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

Attendance: Recorded in attendance book. 6 P&C members, 2 staff members, 2 apologies.

Welcome from Vice President, Siranda Torvaldsan.

Minutes of the previous meeting, September 7th 2015, approved by Belinda Fraser, seconded by Vanessa Palfreeman.

1. Matters Arising from Minutes:
No matters arising

2.1 BWB Campus P&C President Peter Cox attended meeting to encourage parents to become involved in the senior campus P&C when their children are in year 10 in order to aid the transition process. Students are only at BWB for 18 months (due to HSC being in term 4) and this time goes very quickly. P&C is a good way to get to know what’s going on in the school and to get to know the senior campus leadership staff. BWB P&C too small for much fundraising. Held a movie night this year but only raised $1000. Was a great night though.
It was suggested the 3 campuses leverage off each other more in terms of fundraising. Judy Kelly said this has been tried before but that, in the end, parents want to raise money for their own school. College is trying to get students together more and trying to do more things across the board. All campuses have ‘positive behaviour for learning’, however junior campus has ‘Skoolbag’ and senior campus has ‘Daisy’. Also looking at having one uniform across the college.

2.2 Maths Teacher Greg Wozniak attended meeting to request funding for replacement of fencing at each end of the basketball courts. Current fencing has been there for a very long time and has become a hazard for students using the courts. 4 quotes were obtained. Quote from ‘Sydney Chainwire Fencing’ for $10,820 accepted as they will also fix the gates. Quote attached. Moved Vanessa Palfreeman. Seconded Belinda Fraser.

3. Reports

3.1 Principal’s Report:
The school has been given permission to advertise for 3 classroom teachers, Maths, HSIE and TAS. Mr. King, maths teacher, is retiring at the end of the year. The position of HT Welfare to be advertised internally across the college. A male parent is needed for the interview panel for the HSIE interview. Other panels are already gender balanced as required.
Peer support training of students took place this week. Successful students will be involved in
peer support of year 7 students.

Mr Adcock will be the SRC teacher representative next year.

Gender makeup of student leaders discussed. Have traditionally had 2 male and 2 female leaders. Students are interested in moving away from this model to having 4 leaders of any gender. Balmain campus have had non-gender specific leaders for a long time. Boy-Girl balance at SSCL becoming more even. Has traditionally been 'boy heavy'.

Method used for students to become members of the SRC (Student Rep Council) also discussed. Leichhardt campus holds elections for SRC, whereas at Balmain and BWB the students just turn up if they're interested.

Ms Bright attended a conference for schools that have selective students. Learnt that some private schools are poaching students with the highest selective school entrance exam marks and offering them scholarships. Also learnt there are 20 'colleges' in NSW but that SSC is quite unique in that there are only 2 other city middle schools that are partially selective and so not a lot to compare us to.

On Nov 10th SSCL will hold a touch football game and BBQ with local NGOs and businesses. This is in support of White Ribbon Day to end violence against women.

P&C's approval sought to change school day from 6 periods to 5 whilst continuing with the 2 half hour breaks. School hours will change slightly to an 8.50am start and a 3.10pm finish. Periods will be 65 minutes long. Reasons include minimising the disruption that comes with changing classrooms and improving efficiency of time spent teaching. To be trialled Term 1 next year.

Moomba will have some changes next year. Some groups will move to lunchtime meetings and others to Thursday afternoons in the library with Leichhardt Media.

A quote was obtained by the school to put a sign on the Balmain Rd side of the school building. The sign will include school name, logo and faces of student leaders that have already volunteered. (school to pay for this)

Year 7 enrolments still hovering around 235. Have normally dropped down by this time of year. Haven’t gone near waiting list yet. Ideal number for intake is 225. There is also a waiting list for BWB campus as some students try to go to the senior campus from other schools. Waiting list is around 30-40 and they usually take approx 20.

Students who have been at junior campuses get first preference for subject selection.

3.2 President’s Report

No report.

3.3 Treasurer’s Report:
P&C thanked Jason for taking on role of treasurer.

His report is as follows:

1. Total available funds in the bank as at 31/10/2015 were $97,067.60, including $24,267.39 for Lostock account. The funds are sufficient to cover approved expenditures.
2. There are seven active bank accounts at present. Three accounts with Westpac have zero balances and should be closed. I would suggest that we also move to consolidate the other four bank accounts into two – one for P&C and one for Lostock. Both accounts should preferably be on-line as there no bank fees accounts with interest on savings.
3. Cheque-book should be phased-out as it is very inconvenient for P&C members to co-sign cheques. I would suggest that all future payments should be made via on-line transfer.

Vanessa P suggested we pay upfront for the lighting for which we have applied for a grant. If the grant is successful then great and if not then it is paid for. To be discussed next meeting.

3.4 Secretary’s Report

I would like to formally announce that I will be standing down from the position next year as it is my last year at Leichhardt Campus and would like to attend BWB meetings instead (as suggested above). I’m happy to help someone transition into the position, this is how I learnt the job 3 years ago. Please consider taking on the role, it is not too onerous and is a great way to meet the staff and learn about what is going on in the school.

3.5 Lostock Report

Unfortunately the recent building works didn’t work out as planned. The builder turned out to be rather shonky, to say the least. This highlights one of the difficulties in maintaining this property that is so far away and so isolated. A different builder has been recommended by the people at the local dairy. Belinda to follow up.

Belinda to pay a visit to the other college campus P&Cs next year to espouse the virtues of Lostock!

4.0 General Business

4.1 Funding Raising: Diane Adair, parent, kicked off discussion about long term fund raising options for the school. The notion of sponsorship from local businesses discussed. Ms Bright and parents generally not in favour of this. Ms Kelly to speak to Balmain P&C re. same.
Also discussed idea of having a ‘Comedy for a Cause’ event. This seems to be a popular new way for schools to fundraise. To be discussed further at next meeting.

4.2 Parents of year 10 students now to be included in farewelling year 10 students from the junior campus. School will hold an evening assembly and BBQ. Time TBA.

4.3 Vanessa P requested that information be put on the school’s website about how to apply for
a position in the selective stream when the student is already at the school. Ms Bright to look into this.

Meeting closed 9pm
Next and final meeting for 2015 to be held on December 7th in the staffroom at 7pm.
Hope to see you there.