SSC Leichhardt Campus
Parents & Citizens Association

P&C Meeting
6 July 2009

Attendance
Anne Vermeesch, Stephanie Searle, Peter Cox, Mike Ticher, Madeleine Bowman, Catherine Watts, Fran Bailey, Max Pontin, Stacie Connor, Lisa Woodland

Apologies
Kristine Highet, Bronwyn Jones, Laura Hart Jeff Hockey, Liam O’Sullivan, Sue Russell

Presentation re School Oval Upgrade: Vince Cusumano, Manager, Parks & Streetscapes Leichhardt Council
Federal funding to Council is being used to fund the upgrade. Are only 8 oval/sporting facilities in the area and Council felt the school oval has a lot of time when not being used by the school and could be used by the community.
Proposal: Upgrade budget is $250 000. Plan is for 1 mid size field running the length of the area or 3 junior fields running across using movable goal posts. Existing tank will be utilized for drainage system. 4 floodlights have been approved (Phillips Optivision Lights). Less glare given off than old style lights. Shouldn’t impact on drivers and neighbours. See-saw poles to improve access to pole/globe for ongoing maintenance. Lights have car key style remotes for turning on and off. These will be issued to clubs that have booked the oval. Control of lights can be overridden by Council so groups can’t use the oval if it has been closed by Council. There will be an automated underground irrigation system (Cloudmaster) controlled from Council depot. Should not be an issue of oval being too wet for student use.
Some netting to be installed to stop balls being kicked out of the oval.
Bubbler and 2 bins to be installed and 10 bench seats around the perimeter.
No plan for toilets. Are toilets in Pioneer Park that can be used.
Cooch grass to be used – wears better and easier to maintain.
Opening and closing of oval gates will be responsibility of Rangers.
Maintenance of oval will occur in mornings.
Envisage use to include training on 3 evenings and games on Sat and Sun for juniors (12 and under?) not seniors. Use of oval will be monitored by Council and limited in the first season.
Re parking: is concern that oval use will impact on availability of parking for local residents. Plan is to make Derbyshire St available for parking on weekends and are negotiating with the Bus Depot to use areas used mid week by them.
Plan is to be implemented in 2 stages beginning these holidays. Stage 2 is the major work and is scheduled to begin early August and be complete 19/10/2009 ready for student use at start of term 4.
Council has approved student use of Pioneer Park during the upgrade.
If there are any further enquiries contact Vince Cusumano at Leichhardt Council.

1. Previous Minutes: Ratified - moved Lisa, seconded Stephanie

2. Business Arising

2.1. Trivia Night committee: Publicity is major issue now. Parent has designed a great flier that can be displayed in the school and distributed at any upcoming event ie Years7/8 parent/teacher night on 7th July and Year 9/10 night on 30th July. Suggested that the Committee contact the SMHerald What’s On, ABC Diary online, Inner West Courier.
Stacie was asked if the Art department (student or teachers) could be approached to see if they are interested in donating art for auction.
Donations (not large ones) can be left at office. Collecting going well and have had a good response to email request for support. Suggested that we contact IKEA, Fantastic Furniture for donations.

2.2. Bus shelter on Balmain Road: Have been talks with Council. They have identified a grill as a trip hazard. Aren’t keen on installing a fence to solve the problem as can limit access to bus doors. Don’t want to move the shelter because of issues for older users accessing the stop. Suggested solution is to install benches against the wall so kids will sit on them. Shouldn’t be many kids using this stop. Has
been letter from Council - a Road Safety Officer and Vince Cusumano to meet with P&C reps to discuss the matter further.

2.3. Community Forum on Literacy: DET literacy Rep is available on Fridays. Has requested a focus. Possible focus discussed. Suggestions included: Creative writing process, NAPLAN results, Issues/recommendations arising from the 2007 literacy review – how can they be addressed/where to now? Last one decided on.
Date to be set: 18th or 25th September.

2.4. Community use of oval: Contract not signed yet. Final wording still being negotiated. Lisa has discussed this with Louie Ferguson (School Ed. Director) and Lisa and Stacie have been meeting with Council. Is concern over use of the terms ‘members of public’ and ‘parks’ in the latest draft.
Issue was raised at last week’s Council Meeting by a Councilor that P&C member/s had felt they’d been bullied in relation to the proposal for community use of the oval and council upgrade. No one at this P&C meeting is aware of this. Don’t know if the complaint arises from the early stages of the negotiations or comes from more recent negotiations. Mayor has requested a meeting. Is this really necessary? P&C needs more information from the Councilor about the complaint and where it has come from. Action: To contact the Mayor asking him to contact the Councilor for further details.

