

1 MINUTES

Minutes of a General Meeting held on Monday, September 23rd, 2002

2 Attendance

Christine Richardson (president), Christine Allbeury, Peter Wilkins, Charmian St John, Catherine Smith, Lorraine Underwood, Sue Charlick, Carolyn Poprzeczny, Ros Marsland, Bev Burnside, Terry Boland, Bruce Watt.

3 Apologies

Sandra Couch, Jane Baker, Jeff Smith, Dobrina Ferialdi

4 INTRODUCTION – TERRY BOLAND – ACTING PRINCIPAL

Mr Terry Boland has been appointed Acting Principal until the end of 2002 and spoke to the meeting about his plans for the remainder of 2002. The key topics included:

- Implementing middle schooling for the Year 8 cohort in 2003
- Continuing a middle schooling approach with the Year 9 SVAPA and pilot project in 2003
- Commencing a review of the senior school approach and model, including identifying a year 10 transition model and also considering a range of pathways for students for years 10 – 12
- Identifying a timeline for the commencement of the building project. A thorough communications strategy will be implemented to keep everyone informed.
- School reserves have been committed to funding parts of the building program
- A Finance Committee will meet monthly to review financial decisions, and will include P&C representation.
- The establishment of a School Council as required by the new Education Act
- Seeking parent feedback on a draft "School Drug Policy" developed by the MLSHS Health Committee (please forward comments through Terry)

Terry provided copies of the following documents to members (and copies are available on request)

- Principal's report, September 2002
- "Where to from here? A vision for the Mount Lawley Future"

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- "A focus on the Middle School & Middle Schooling – a discussion paper"
- MLSHS Draft School Drug Policy

5 Business Arising From The Minutes

5.1 MLSHS Redevelopment Project

5.1.1 Car Parking

At the last meeting, the P&C agreed to support the proposal that the redevelopment of Mount Lawley Senior High School provide a significant number of car parking spaces for Edith Cowan University and asked that the P&C communicate directly with the Vice-Chancellor of ECU and the Director General of Education to re-affirm the importance that the parents of the School place on the development of a strong partnership between the University and our School. Favourable responses had been received from both the department of Education and Edith Cowan University.

The Department of Education has conducted a parent information session for local residents. The key issues raised were lighting, noise and loss of privacy for Thurston Street residents and possible adverse impact on through traffic for other residents.

5.1.2 Soil contamination and site remediation

The Architects are currently developing the project timelines for remediation [likely to be 16 weeks from December 4th] and the Department of Education is currently developing its communication strategy for various stakeholder groups. A commitment had been given that information will be distributed to parents by the end of Term.

5.1.3 Mount Lawley Model / Teaching & Learning Working Party

This working party has met, and there has been considerable progress towards the implementation of middle schooling for all year 8s in 2003. In addition, a working party has been formed to explore models and provide advice on the structure of the senior school.

It was agreed that Ros Marsland represent the P&C on this working party.

5.1.4 Memorandum of Understanding between MLSHS and ECU

A very productive meeting was held on September 12th, to clarify the rationale, agreed principles and focus of the partnership. A small working group (CR, TB, MA) will meet in early October to develop the draft MOU. There has been a commitment to a launch date of mid-November.

Comments from parents included the desire for open communication and transparency of decision making and an inclusion of MLSHS within ECU's strategic planning processes. Parents also indicated strong support for access by Year 11 and 12 students to University units and programs, and a desire that this be available as soon as possible.

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5.1.5 Steering Committee

The P&C report to the Steering Committee meeting of September 13th was provided with the agenda.

Other items raised during that meeting (and not reported elsewhere) include:

- Recent discussions about management agreement for the Recreation Centre, with agreement in principle to share recurrent costs fairly and equitably and to provide the school with a level of 'in kind' access per annum (representing the value of the land occupied by ECU; est \$16,000 pa). The School will have the opportunity to comment on the Agreement.
- The new Acting District Director sought clarification of the role of the Implementation Committee, and it was agreed to reconsider its membership and role. There was a belief that the Implementation Committee should have a more active role in the project. Charmian St John has agreed to join Ken Rose in representing the P&C view at the Implementation Committee.

5.2 Alumni Reunion – October 26th, 2002

The Alumni Committee met on September 17th and an update was provided. The likely attendance at the Reunion was hard to judge. The proposed operation of the Canteen at the reunion is included with the Canteen Report.

5.3 Appointment process - Principal

Advice has been received from the District Director that a representative from the School Council may participate on the selection panel for the MLSHS Principal position. This matter will be discussed at the interim school council meeting on September 25th.

