

## **SVAPA PARENT SUPPORT GROUP MINUTES**

### **MEETING**

Wednesday 31 October 2012.

### **OPENED**

Meeting opened at 7.00pm.

### **ATTENDEES**

Dr Dale Irving, Julie Parker, Louise Patterson, Kerrie Bland, Sonja Davidson, Vanessa Lombardo, Kerrie Brown, Vicki Andrews-Taylor, Michelle Wray

### **APOLOGIES**

Joanna Fugl

### **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Motion to approve Minutes of Wednesday 5 September 2012, moved by Kerrie Brown, seconded by Sonja Davidson. Passed Unan.

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

1. Dale Irving will provide timetable of regular yearly SVAPA events in time for new parents on information evening.
2. Thanks to Vanessa Lombardo for providing the venue for extra SVAPA meeting that was called last term and to those who attended to finalise letter to the school board. Letter has been sent to the school board and we are waiting for the response. (Copy of letter attached to minutes)
3. Letterhead for SVAPA Support Group Parent has been prepared and is available.

### **SVAPAParents' Group Meeting 31 October 2012 DR DALE IRVING'S REPORT**

Semester 2, Term 4

1. Requests: Year 10 SVAPA Big Day Out (5 December) to Fremantle. Require funding for bus to and from, Spare Parts performance/Old Gaol Tour and Lunch.
2. Year 10 Presentation night: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December? Supper. Awards
3. Top 9 SVAPA student award for 2012.
4. Welcome night for 2013 parents: refreshments
5. Framing of The Museum of Now poster.
6. Thoughts on a Year 10 2013 trip to eastern states (April vacation?).
7. 2014 for New York (April)?
8. Supper for The Odyssey on Tuesday 11 December?
9. SVAVA Planning Day Thursday 1 November
10. Promoting SVAPA in the school and community

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### SVAPA Support Group

31<sup>st</sup> October

Managing the SVAPA finances are a bit complicated at the moment as we have two accounts running – the Commonwealth Bank account and the new Bendigo account which was opened to facilitate easier eftpos transactions for the Community Art Auction.

I only have immediate access to the Commonwealth Bank account. The Bendigo one is supervised by Monica Selveu, P&C Treasurer. I expect that in the near future the two accounts will be amalgamated into the Bendigo account. I hope this will be done by the end of the year and at that time we will be able to transfer management of it to the SVAPA Treasurer.

I am waiting on the latest Bendigo statement from Monica.

Costs for SVAPA workshops, incursions/excursions (approx. \$5,700) billed since 6<sup>th</sup> August have been paid from the Bendigo account.

We are still going well financially. Account Balances as follows:

Commonwealth Bank balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2012:	<b>\$11,981</b>
Bendigo Bank balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2012:	<b>\$ 7,547 (approx.)</b>

With around \$19,000 we can afford to look at more projects, purchases and workshops.

Joanna Fugl  
SVAPA Support Group Treasurer

## GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Request for funding Year 10 SVAPA Big Day Out 5 December to Fremantle funding and Presentation evening 6 December. Motion to approve funds upto \$1200 for bus, Spare Parts, and food by Kerrie Brown and seconded by Julie Parker.
2. SVAPA Year 9 and 10 Awards Planet Vouchers \$100 each. Motion to approve funds Kerrie Brown and seconded by Michelle Wray. To be actioned by Michelle Wray.
3. Request for funding "Museum of Now" poster framing in glass. Motion to approve funding upto \$500 by Kerrie Brown and seconded by Michelle Wray. To be actioned by Michelle Wray.
4. Possible Arts Tour to New York 2014.
5. Supper to be supplied by Year 9 students for the Odyssey performance Tuesday night, 11 December. Supper box, tea and coffee, urn refreshments set up/clean up by Sonja Davidson, Julie Parker and Michelle Wray.
6. Lunch for Year 8s Saturday Workshop at 12.00 – 12.30, 10 November. Vanessa Lombardo to action. Motion to approve funds \$150 for lunch Michelle Wray and seconded by Vanessa Lombardo. Year 9s will bring a snack on the day as they attend from 1.30 in the afternoon.
7. Sponsorship of SVAPA to be considered and investigated in the future.
8. Request for funding for Visual Arts after school classes by Artist for 2 hours a week over 5 weeks for SVAPA students and other students in the school community (30 students). Motion to approve funds of \$1000 by Julie Parker and seconded by Michelle Wray.

