

Minutes of Meeting held Monday 29th July 2002

1 Attendance

Christine Richardson (President), Christine Allbeury, Sandra Couch, Peter Wilkins, Bev Burnside (Deputy Principal), Ian Murray(Principal), Ros Marsland, Carol Strauss, Ann White, Mark Horn, June Ure, Gavin Bagley, Carolyn Simmonds (Poprzeczny), Warren Daniel, Ken Rose, Andrew Paul, Debi Hardie, Judy Allan, Ken Henfry, Jane Baker, Charmain St John, John Hyde MLA, Margaret Banks (A/Executive Director Student Services), Karen Maslin.

2 Apologies

3 Minutes Of The Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read, moved by Peter Wilkins, seconded by Christine Allbeury.

4 Business Arising From The Minutes

Business arising was moved until later on the agenda and Margaret Banks was invited to speak on the implications to the school community following the Principals announcement of his retirement at the end of August. Ms Banks began by commending Ian Murray for his significant contribution to education and to school communities during his career within the teaching profession.

Ms Banks informed the meeting that 10 vacancies were to be filled for Principal position in 2003. The process for recruiting a Principal to the school was explained. The new Principal would be known during Term 4 and commence in 2003. The position would be advertised for acting in the interim. Parents expressed their concern that the advertising process did not appear to allow for the particular requirements of MLSHS to be considered in the selection process. Parents requested that information relevant to MLSHS be made available to applicants. Ms Banks advised that applicants were expected to obtain information themselves and address selection criteria in a manner relevant to the particular school for which they are applying.

Ms Banks spoke of staffing issues within the Education Department and explained their impact on MLSHS.

Christine Richardson asked Ms Banks for clarity and direction on the middle schooling model developed by the project group for MLSHS. Parents are keen to move forward. Christine asked for the Education Department's decision on the appropriate model. Ms Banks informed the meeting that the choice of model is the decision of the school community, not the Education Department. The model should be developed through consultation within the school community and resourced within existing resources. Ms Banks anticipated that the building would be complete by 2004 and that the appropriate education model would be ready to match the building. Ms Banks understands that the school community wants to trial the model in 2003 and go through a transition phase. Christine advised that the school is already trialing middle schooling in 2002 and asked if this would be extended to the entire year 8's next year.

Extensive discussion followed between both staff and parents present on the issue including the appropriate middle schooling model for the school, resourcing, educational philosophies, misunderstandings between staff and the intent of the project group model developed to date, timetabling, appropriate buildings and the timeframe for implementation across all year 8's and 9's. Discussion did not resolve the issues, however all agreed to continue moving forward in establishing solutions to issues raised. Ms Banks stated that the Middle School Working Party had developed several models and that the models would now to be tested by Bev Burnside. Other committees needed to be kept informed of progress to date, but there was no need to delay the process by awaiting ratification from the Steering Committee before continuing. Open communication was essential.

Again parents expressed concern at the schools apparent lack of commitment to continuing into year 9 with the middle school concept for the current year 8 pilot group. Parents felt the pilot is successful and should be expanded rather than disbanded.

Peter Wilkins sought support from the District Office for the teachers during this time of transition. In particular those involved in developing the new models need support to continue with this work. Ms Banks spoke of support available to teachers not wishing to be part of the change and to those who are reluctant to adopt the new model. Communication and time are necessary to ensure all are provided the opportunity to see the benefit of change.

4.1 SVAPA

Parents tabled their concern at the recent "remix" of students in the SVAPA stream and their disappointment at not having been informed by the school prior to this occurring. Parents do not want their children to be part of the remix and students have raised concerns.

- Students had been advised on the last day of term of the class changes
- Parents wrote to the Principal and met with him seeking the rescinding of the decision
- Parents wrote to the District Director
- Parents believe the agreement they had with the school had been broken
- Behavioural issues where the issue and due process had not been followed
- Parents want the decision rescinded.

Ms Banks informed the meeting that there are some decisions a school must make when managing resources. It is however desirable to keep the consultation process as open as possible. Ms Banks offered a process for concerns to be considered and stated that it would be inappropriate to comment until all the facts were available. Ms Banks stated that she would follow up on this matter tomorrow.

Discussion continued on the issues raised by the apparent change in direction of the SVAPA program and implications for current and future students. Parents considered the program to be a positive for the school. Teachers stated that the importance of planning time to enable collaborative teaching to occur cannot be overstated.

Ms Banks, Mr Hyde MLA and several teachers left the meeting.

4 2 AI IIMNI

Ruth Yates, Gavin Bagley and Andrew Paul informed the meeting of the Alumni and the planned reunion planned for October 26th 2002. This is considered to be a significant event as it will be the last opportunity for past students to visit the school before demolition of some building and the commencement of the new school begins.

Ruth, Gavin and Andrew provided a very informative presentation and invited the P&C to consider their involvement and sought volunteers and ideas for the event. Christine Richardson stated that the event had the support of the P&C.

4.3 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP

Peter Wilkins informed the meeting:

- the Department of Education expects full remediation of the contaminated area.
- Innovative approach to car parking had been discussed – i.e. building them under the recreation centre and the building of a two storey car park by ECU on the southern corner of MLSHS site
- Stage 3 master plan is not complete and current decisions are already determining the future plan

4.4 Percent For Art

Currently going through a selection process and a decision was anticipated today on the public art component of the project.

4.5 Steering Committee

The memorandum of understanding with ECU should be progressed. It is of concern that this has not yet been completed.

4.6 Financial Request

The Principal tabled a request from the Indonesian teacher for a fundraising event that was contradictory to an agreement between the Principal and the P&C regarding fund raising events competing with canteen sales. The issue was discussed and parents agreed that proceeds from the canteen benefited all students and this should not be jeopardised by individual fund raising events. P&C rejected the request to rescind their previous decision re fund raising events that compete with the canteen's ability to raise revenue for the school.

4.7 Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was tabled and moved as a true and correct account by Ros Marsland and seconded by Sandra Couch.

The Treasurer requested a \$4,600 list of expenditure from the library. Ian Murray will respond. It was again noted that there was no financial report available from SVAPA. SVAAPA members present were requested to advise Ken Henfry that a proper account of expenditure was required. It is of concern to the P&C committee that this has not occurred to date. It is an issue that was raised during the audit of last years accounts and remains unresolved. It is essential to establish a process for the future as SVAPA is ongoing. The Treasurer and Chairperson will attend the next meeting of SVAAPA to

ensure the matter is addressed.

Finance committee is scheduled to meet 2pm Thursday 8th August.

Meeting closed.

Next meeting Monday 26th August 2002.

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