

**Mount Lawley Senior High School
Minutes of the School Council Meeting
Monday 6th August 2007.**

Present: Christine Richardson, Jo Furness, Catherine Smith, Rob Walker, Anne Griffiths, Lesley Riches, Bev Burnside, Michael Camilleri, Elizabeth Kernutt, Alice Ding, Darcy Rowe, Lucy Dean, Dale Irving.

Apologies: Terry Boland.

1. Minutes of last meeting: accepted.
2. Matters arising:
 - Heavy school bags: Jo Furness is organising representatives from staff, students, P & C and School Council.
 - Comment was made about an article that appeared in The West Australian newspaper and questions asked in the state parliament about the issue.
 - The school has a policy to address the problem.
 - A formal response will be made by the school to the P & C at the next meeting. Explicit reporting to the P & C is needed.
 - The issues will be examined by the committee chaired by Jo Furness.
 - It was acknowledged that these were very real concerns.
 - The Middle School is looking at educating the students about how to use their bags effectively.
 - The meeting observed that the class sets of large books for Year 12 students that have been purchased by the school are making a difference and that this is a good initiative. It was suggested that the Year 11 students take the initiative to introduce a similar scheme for Year 11 students.
3. Matters for Discussion:

School Budget 2008- Contributions, fees and charges.

Mike Camilleri spoke to the document. There were no dramatic changes but he outlined the alterations. In Year 10 some electives required a little more because of increased costs. The meeting acknowledged and accepted these increases along with the increase in the SVAPA charges. Overall the increases are small.

In the Senior School significant changes in charges apply only to the new Courses of Study and those in the area of VET, Certificate IV in Music and some TAFE courses. The cost of the delivery of these courses has increased as has the fee paid to the agency that organises SWL placements (SETA).

Discussion then centred on the Society and Environment's increase in the loan scheme for texts. They have been proactive in considering how to fund books for their new courses. It was suggested that other Learning Areas might also need to consider the process to fund school sets of texts.

The meeting requested that each LA consider this scheme, especially given the concern over heavy bags. It was an opportune time to act and to build reserve funding for the purchase of new texts for CoS. Although any changes will need to be finalised before the next meeting of the School Council, it was felt that it was important to consider such changes for the 2008 budget.

Additional Voluntary Requests was the final section of the budget to be discussed. There was a need for clarity about these requests.

Three are School Council initiatives and a small working party consisting of Rob Walker, Catherine Smith, Lesley Riches, Christine Richardson and Terry Boland will investigate these voluntary requests before the next School Council Meeting.

CPI: the inclusion of CPI and the rounding up should be standard every year. Lesley Riches will deal with this.

Apart from the review of text book loan schemes and additional requests, the meeting endorsed the Budget for 2008.

Financial Reporting: Rob Walker has taken the initiative to develop data files provided by DET to build the ability of the School Council to keep track of the financial situation at the school in a much clearer and accessible manner.

Rob Walker requested that Lesley Riches consider how useful the analysis of the financial situation that he was able to develop would be for the school.

The immediate feeling of the Council was that it would be very useful and appreciated the effort as an excellent way to provide clarity. Mike Camilleri requested that the meeting commend the report.

Future Planning: LOTE

The School Executive has been discussing ways to make the LOTE programme more attractive. A consultant will be invited to look at changes. It was suggested that former parents and students of the LOTE programme be invited to participate in a review. There was interest from the meeting to support initiatives to maintain and improve LOTE.

Teaching Australia Awards:

The school received a substantial award in the area of Family School Partnerships and as such is not eligible to apply in the School award section this year (School Improvement). It was suggested that individual categories be considered. The meeting went on to request that given the level of expertise in grant writing, teachers should be canvassed to research areas of possible funding that might be supported by this body of able submission writers. Perhaps LAs should consider where they would use money if it were available.

Students' Report.

A succinct report was delivered by Alice Ding and Lucy Dean. A positive was the recent free dress day, although it was acknowledged that the last day needed wider publicity. The negative concern was with the School Messaging System. It was seen as theoretically good but practically there was a still a high state of confusion being generated. Mike Camilleri said that the school was aware of the problems and hoped that now that DET was taking the system up it might be better resourced and thus improved.

P & C Report:

Jo Furness reported that the heavy bag issue was a concern. She reported that the combined SVAPA and Music Parents' Art Auction had been very successful in fund raising for the two programmes.

Principal's Report:

(Presented for Terry Boland by Bev Burnside)

Staffing shortages was a real problem. MLSHS was two teachers short at the beginning of Term 3, but that teachers had now been located.

The problem of shortages was being experienced in other sectors also.

The School Review Final Report was held over for the next meeting.

The demand for enrolment at MLSHS was high and continues to grow. The SS if full and options to our present way of using resources might need to be considered.

The School Council welcomes this issue back for discussion later in the year.

Staff Report: The reporting in the SS at end of Term 2 and the busy start to Term 3 meant that the staff did not have a report for the meeting. This then elicited a discussion at the SS reporting at the end of Term 2. The need to streamline the short interviews and to encourage teachers to make further time for discussion with parents, were brought to attention of the executive team.

Correspondence;

The Director General has sent a letter on logos on school uniform. The Council felt that we should look for ways to fund the logos for students experiencing financial problems, rather than compromise the uniform. Christine Richardson will send a letter to the DG on this issue.

As there was no Other Business the meeting closed at 9.33pm.

The next School Council Meeting will be on Monday 10th September at 7.30pm.