



St Patrick's College – Parents and Friends Association

MINUTES OF MEETING - 21 MARCH 2007

MEETING COMMENCED: 7.35pm

ATTENDANCE: 16 As per attendance Book

APOLOGIES: NIL

Brother Fitzgerald opened the meeting with a prayer.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of meeting from 21 February were presented. Wayne Seagrott moved that the minutes be accepted as a correct record. Seconded by Terry McCarthy.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: Nil

CORRESPONDENCE IN/OUT:

IN: Nil

OUT: Nil

TREASURER'S REPORT: As per the handout. Judy Kelly moved that the report be accepted, seconded by Denise Ryan.

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS: Michael Carroll

Michael extended his thanks to everyone who was involved in the successful St Patrick's Dinner Dance. He made particular mention of the ladies in the office for all the extra work they undertook to ensure everything went well on the night. Diane Hamill offered to arrange for flowers to be sent as a token of appreciation. It is expected that the evening will raise around \$4500, however an exact amount will depend on final accounts to be paid.

The Green and Gold fundraiser is going ahead and looking for more people to become involved.

The College leadership team recommends that the P & F Staff Scholarship investment would be better utilized in terms of outcomes, by sponsoring smaller projects. The revised format of up to 3 small projects of up to \$1000 each would result in a more tangible outcome. The ongoing support of the Staff Scholarship is greatly appreciated.

It has been decided to put the SPC share of the money raised from last year's Mimiki fundraiser to the purchase of a mini bus to be used to support the social justice programs of the College. It is planned to name the vehicle "Paddy's Van", with acknowledgements to all groups who donate to the purchase. The total cost would be \$33 498. There is a shortfall of around \$10 000, part of which would come from the College and the Shore-to-gate. It was requested that the P & F consider donating to the cost of the Paddy's Van.

2007-2011 Strategic Plan (SPC 60), which has been ratified by the College Board, was presented. It will shape the College for the next 5 years and underpins everything that happens at SPC. There are 8 dimensions, with number 5 being renamed as Information and Communication Technologies and number 8 – Community being added. This aspect was previously incorporated within other headings.

Exams have begun and reports will be posted on the last Friday of term. All the building projects, including the back oval, have been completed. Enrolments are very strong. There will be an intake of only 40 new students for year 8 in 2008. There are 28 boys on a waiting list for year 6 for 2008 and there are

no places available. There was discussion to gauge the opinion of the meeting as to the option of increasing the number of classes for year 6 from 3 to 4. The general consensus was that the best option was to continue with three year 6 classes. Michael was not in favour of the change and it was agreed that the College standards would best be maintained by not increasing the overall number of students.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL STUDENT FORMATION: David Gardiner
David drew attention to the focus areas of the College for this year.

The new house, Kennedy, has had a smooth start, winning the inter-house chess competition. John Kennedy will officially launch the house on 22 May – he has been unavailable to perform the launch previously.

There are many new Group tutors and they are doing a great job. The new teachers are fitting in well. The year 5 – 12 tutor groups are working well, with no negative comments. There are around 19 students in each group, which makes the groups easier to manage. This ensures that, even as the school grows, the level of care is not compromised.

The year 11 students are showing good leadership with the year 6 and 7 students within the tutor groups and those who attended the year 8 retreats, worked well.

It is working well having the house leaders report to the House Deans. The new House Deans are working hard and are very consistent with following up on comments in the class book. With an emphasis on a safe environment for the students there are education policies in place to eliminate bullying,

To ensure there are clear records kept of all communications with parents, a database of all meetings and/or conversations between David Gardner, Frank Torrisi or the House Deans with parents is recorded in the database. This process ensures that any of the leadership team can access what is happening in regard to particular students/issues.

Overall it has been a very good term.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CURRICULEM: Chris Mayes

In the Junior School, Peter Egan is working to improve moderation and Dan Reed has spent considerable time on problem solving in Maths. Dan is working with Sharee Lane, Head of Maths, to ensure consistency across the College. There is a new Maths program in the Junior School. Paul Johnson is involved in a Literacy coaching program from the Brisbane Catholic Education Office to mentor across the Junior school.

Greg Quinn and Phil Webb will be meeting with Chris to develop the new concept of Industry Placement (IP) scores in the Senior School.

Chris is preparing a College homework policy based on the Government guidelines for suitable timelines across the different year levels. This policy will be presented at the next Education Sub-Committee meeting.

