

11. **Curriculum overviews.** Some of our monthly meetings will include an overview of a Key Learning Area (presented a Head Teacher) by using the first 30 minutes of a meeting. It was agreed that the first area should be Languages.

12. **Overseas excursions.** Janet Burstall raised a concern about DET not officially recognising the overseas excursions organized by the school. The consequences of non-recognition need to be clarified as other trips are planned. The reasons for non-endorsement include an inappropriate adult-to-student ratio, the overlap with school holidays and a non-alignment with curriculum goals. To re-butt these claims, Janet has corresponded with the School Education Director. It appears that the Sydney Region’s Director may apply the DET policy in a way inconsistent with other Regional Directors. Janet will seek the endorsement of a resolution at the March meeting.

13. The next P&C meeting on 10 March will be the AGM. This meeting will elect a new executive.

**The meeting closed at 9.10**