## Mount Lawley Senior High School (MLSHS)

## **School Council**

## **MINUTES**

## Monday 16 February 2009

	ITEM	ACTION POINTS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
1	Meeting opened: 7:30pm	: : : 	
2	Introduction and Welcome		
	The Chair welcomed Council members, and in particular	: !	
	Yvonne Scott and Michael Camilleri.	: : : 	: : :
3	Attendance		
	Christine Richardson (Chair), Milton Butcher, Neil Hudson,		
	Bev Burnside, Kevin Pilkington, Anne Griffiths, Don Rowe,		
	Catherine Smith, Jo Furness, Olivia Burmester, Darcy Rowe,		
	Chloe Neilsen, Gemma Esvelt and Vicki Nash (Minutes		
	Secretary) Yvonne Scott , Michael Camilleri (in attendance)		
4	Apologies		
	There were no apologies.		
5	Minutes of Previous Meeting		
	The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 December		
	2008 were accepted as a true record.		
	Moved by Jo Furness. Seconded by Catherine Smith.	 	<u> </u>
6	Update on Action Points from Previous Meetings	: : : :	: : :
	Healthy Active Australia Grant  Milton reported that there were five applicants for the		
	Milton reported that there were five applicants for the	: : :	
	position of Project Manager, two of whom were interviewed.  Applicants have been notified of the outcome. Milton		
	thanked Catherine for her great effort on the selection		
	panel. Milton indicated that the contract had an expected		
	start of 1 March 2009. This is yet to be confirmed.		
7	General Business	<u>;</u> :	i  !
′	Financial Report for 2008		
	The report was presented as a PowerPoint presentation.	Write to the	M Butcher and
	Christine apologised for not getting the report out sooner,	Department of	C Richardson.
	and advised that she had to do some manual adjustments	Education and	
	with the data. She gave a summary of the situation. Milton	Training to do	
	advised Council that Yvonne has done great work improving	further work on its	
	budgeting.	system so that	
	RECOMMENDATION: Write to the Department of Education	MLSHS can report	
	and Training requesting further work on its system to	in this format.	
	improve the reporting quality. Unanimously agreed.		
	MLSHS School Council Draft Report 2008	:	
	The report was included in the Agenda documents and		
	Christine asked for comments	Consider report.	Council
	0		Members.
	Student Performance 2008		
	Milton gave a PowerPoint presentation on student		
	achievement for 2008. Improving academic results remains a		
	focus. Milton stressed the importance of teachers to have		
	high expectations and demand much of students		
	Milton commented on the importance of writing and he		
	explained the Fogarty Institute's involvement, in conjunction with ECU, with a school writing research program. He		
	with ECU, with a school writing research program. He acknowledged Kevin's contribution in establishing this	<u> </u>	
	partnership. Milton advised that in NAPLAN Year 9 students		
	; parthership. Willton advised that in NAPLAN Year 9 Students	:	<u>:</u>

 ITEM	ACTION POINTS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
were above the national average in literacy whilst below in numeracy. MSE results were good. He outlined key Year 12 achievements.  3 Certificates of Excellence;  16 students with a TER of 90 or better;  46% with a TER of 80 or better;  4 TEE subjects above the State average;  5 TEE subjects at State average (score less than 1%). In discussion on at-risk students, Neil advised that, although strategies are being put in place some students and parents are not interested in engaging with staff. There is a reluctance to attend interviews and then change courses. Catherine feels that not enough attention is being given to the middle group. Merit-based scholarships were discussed.  • Financial Management  Milton advised that DET was yet to provide an action plan to improve financial operations. However, Yvonne has led many improvements and much ad been done. There was still some remediation required and the Department had agreed to fund some of that.  • Draft Budget 2009  The school's 2009 draft budget document was tabled. Milton confirmed that it had been endorsed by the Financial Committee. Yvonne gave a verbal overview of the budget, which included the following:  ✓ Provisions made in the Reserves area including an allocation of \$100,000 towards an air-conditioning program to improve conditions for students.  ✓ indicating that funds not spent in 2008 are carried forward to 2009  ✓ Noting that provision had been made for Special Purposes grants include Healthy Active grant. Christine commended Yvonne on a job well done, adding that the construction of the budget gave members of Council a greater level of confidence than in the past about the construction of the budget. She asked members to consider the detail with a view to approving the budget at the March meeting.	Consider budget papers.	Council Members.
• School Council Membership 2009 Milton advised that nominations for students, staff and parents are in train. Nominations closed today. The retiring members of School Council are Catherine Smith, Bev Burnside, Chloe Neilsen, Darcy Rowe, Jo Furness and Christine Richardson. Christine thanked those Council members concluding their term and wished everybody all the very best. Christine is pleased that the School Council has developed a tradition of being very effective. Catherine advised that she is prepared to stay on for at least 12 months but not as a parent representative.  Moved by Christine Richardson that Catherine Smith be coopted to Council for at least 12 months to provide a link between the HAA project and Council. Seconded by Jo Furness. Unanimously carried.	Re-open part nominations	M Butcher

