Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus
P&C Minutes for March 2015.

Attendance: Recorded in attendance book. 10 P&C members, 2 staff members, 4 apologies.

1. Welcome from Nick Potter.

Minutes of the previous meeting, February 2nd, 2015 approved by Vanessa Palfreeman, seconded by Karen Korras.

1. Matters Arising from Minutes:
Nil

2. Reports

2.1 Principal’s Report:

Final enrolments for 2015 on the day the department records student numbers and allocates staff accordingly was 862. Has increased again since then due to further in-area enrolments. Have actually ended up with a slight surplus in staff. A Digital Education Officer has been employed one day per week to help staff with the transition to BYOD. Her name is Pitt Cleaves.

School Open Night is Wed 4th March. Expecting a bumper crowd. This year, instead of having tours of school, will have open classrooms with teachers present to answer questions.

Boys’ Toilets painted in holidays and graffitied in first week. Now fixed. Girls’ toilets also painted and broken mirrors replaced.

Parent needed for interview panel for new teacher in support unit. Belinda Fraser offered. Hope to have add in by next week.

Student Survey to occur. It’s a statewide survey called ‘Tell Them From Me’. Asks students about many different topics.

SSCL has started a new method of teacher support called ‘Leichhardt Rounds’. A junior teacher observes a more experienced teacher in the classroom for approx 20 mins followed by a debriefing. Have received good feedback from teachers who are finding it very helpful for their professional development.

A review of the school’s facilities is to occur this year. The school is starting to feel the squeeze on it’s facilities because of the increasing numbers. Sally Bury to head up the review with the help of Mr. Springbett.

BYOD: An outside company can work with the school to assist with BYOD. They would give advice on the most appropriate devices to purchase and can also help with payment plans. Would suggest 4 different devices only. Ms Bright to find out if leasing options are available and if a representative from the company can talk to the P&C.
**Holiday Absences:** The Department of Education no longer recognises holiday absences outside of designated school holiday times. Parents must get permission from the principal if they want holiday leave outside of school holidays and it will be recorded as ‘unjustified absences’. This is not only a statewide policy but a global policy.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** wishes were given to our College Principal, Judy Kelly, who was present at the meeting.

**3.2 President's Report**

Nick Potter commented that the College Presentation Day was an excellent day. Impressed with the number of girls that received awards in a school that is boy ‘heavy’. Presentation Day is mostly run by the students.

**3.3 Treasurer’s Report**

Nothing to report.

**3.4 Secretary’s Report**

Nothing to report.

**3.5 Lostock Report**

Nothing to report.

**4.0 General Business**

Sydney Secondary College was originally called Ibrox High School after Ibrox Park. “Ibrox Park” is the name of the field in Glasgow where football team Glasgow Rangers play. The area where the school is was once a popular gathering place for expat Celts to gather to play football and hence it became colloquially known as Ibrox Park after that ground. A local resident wants to have the grassy triangular area on Balmain Rd. immediately south of the school named ‘Ibrox Park’. No objections were given at the meeting.

P&C received email from parent expressing concerns about BYOD with regard to insurance, equity, distraction both at home and in the classroom and the need for students to be able to write in their HSC. These issues have been raised and discussed at P&C meetings previously but in short, for:

- **Insurance** - Devices are not covered by school insurance as would be unaffordable. Devices can be covered by home contents insurance.

- **Equity** - There are ‘banks’ of computers at school that students have access to and the school can provide where need is identified. All students have free access to Office 365 through the cloud and online services.

- **Writing Skills** - staff at junior and senior campuses very conscious of the importance of this and taking steps to address it.
Distraction - staff managing as best they can.

Judy Kelly gave feedback on the Community Consultation Meeting which took place in Term 3 2014. 30-35 parents attended this meeting. Parents, students and staff were also consulted through focus groups and surveys. Views were obtained about education now and in the future.

Common themes:

1/. Technology - now part of education landscape. BYOD an issue for many. Staff have difficulty with variety of devices, equipment not working, shortfall of tech skills. Students want equity, consistency and more staff with more skills.

2/. Textbooks - parents like, students don't. Students prefer more interactive lessons. Teachers like textbooks.

3/. Students aware they need to maintain writing skills.

4/. Greater consistency and interaction wanted across campuses so students have familiarity when go to BWB. Wine and food night suggested for later in year for parents of 3 campuses.

5/. Critical thinking skills wanted as well as the rote learning required for the HSC. Students also want project based learning and collaborative learning. Need to look at innovation as well as traditional methods of teaching.

6/. Teacher well being important for teachers. Have increased demands with little recognition.

7/. Facilities - students want clean modern environments. Not enough indoor space in wet weather.

8/. Other requests include - air con, more blinds, faster internet, seniors want eftpos facility in canteen.

9/. Communications - multiple modes wanted i.e twitter, facebook etc, etc

Now need to work on strategic directions for:

- staff
- students
- community

Will continue culture of consultation.

Meeting Closed 8.25pm.

Next Meeting Monday May 4th.

No April Meeting due to school holidays.