Sydney Secondary College P&C Leichhardt Campus
Minutes December 3 2012

Attendance: Recorded in the book. 12 P&C members, 1 staff member, two apologies

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Minutes of the previous meeting approved, moved Trish, approved by member who attended the last meeting.

3. Presentation by Young Leaders' Forum members with a proposal to enhance recycling at the school. The YLF members gave a highly professional outline of their proposal, including budget projections for the introduction and continued operation of a full recycling program. The P&C were impressed by the proposal and provided feedback to the YLF group. The P&C agreed to purchase the hardware required to install the recycling program, subject to a formal quote resulting from continued negotiation with suppliers. Moved Trish, approved.

4. Reports

4.1. Principal’s report (James McMaster)

White Ribbon supported at school assembly. Leichhardt Campus is one of about a dozen schools taking part in the program in the Sydney region. Likely to go national next year. Lots of support from the students and staff, with the campaign linked to Positive Behavior for Learning program at Leichhardt.

One of three incoming Year Seven days at High School held last week with very positive feedback. Year 10 students were at Taster Week at Blackwattle and Work Experience during these days.

Enrollment for Year Seven in 2013 around 204, with availability getting tight. There will be seven classes of Year Seven again in 2013.

Year Seven Orientation Day is December 5.

4.2. President’s report

Excellent response to request for a male parent to join a staff selection process.

4.3. Treasurer’s report

P&C accounts currently $66,976, with $27,974 committed to funding requests.

4.4 Secretary’s report

P&C Website login still working, aiming to get the site before the school year ends and security may need renewal.

5 Lostock

Vanessa reports that Lostock is out of action due to the lack of water at the site. Last meeting resolved to seek the creation of a Balmain-Leichhardt-Blackwattle combined committee to
operate Lostock. Advised that this had to be under Leichhardt management as the property had to be under one Campus's control. Good support from other campuses, with a meeting to be held by the end of the week. Aiming to get quotes quickly and install water tanks. However flow on impact to roofing, gutters, pipes, low flow showers and toilet so considerable cost is likely. No co-operation from Hunter Water.

Trish proposes running Lostock off a new Commonwealth Bank account to bring this into alignment with other P&C accounts. Motion to establish a new Commonwealth Bank account for Lostock and close the existing Westpac account put by Peter, approved.

6 Other business

6.1 Leichhardt Council round of grants are scheduled for next February. Suggest Breakfast Club and YLF recycling proposal as possible activities for grants.

6.2 Parents questioned the processes for managing student absences.

James informed the P&C that the school office staff did not operate the SMS alert system made available by the Education Department. The Public Service Association has advised members that they are not obliged to operate the system and Leichhardt office staff do not.

Parents noted the inaccuracies and long delays in letters advising absence, leading to parents ignoring them. Parents also noted the receipt of truancy letters when their children were on camp, school excursions or other approved school activities. Absenteeism numbers on School Reports are, therefore, considered meaningless. Parents moved that the school be advised that the P&C members:

Noted the inaccuracies in school attendance records and the long lag time to receiving notification letters. The lack of use of the SMS system is regretted. The P&C considers that the lack of an effective attendance notification system increases the possibility of risk to students through delayed reporting of absence (in case of accident or misadventure) or lack of response to actual truancy issues.

6.3 Charity status of P&C

Trish to check the P&C ABN to verify correspondence received on status as a charity.

6.4 2014 meetings and key dates

School office closes December 19, which is also the last day for students.

Staff return and office opens Tuesday, January 29

Year Seven and 10 students return Wednesday, January 30

Year Eight and Nine students return Thursday, January 31

P&C Meetings

Monday, February 11 welcome to parents 6pm-7.30pm, followed by short meeting

Monday, March 4, and AGM

Monday, April 1
Monday, May 6
Monday, June 3
No July meeting
Monday, August 5
Monday, September 2
No meeting in October
Monday, November 4
Monday, December 2

6.5 2013 office bearers
Vanessa, Peter and Suzana indicate they will not renominate for their current positions in 2013.