

## **Minutes of the MLSHS School Council Meeting 11/6/07**

Present: Christine Richardson, Terry Boland, Lucy Dean, Bev Burnside, Catherine Smith, Rob Walker, Anne Griffiths, Jo Furness, Dale Irving, Georgina Fraser, Darcy Rowe, Liz Kernutt, Alice Ding

### 1. Minutes of last meeting : accepted

### 2. Matters Arising

- Heavy School Bags – “heavy book” subjects identified and an order is soon to be placed for classroom sets of books
- Custodianship of ex-POW Memorial – service to be held on June 15<sup>th</sup>. A group of students plus all prefects to attend. Council members were invited to attend if available.
- National School Chaplaincy application – high application rate, results expected in June
- Innovation and Literacy funds – applications have closed, 14 applications received totaling \$51,000 in requests. Rob Walker agreed to be on the committee to review applications
- Financial reporting suitable for school councils – Rob Walker and Christine Richardson to meet with DET on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Communication to date has been positive
- Future planning for MLSHS – Terry Boland and Christine Richardson to meet with A/Deputy Director General. Demand for LOTE 2008 has fallen. Approx. 8-10 students have gone to Perth Modern in preference. Rossmoyne Senior High School has seen a similar result. Support was expressed to encourage the programme to run. It was agreed that Christine should respond to this.

### 3. Matters for Discussion

- Assessment and Reporting – information was provided by Terry regarding the new reporting to parents for semester 1. Under the new system, the whole year cohort will be measured on an A to E grade, with some less able students always achieving an E. Concerns were expressed about how this would be counterproductive and decrease student self esteem. Suggestions were made ;
  - i. Include levels on the reports while parents learn to interpret the new reports, but Terry reported that this cannot be done under DET guidelines.
  - ii. Further suggestions were made that information should be provided to parents with the report, and teachers should prepare themselves that there may be some parents upset by their student’s report
  - iii. A third suggestion was to provide parents with an achievement target and benchmark target like that provided with the WALNA testing.It was agreed that council should send a letter to the Minister expressing our concerns
- Dress code – Draft recommendations and information was provided. It was agreed that a School Uniform Working Party (body to sign off on dress code changes) and School Dress Advisory Panel (to assist with enquiries and complaints) would be formed. Jo Furness and Christine Richardson were nominated to the Working Party. The P&C will be approached to provide two representatives.

### 4. Student Representatives Report

- Semester 1 exams have concluded
- The Prefect/Councillor Training Day held on June 8<sup>th</sup> was well received.
- A suggestion was made that the private study time and subject tutorials for years 11 and 12 continue until the end of the year. It was agreed that this was a reasonable suggestion

however guest speakers are often invited during this time, and if rescheduled this would utilise teaching time

- Concerns were expressed about the number of birds in the canteen and the health risks associated with this. Terry to speak to the City of Stirling
- The issue of heavy school bags was discussed at the last student meeting. Students were not in favour of a trolley bag, but would support an ergonomic backpack. They suggested that backpacks be provided to an “influential” group of students. Would the P&C consider funding this?

5. P&C Report

- The issue of bags and hats was again raised

6. Principal's Report

- Courses of study are currently in a state of change. Terry has suggested putting aside some time at the next meeting so this can be discussed in detail
- Contribution and charges for 2008 need to be discussed in the near future
- Hedland Senior High School will be undertaking tutorials in MLSHS during the holidays. Students from MLSHS have also had the opportunity to travel to the Pilbarra.

7. Staff Report

- No issues raised

8. Other Business

- Outdoor seating – several options were discussed such as tables & chairs with chessboard tops, limestone & grass seating near the oval or different combinations of the above. It may be possible for the P&C to fund this or possibly obtain a grant from an outside source. Feedback is to be provided to staff for their input.
- Healthy schools application – an application has been made for a \$200,000 grant for extra intervention to provide encouragement for year 9 students to continue physical activity in year 10 (there is a big drop off during this time). The application has requested money for outdoor gym equipment and extra staffing to prepare and assess programmes. Some concerns were expressed that students may not like to exercise in front of other students.
- The next newsletter will have information regarding heavy school bags and different actions being taken. It was requested that all people giving information about this topic provide uniformity of information to prevent confusion

9. Next Meeting: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 7.30pm