9. Parents of 2013 SVAPA students Welcome and Information Evening 7.00pm 13 November. Julie Parker will buy food and some plastic wine glasses. Kerrie Brown will organise tea and coffee from the supper box. Michelle Wray will donate 4 bottles of wine for the evening. SVAPA T-Shirt \$20 orders can be taken on the evening and sale of SVAPA badges. This will allow student to have t-shirts early in the year. Motion to approve funds for food and supplies for Parent Information evening to \$300 Julie Parker and seconded by Michelle Wray. SVAPA students are encouraged to attend wearing t-shirts. Brochure and collection of email contact details to be available for the evening.

#### **EXTRA BUSINESS ARISING**

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#### **CLOSED**

Meeting closed at 8.25. The next SVAPA Parent Support Group meeting will be held Wednesday 28 November 2012 (Term 4 - Week 7) at 7.00pm at Tricycle Theatre.



## SVAPA PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Mount Lawley Senior High School P & C

Tricycle Theatre

65 Woodsome Street, Mount Lawley WA 6050

svapa@mlshspc.org.au

28 September, 2012

Mr Carl Pekin  
School Board  
MLSHS  
65 Woodsome Street, Mt Lawley  
WA 6050

Dear Mr Pekin

We write to you in reference to the letter from Milton Butcher of 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2012 sent to SVAPA students' parents, which outlines developments in the school leadership and their impact on the SVAPA program. One of our members, Sonja Davidson, has already written to you on this matter. We would like to add our voices to hers and more specifically draw to your attention our concerns.

Our group meets twice each school term and as the year has progressed we have been delighted with our children's' activities and experiences in the program. Some highlights have included the Year 8s performance 'The Dream'; the SVAPA tour of Europe; the children's outstanding performance of 'The Museum of Now' at PICA in collaboration with Spark Lab, and our wonderfully successful fundraising art auction which many of the children were involved in, helping behind the scenes and performing on the night.

The SVAPA Support Group feels strongly that the SVAPA program is a flagship for Mount Lawley SHS and attracts many talented students to our school from a far greater pool than could be achieved with local enrolments alone. As stated in the previously mentioned letter, we were pleased to read that Mr. Butcher recognizes: "...that SVAPA is a vibrant program that brings outstanding students to Mount Lawley SHS." Indeed many of the SVAPA students have chosen the SVAPA program in preference to their placement in a GATE program.

We believe that the Arts enhance academic performance and current research supports this. The importance of the arts in keeping students engaged in their studies and *more* likely to reach their academic potential has been proven.

We have concerns with regards to the disestablishment of the Head of Arts Learning role and seek clarification from the School regarding the following questions.

- When will the position of HOLA Arts be reestablished? At present we are unaware of a definite time frame.
- Why the separation of Drama/Visual Art/Media program from the Music program? SVAPA is a four-disciplined Arts program - at the moment it is fragmented. We believe that this fragmentation has led to a lack of cohesion in the program.
- Where will SVAPA sit in the next School Business Plan? Presently it is not mentioned at all.

We would like to express our support of Dr Dale Irving who, along with her arts colleagues, and despite a humbling experience of essentially being demoted, has continued with her trademark passion and commitment, to work harder to deliver an inspiring program for the children.

In Mr. Butcher's original letter he stated that "...the position will be reverted to a curriculum leadership role...". At the February meeting, Mr. Butcher assured parents that in 2013 he would be looking to restore the position of HOLA Arts (currently a position taken up by the School Improvements Officer). The parents of the SVAPA Support Group are seeking assurances and clarification regarding this matter. We look forward to the Arts having equal status on the School's curriculum.

We fully appreciate that the school wants to improve its league rankings; however we are disappointed that it has to come at the expense of the arts. We hope that this pragmatic approach does not serve to de-motivate some passionate and critical members of staff and students.

We would like to finish by reminding the Board that the cost of the SVAPA and Music programs are largely covered by parent organised fundraising and, as our past efforts attest, we are a passionate and driven group. We would appreciate a full and thorough discussion of these issues when this letter is presented at the next school board meeting. We formally request a response that addresses the aforementioned concerns and look forward to your reply.

We trust that the Board will do what is right in relation to the Arts at MLSHS.

Yours sincerely

(Julie Parker, SVAPA Parent Support Group Convener)

On behalf of Parents of the SVAPA Support Group,  
a subcommittee of the MLSHS P&C