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	Milton advised that he will not be present at the next meeting. That meeting is effectively the School Council's 2009 AGM and new members start their term. However, those who have finished their term are welcome to attend. Milton would like to acknowledge his thanks to Christine for her involvement with School Council, and stated that the school needed to identify a forum as an appropriate way to say thanks for her many years of service. Christine said she will be in contact with MLSHS through her involvement with the Healthy Active program. Anne said the Council has been reliable and she has felt comfortable with Christine as Chair. Christine expressed her thanks.  • School Plan 2009		
	Milton tabled and distributed the MLSHS <i>School Improvement Plan</i> for members to consider over the next couple of weeks. He advised that recommendations from the School Review have been factored in. Members were asked to provide comments for improvements, especially to the strategic intent page. The intent is for Council to agree with this and sign off on the statement. He would appreciate Council's feedback on values. The plan can be approved at the March meeting. Christine asked Council members to peruse the document in terms of School values, and also the strategies to make sure that, in Council members' own eyes, they lead to things that teachers and the School will be doing to deliver sound education for the benefit of children. Milton added that the strategies will be backed up with the allocation of funds.	Peruse School Plan 2009 and provide comments to M Butcher before the next meeting.	All Council members
	• Centre for Asian Languages  A document entitled listing possibilities for MLSHS arising from the Commonwealth Government's Stimulus Package, and other matters, was tabled and distributed. Christine advised that she is still finishing the Council's briefing document.  Don believes there is a two-pronged approach. The current Federal budget includes \$2.5 million funding for schools like MLSHS. Don believes that there are a couple of options, and he explained them to Council members. He feels that there is the financial capacity to do something now more than ever before. Christine agreed and said MLSHS needed to take advantage of this package.		
9	Student Report Chloe commented that Year 11students have noticed a bigger workload than Year 10. She also reported that students have complained that there was no reason given for the withdrawal of the volleyball program. A document entitled <i>Issues Perceived by Withdrawal of VB Programme</i> was tabled. Milton provided general information and indicated that MLSHS is trying to find someone to keep the program operational – Jo mentioned a possible contact. It was also noted that the HAA grant could provide support for activities such as this. Gemma reported that students would prefer group class photographs rather than individual photographs. Milton replied that it is hard to organise time off school for this. Catherine suggested that students themselves could organise individual photographs of classmates.	With Principal	

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8	P&C Report		
	Jo had nothing to report to Council.	: : : :	
9	Staff Report	Send a letter to	M Butcher
	·	parents this week	
	day of giving for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. This		
	initiative was discussed by Student Services and approved by		
	the management team. Bev added that this year's Year 8	Appeal drive on	
ļļ	students seem to be a particularly good group.	26 February 2009	
10	Principal's Report		
	Milton reported that:		
	MLSHS is still to appoint a VET/Careers Officer.		
	Options are being considered.		
	➤ The Trade Training Centre is going ahead - it is		
	happening very quickly and links with particular		
	companies should be discussed. He appreciated the		
	opportunity to explore options with Anne.		
	The School uniform compliance is excellent.		
	Milton distributed bookmarks which he advised are going out		
	to students and some primary schools to promote reading		
	and MLSHS.	i ! ! !	
	Meeting Closed at 9:40pm		
	Next Meeting Monday, 16 March 2009 at 7:30pm		