Block exams are underway for years 11 and 12, with exams for all year levels prior to end of term. Years 5 and 7 students will be tested on aspects of literacy and numeracy. Clinton Hall will mark the tests and give feedback in the form of a bubble report. The year 12 students have completed 3 QCS practice tests. The results are back for the writing task and they are up to a similar standard as last year's year 12 results. The year 12s will also receive bubble reports. Year 8, 9 and 10 students will receive bubble reports on their CISTA tests. The year 11 students are working on a structured tutorial process involving English, Maths and Manual Arts in study period in preparation for their QSC test in 2008.

It is a busy time for the teachers with marking and reporting. The reporting process starts next Monday. As per the College Calendar, Parent/Teacher interviews will be on 23 April.

The Christian Brothers Province has an initiative to introduce social justice issues into the curriculum. Anne Maree Bliss and Kev Van De Weide are working to incorporate Catholic values into the subject matter.

Chris reiterated that the Staff scholarships should enhance the learning environment for students and teachers with further professional development involving smaller projects.

Because there are 6 houses and five year 8 classes, the year 8 classes are not in house groups this year. This is also an advantage if it is desirable to move a student to another class.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL MISSION: Anthony Ryan

Anthony advised that Father Liam would be celebrating the gold jubilee of his ordination on Pentecost Sunday – 27 May with a special Mass at Emmaus.

The St Patrick's Day liturgy was a special occasion. Mike McGrath has made a wooden cross, which will be used at all College liturgies.

Anthony was very happy with the positive response to the Paddy's Van.

During the June school holidays Anthony will be re-visiting South Africa. St Pat's will be twinning with St Peter Claver School from South Africa. One of the St Peter Claver teachers will be coming over to spend time at SPC. The motto the schools will be operating under is "education is liberation". Anthony will be taking \$35 000 from the fundraising money to assist a small community.

The first Kairos Retreat for 2007 will commence on Sunday 25 March with 29 senior students. Twenty-three staff members have volunteered for Service and retreat programs this year. The first Parent/Son retreat will be held in term 2, with 33 families participating.

The Anzac Day ceremony will be held on Tuesday 24 April and planning is well on the way.

OTHER REPORTS:

CURLEW PARK ASSOCIATION:

Brother Fitzgerald spoke on behalf of the Association and advised that they are looking for new members – only 5 attended the last meeting. Improvements have been made to the grounds and there will be another working bee on 15 April in readiness for the rugby/soccer season. The current lease is up for renewal and is with the lawyers at the moment. The association is attempting to secure a longer lease. They are also in the process of applying for Council Grants. It is planned to install a 15 000 litre water tank. The meetings are held in the Jack Steven's Room on the second Wednesday of the month, with the next meeting being held on 11 April.

PARENT SUPPORT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Judy Kelly advised that they are running a hot cross bun and lamington drive.

SPORT SUPPORT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Terry McCarthy reported that the committee is gearing up for the football season. The last meeting was well attended and they were happy to welcome enthusiastic new members. Money has been spent improving the power supply to the Canteen at Curlew Park and further improvements are needed to the Canteen. The next meeting will be held on 16 April.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

A proposal was put forward that a Parent Education evening be held on Wednesday 2 May. It was suggested that a Study Skills Seminar would be of benefit, with a general overview and then workshops available in topics such as research skills and assignment writing. Chris Mayes is going to arrange with other members of staff to help co-ordinate the workshops.

Damien Gallagher, the Chair of the College Board, is to be approached by Michael Carroll to speak at a P & F meeting regarding the goals of the Board, particularly with a view to the changes with the introduction of EREA.

Diane Hamill moved: "To continue to offer \$3 000 for Staff Scholarships, with the number of scholarships dependent upon the needs of the College and mandatory reporting back within a specified timeframe". Seconded by Wayne Seagrott. The motion was carried by a majority in favour.

With regards to the purchase of a 10 seater Toyota Hi Ace – Paddy's Van – to the value of \$30 500, the following Motion was moved: "That the P & F agree in principle to financially support the Paddy's Van depending on income from the Green and Gold fundraiser." Moved by Dianne Hamill, seconded by Denise Ryan. The motion was carried with a majority in favour.

It was suggested that an article be placed in the next Calling to advise how the funds from the Green and Gold would be spent.

A question was asked from the floor regarding the possibility of installing boom gates at the level crossing at Curlew Park. Terry McCarthy advised that QR policy is that boom gates are only installed where there are 2 tracks. Michael Carroll offered to write to QR requesting safer access to Curlew Park.

From next Tuesday, after assembly, the gates to Yundah Street will be opened to ease congestion around the other entrances to the College. The College has been advised that during the first 6 weeks of term 2 there will be disruptions in Pier Avenue due to Maintenance of water pipes. Parents/Guardians will need to be especially careful when dropping off and picking up students.

Next meeting: Wednesday 18 April 2007

MEETING CLOSED: 9.05 pm with a cuppa.

Diane Hamill
President