Attended by: Anne Vermeesch, Miker Ticher, Fran Bailey, Max Pontin, Bronwyn Jones, Sue Russell, Emmanuel Fernandez, Lisa Woodland, Natalie Ross, Ian Etherington, Jeff Hockey, Maria Pontin, Narelle Wardman, Adele Walsh, Stacie Connor

1. Apologies: Vicki Bamford, Kay Proos,

2. Previous Minutes: Correction - Treasurer’s report: meeting re uniform shop was with Laura Hart.
Minutes ratified: moved by Sue Russell, seconded, Max Pontin

3. Business Arising
3.1 Trivia Night: Committee met last Monday. Trivialites has been booked to run the evening. Cost $275 including GST. Now the focus is on collecting donations and promoting the evening. Donations letters are available for anyone who would like to collect. Need to organise poster to promote the night – Anne to ask parent who designed it last year. Other ways to promote discussed: School notice board, Highlights (next out week 8 need copy to office by Wed of week 8,) foyer, send fliers home with kids, SMS via school list if bookings are low (Stacie said cost approx $56 and could be done), advertise at next parent teacher interview evenings (are some before the trivia night. Stacie to get dates to the Committee) no school mail outs that we could send fliers home in, local primary schools.

3.2 Bus Shelter: (in current bus bay) No updates – when it’s built it most likely will be positioned to the front of the bay in accordance with Council’s existing safety standards.

3.3 Community Forum on Literacy: Stacie to get dates that DET Literacy consultant is available.

3.4 Bus Stop on Balmain Rd: Letter has been sent to Council outlining the School’s concerns re safety of existing bus stop. This will be put to the relevant Council committee.

3.5 Community Use of Oval: Contract not yet signed. Sticking points are the length of the contract – initially 25 years, now reduced to 20 years (school has been pushing for less) and definition of Community use - Council wants it available for general community use during sunrise and sunset. Original plan was for access by organised sports clubs. School concerns re open access are the potential dangers (needles, dog poo etc.). But without council funding ongoing maintenance of the oval the School will need to ensure they have sufficient funds for its upkeep (approx $30k per annum). Has been much discussion and debate but the Minister is happy for negotiations to be made at a local level. Decision needs to be made soon as there is a deadline for spending the money or it will be lost.

Is a meeting next week to be attended by Lisa and Stacie – they need to take the P&C’s position on the matter to that meeting. Discussion ensued.

Apart from issues raised above concerns focused on the risks of community use as experienced with the school basketball courts (rings trashed, drinking on courts, community use during school hours) i.e there is a blurring of boundary between community and school ‘ownership’ of the site. Difficult to hold people accountable for any damage or misuse of site when there is access by the general public. Point also made that Leichhardt Council has a precedent of locking ovals so they are not available for access by general public eg Leichhardt Oval.
No one spoke in favour of general community use.
P&C position is that the contract should only allow for use of the school oval by organised community groups or events where it can be opened and then locked but would agree to a long contract period (20 years).

3.6 Recruitment of Principal: Interview of applicants is set for 6th July. Meeting to draft ad for the position is happening 2 June. Lisa asked what criteria/skills are people wanting from the new principal: Response: an educator, understanding/experience of middle schooling, ability to cater for diversity (aboriginal, G&T, special needs), support band program, good communications, developing the existing transition from primary to secondary schools program, understanding of local area, values the importance of literacy in schooling

3.7 Recruitment of English teacher: Were problems getting a staff rep for the recruitment process. Position has currently returned to staffing who are checking the data base for available suitable matches. If none found recruitment process will begin again.

3.8 College P&C: Little support for this. Have been emails between the P&C’s. Have decided to share minutes of meetings as a starting point for improving communications. Balmain P&C have offered to organise a proposal. Awaiting this for further action.