2.5. Recruitment of Principal: Interviews today. Preferred candidate selected and approved by Phill Lambert (regional Director). Candidate yet to be informed. Louise Ferguson has asked to announce the appointment at the school later in the week. Hope they will start at beginning of next term.

2.6. Recruitment of English teacher: Position has been re advertised. Panel will meet on Friday to cull applicants. Interviews to be held 1st Friday of term 3.

2.7. Proposal for College P&C: No outline from Balmain College yet.

2.8. Curriculum Topics: Postponed till next meeting.

2.9. Outdoor Movie Night: Not a popular idea with the students. See if we can get a refund of the deposit. Kids are interested in a Fair Day. Maybe something on Year 10 Graduation Day?

2.10. Deferred to future meetings:
• Response to letter from Verity Firth (Minister for Education) re. funding formula for middle schools – deferred pending advice from meeting of Middle School Principals
• Response to letter from Mr Whelan (Director, School and Regional Policy) re. Overseas excursions – Cathy Watts still following up on this issue. Is concerned about the equity issue. Can the P&C support an equity fund that could be used for camps etc? Meeting felt this would be good use of P&C funds. Need to make sure the fund is sustainable. Suggestion to approach businesses to sponsor child for the year. Are approx 80 families who could benefit from an equity fund. To be discussed at future meetings
• Letter to council re. bus stop on Balmain Road

3. Reports

3.1. Principal’s report: Canteen upgrade to be done in holidays. COLA/shade areas to be put on hold. Suspect there are issues with the design/structure. Laptops for teachers have arrived (20). Wireless connections are installed and active. Students excited about laptops.
Thanks to the P&C and Lisa in particular for their support throughout the term.

3.2. President’s report: Nothing to report

3.3. Treasurer’s report: Accounts summary tabled. Have only been a few transactions, - clothing suppliers, film screen deposit and reimbursing costs to P&C members. Total balance at 6/7/09, $37 251.14 Is the issue of outstanding money from initial purchase of stock for the uniform shop owed to the school. Is no record of the agreement in the 2007 minutes. Is thought the agreement must have been made in 2006. Cathy to contact Andrea and try to locate a copy of the agreement.
3.4. Secretary’s report: In the spirit of improving communication between the Colleges email was sent to Leichhardt and Blackwattle P&C reps attaching June P&C minutes, letting them know of major issues at Leichhardt this year, our trivia night etc and offering to raise any issues they thought important at our P&C. Only received a response from Balmain attaching their June minutes. A bit disappointed with this response. Suggests that the idea of a College P&C may not be viable.

Mail: P&C Federation – reminder about the upcoming conference. Cathy expressed interest in attending. Also bill for insurance - to be followed up by Max; letter from Council re bus shelter given to Lisa.

3.5. School Council report – no report this month

3.6. College Council report (Stephanie): Last meeting Janet reported on the band applying for funds to assist existing members with ongoing costs and for band scholarships. Is going well. Want to improve level of participation of band parents from Balmain campus.

Looked at the laptops.

Doreen spoke about many initiatives the College is involved in. Glebe Reengage Project. $500 000 - focus on students who should be attending Leichhardt/Balmain; Looking at online work experience project for severely disabled students to help the transition from school to work; Maritime Project for years 9/10 students.

College presentations back at Sydney Town Hall. Feb 19th. All students to attend. Are there any issues Leichhardt want to raise at the next meeting?

3.7. Lostock report - No report

3.8. Uniform Shop: Going very well. Some issues with suppliers. Have spoken to Lowes about availability of uniforms. Are exploring alternative suppliers. Are different directions uniform shop could go. Need to devise an action plan that should include repayments to the school. Need to develop a system to make it clear what stock moves each week as are various people who access the shop.

4. Other business

- Welcome to new Principal: Proposed that a welcome be held at the first P&C meeting of next term, 3rd August. Proposal accepted. Meeting to be urgent matters only. Welcome to be similar to Andrea’s farewell.

Meeting closed 9:11 pm