5.4 2.4 First Click funding – Round 2

The P&C has been successful in receiving a second grant (\$10,355) for First Click funding for computer literacy. The funds will be used to provide computer literacy training to a further 100 parents with courses running in Term 4, 2002 and Term 1, 2003. We will focus this project towards parents for whom English is not a first language.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 IN

WACSSO – P&C Voice - State Conference issue

Department of Training – First Click – request for compliance documents for Stage 2 of selection process

James Cheah, LOTE – request for funding from P&C for language trip (referred to next round of P&C funding).

Deputy Vice Chancellor, ECU – responding to the P&C's letter on car parking

Director General of Education – responding to the P&C's letter on car parking

6.2 OUT

Vice Chancellor, ECU – car parking

Director General of Education – car parking

7 Reports

7.1 Report from School Development Council

The Acting Principal has sought comment from the P&C on the formation of a School Council as specified by the new Education Act and Regulations. School Councils enable parents and community members to participate in the governance of schools, and we have an opportunity to determine some of the characteristics of OUR School Council. Parents commented on a number of aspects of the School Council:

1. Parents supported an application by the School Council additional functions (ie selection of principal and other staff)
2. Size of Council – support for either 11 or 9 members, with strong support for 2 parent members being nominees of the P&C. The 11 and 9 member councils included 3 parents and either 3 or 2 community members respectively.
3. Expected to be 4 – 6 meetings per year, and that meetings would generally be open to observers
4. Expected that the designated open meeting would be held late in term 1 and would include the presentation of the School report from the previous year.
5. Parents supported Terms of office of 2 years for each stakeholder group, with some staggering of terms in the first instance to ensure continuity of membership through time
6. Strong support for the selection of a Chairperson from either the parent or the community members. There was also agreement that the Chairperson of the School Council should not also hold the position of President of the P&C

These comments would be reported to the Interim School Council meeting scheduled for September 25th.

It was agreed that Christine Richardson (nominated Ros Marsland, seconded Christine Allbeury) would fill the vacant position of P&C nominee on the Interim School Council. The other P&C nominees are Ros Marsland and Ken Rose.

There was discussion of the strategies needed to recruit parents to the P&C and ways of ensuring that they don't drift away. For example, ensuring that new parents are not intimidated by the first meetings they attend; and including presentations from staff about teaching programs at meetings.

7.2 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer provided up to date financial reports for the General Funds and Library Funds and provided a summary of the balance in the SVAPA account. The Treasurer sought advice from the Acting Principal regarding the proposed expenditure of Library Funds.

The Treasurer's report was accepted

7.3 Report from Canteen Committee

The Treasurer provided up to date financial reports (profit and loss and balance sheet) for the Canteen to August 31st. The Canteen continues to trade profitably.

The Treasurer's report was accepted

The P&C has been asked by the alumni group to operate the canteen during the school reunion on Saturday Oct 26th. The planned time is 11 am to 5 pm. The Canteen Committee has discussed providing the canteen trading as a fund raising opportunity for the various parent support groups (and others) in the School, and entering into a profit sharing agreement with the groups based on the numbers of volunteers they provide. The organising and coordination for the day would be done via the Canteen manager and canteen convenor.

A member asked whether the P&C would consider providing a canteen service to a local primary school. It was recognised that this would require close attention to transporting and storing food at appropriate temperatures and to consideration of additional staffing needs. It was agreed that this option would be reviewed if requested.

Another member indicated concern at the some items offered for sale at the Canteen (including soft drinks, lollies). It was agreed that it was appropriate to consider again the Canteen's role, especially within the redevelopment project where it will become a social hub for the school. The Acting Principal was asked whether the School's Health Committee could consider the role of the Canteen within the School's operations and that Lorraine Underwood and Catherine Smith be invited to participate in the resultant process.

7.4 Special Visual and Performing Arts Program (SVAPA)

Sue Charlick reported on activities - including a briefing for parents on options available for year 10 students in 2003. Future SVAPA meetings will be held in Week 3 and Week 7. Grease is in rehearsal and will be performed late in term 4.

The Acting Principal was asked about further progress regarding the concerns of the SVAPA group over the remixing of the Year 9 SVAPA class.

7.5 Report from Mt Lawley Music Parents Support Group Inc

Sue Charlick reported on activities – including fund raising through a sausage sizzle (outside Bunnings warehouse, Morley); end of year concert at ECU on

November 1st.

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Report from WACSSO State Conference

A number of issues that were raised at the WACSSO State Conference were discussed by members. (The report is attached to the agenda). They included:

- The focus on Standards – Bruce Watt reported that MLSHS had been involved in testing maths in of a random sample of Year 9 students and also participated in world wide TIMS testing (science & maths)
- Development of draft standards which involved taking student work – moderating and grading to provide state wide comparisons – MLSHS is not involved in this trial.
- The Curriculum Council will be developing courses arising from the Post Compulsory Review of Education and will be calling for trial schools in 2003 for 2004. The Acting Principal indicated that this matter would be referred to the Senior Campus working party.

9 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday October 21st , 2002.

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