3.9 Curriculum Topics: Technology for Learning was scheduled for tonight’s meeting but Russell Darnely didn’t attend. Stacie spoke in lieu:
Laptops for Learning (L4L) proposal for an evening launch with information packages and demonstration of possibilities by teachers. Laptops to be distributed in last weeks of term 3, ready for use in week 1 or term 4. Staff will receive laptops end term 2 to give time to develop skills to incorporate their use into teaching pedagogy.
Laptops come with great suite of software ADOBE and Microsoft packages. Are about 10” screen and approx 1.5kg. Have no inbuilt DVD, kids can’t load software on to them.
Policies re use and maintenance of computers by students are still to be developed (e.g. not having them charged, losses etc). They come with inbuilt security that automatically reports misuse to DET. DET can wipe the hard drive if misuse occurs. If lost computers are replaced with computer of the same mode. DET reviewing current filtering policies.
School will be fitted with wireless capabilities in 12 classrooms and library this year, Remainder of school to be done next year. Next year’s year 9 will have laptops rolled out in term 1.
3 positions for technology support will be available in the College as a result of L4L.
Future curriculum topics: Stacie suggested industrial arts, teaching and learning, PE and will organise dates.

3.10 Outdoor Movie Night: Lisa investigated costs. Will be around $2000 to hire screen, popcorn machines, gelato etc. Hope to cover costs and for it to be a great social event but not necessarily a big fundraiser. Do we go ahead? Suggestion to canvas kids at roll call to gauge interest levels. Interest will depend on movie. Can we show MA movies? Stacie to contact Legal Branch to find out position re rating of movie. Stacie suggests the P&C works with SRC so students have ownership of the event. Can raise it at school Council meeting next week. Also good to have P&C rep talk to SRC reps at roll call. Sue R could do this on Thurs or Friday. Stacie to talk to Libby Campbell to prime kids. Move the night to the Friday 30th instead of Saturday ensure better attendance. Lisa to make tentative booking of projector and screen.
3.11 Response to letter from Mr Whelan: Copy with Cathy Watts since last week but no report on progress so far. New guidelines for approval for overseas excursions are outlined in the latest InPrincipal. Stacie questions the need to pursue past experience if there are now a new set of guidelines. Stacie to forward copy of new guidelines so an assessment can be made and further action decided.

3.12 Deferred to future meetings: Response to letter from Verity Firth (Minister for Education) re. funding formula for middle schools – pending advice from meeting of Middle School Principals

Reports
4.1 Principal’s report: Thanks to everyone for their support whilst acting Principal. College Principal Doreen is happy to run panel training in morning or after school. For those interested email Lisa with times and dates and she’ll forward to Stacie. National School Pride money has been received canteen to be refurbished and sun shade to be erected. Need to decide location of this in the next week and what type of shade – would be good if it was waterproof also. Discuss at School Council.

4.2 President’s Report: Was on selection committee for Selective school placements - impressed by the overall thoroughness and assessment of flagged students who were given appropriate and due consideration.

4.3 Treasurer’s Report: Signatories on cheque accounts have been changed. No accounts have been closed yet. Is roughly $36,000 across all accounts. Still need to reimburse the school $12,000 for initial purchase of uniform stock.

4.4 Secretary’s report: Mail: Email re Greenway project (environmental initiative looking at establishing bike paths between Pyrmont and Cooks River which HSIE staff and environmental committee has had some involvement in). Requesting that parents email Council responding to the Greenway Master Plan. Last date for submissions was 31/5 so should be done ASAP. Let me know if interested and I will email you relevant information. P&C Federation: latest guidelines for P&C treasurers, registration for P&C Federation conference to be held 31/7 1 &2/8 at Penrith if anyone interested in attending. HOSTEC – run responsible service of alcohol courses – 1 day cost $85.

4.5 School Council – no report this month, due to meet Friday 12 June

4.6 Lostock – no report

5 Other Business
Use of NAPLAN result and league tables. Is concern by Principals that results will be misused by the media. Majority of principals feel publicising results would have negative impact on staff and could be potentially disengaging. Also response of community could be to flee ‘poor’ schools. No definitive stand has been taken by the Principals Association. To date there is no detail re what data is being released and how it will be packaged/presented. Worthwhile to discuss this issue further when more details are available. Lisa to contact P&C Federation to see what their position is.

Meeting Closed: 8:47