

Minutes from Mt Lawley Senior High School Council Meeting 19/3/2007

Present: Christine Richardson, Terry Boland, Jo Furness, Rob Walker, Alice Ding, Lucy Dean, Liz Kernutt, Darcy Rowe, Bev Burnside.

Apologies: Dale Irving, Anne Griffith, Catherine Smith.

1. Introduction of Jo Furness, P&C representative.
2. Minutes of last meeting. ACCEPTED.
3. Student representatives' report – thanks to Liz Kernutt for the preparation of this report. (see report)
 - a. Students discussed the current “positives”
 - i. Uniforms – very positive acceptance.
 - ii. Breakthrough to Excellence – positive anticipation by students of the return of the program.
 - iii. Student Council – Liz and Georgina have changed the structure of the Student Council - now using action plans, memos to year coordinators, and has developed working groups for key initiatives. Meeting next week will kick this off.
 - b. Current issues
 - i. D Café – problems with long waits in queue and limited food availability later in the day. Some students have commented on the quality of the food. Terry requested further, more specific information to enable him to more effectively respond to these issues.
 - ii. Information pathways – information is not being communicated to Senior School students.
 - iii. Prefect training day – needs to be better structured with more focus on School Council.
 - iv. Kenyan “Dagoretti Corner School of Hidden Talents” initiative. Council acknowledged the value of this initiative and congratulated the student members accordingly.
4. Report from P&C by Jo Furness. (see report) Jo highlighted the following:
 - a. AGM – election of office-bearers.
 - b. Uniform Shop – very well supported, thanks to all volunteers.
 - c. Brick fundraiser – discussion now turns to placement of the bricks in the school grounds and an unveiling.
 - d. The application for DEST funding was endorsed by P&C.
5. Principal's report (see report).
 - a. Terry presented the “2007 budget input details” report. Council members asked clarifying questions, mainly around funding for chaplaincy, Middle School and ICT. Terry undertook to provide a more detailed report at the first Council meeting in term 2.
 - b. Innovation Fund – options for the use of the fund have been discussed by the leadership team. Examples are an inclusion initiative and literacy initiatives. It is important to deliver value to the school community.
 - c. Links with ECU – Terry and Christine will be meeting with Keith Newton Acting Director General on April 26th.
 - d. Year 11 Minimum Standards Policy has been sent to all relevant parties.

6. Heavy Bag/Locker Issue.
 - a. Christine gave an overview of the discussion paper and asked for comments.
 - b. A flyer on ergonomic (provided by Jo Furness) was circulated.
 - c. Terry outlined the reasons why lockers had not been installed at MLSHS.
 - d. Actions 1, 4 & 3 were considered to be the most important.
 - e. Wheeled/alternative school bags were referred to the Uniform committee and Student Council.
 - f. All actions were supported. This is now an implementation issue and is therefore removed from the School Council agenda.

7. Custodianship of ex-POW Memorial.
 - a. Christine outlined the history of this issue and referred to significant earlier work by Georgina.
 - b. Terry proposed that we include more (30 to 40) students in the ceremony.
 - c. Christine suggested that an invitation be given to students whose grandparents were POWs.
 - d. Terry proposed that we invite members of the ex-POW Association to MLSHS's Anzac Day ceremony. Liz agreed to take this to the next Student Council meeting.

8. National School Chaplaincy Program.(NSCP)
 - a. Andrew Paul has been chaplain since 1992 – the funding arrangements for his role are quite tenuous. Funding obtained under NSCP will assist greatly in providing some certainty. Voluntary contributions from families are up by 50% from 2006 to 2007.
 - b. Student members indicated support for the chaplaincy, the School Leadership team has also expressed support.
 - c. Christine, in her role as chairperson recommended that School Council also express its support for the chaplaincy – this was unanimously agreed.
 - d. Christine advised that she is waiting for feedback from the reference group who will meet on Monday March 26, prior to P&C.

9. “In defence of aboriginal culture” initiative.
 - a. School Council recommended in 2006 that MLSHS host a forum on the above. To date, no planning has been done. Terry has requested that Georgina discuss the issue directly with him.

10. Feedback on the meeting / future agenda items
 - a. Rob asked that School Council be presented with financial reports in a format that provides clearer information to members about the School finances.
 - b. Christine advised members that we would be receiving a highly commended award in the Teaching Australia Awards for Parent School partnership and that Terry would be receiving the award in Canberra on March 21st.

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm. Next meeting will be on May 7 at 7.30pm.