CARLINGFORD HIGH SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION INC.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST 2006

Opening/Welcome by President – B. Rooney: Meeting declared open at 7.45 pm.

Chair: B. Rooney (President); Minutes: N Philip (Vice President) in the absence of the Secretary.

1. The President opened the committee and welcomed parents.


Staff: R. Clarke, D. Halloran, R. Ryan

Apologies: J. Simpson, W. Whittaker, N. Wood

2. The General Meeting was suspended for a presentation by the Carlingford High School Head Teacher of PDHPE - Mr Ron Ryan

Presentation included:

- the school participates in an integrated sports program across the zone.
- years 7 and 8 receive local skills teaching.
- higher years participate in competitive activities within the zone structure.
- professional development money was made available to develop and implement a new syllabus in 2005 and 2006, and evaluation of the process is due soon.
- elective PE in years 9 and 10 is very successful, and the retention rate from year 9 to year 10 is very high.
- sports subjects include a theory component, comprising biomechanics and coaching skills.
- coaching skill development provides an opportunity for interaction with Roselea PS, wherein Carlingford students run coaching clinics for Roselea year 5 and 6 students - a good experience for all.
- the question of physical contact sports always arises. AFL and soccer are taught, but experience is that tackle football classes (e.g. rugby) do not attract sufficient numbers to proceed.
- there is currently an elective all-boys class and an elective mixed class. This is a natural outcome of the gender imbalance across the school, and teacher choice plays a part in assigning students to these classes.
- State and National sporting bodies don't contribute much to the school program, usually due to limited availability of their people.

General Meeting Resumed.

Previous Minutes:

3. Minutes of the meeting 14-Jun-06 were circulated prior to this meeting by e-mail, and copies were available at this meeting.

J. Nixon moved that Minutes of the Previous Meeting be accepted
Seconded: A. Simpson Carried.

Business Arising:

4. President's letter to Hornsby Council regarding Benghazi Road traffic is still in draft form. She will liaise with John Hain (school) and P. Roy on finalisation of the letter.

5. The status of action on a new junior girls summer uniform was raised. The meeting was told that the subcommittee was still considering it. A parent recommended inquiry to the "Hip Hop" clothing company to help progress the matter.
Correspondence In:

# From Description
1. The Hon. Philip Ruddock MP Acknowledgement of Letter re Grant Application
2. TAFE NSW - Northern Sydney Institute Information Session - School to TAFE 2007 - TUE 5-SEP-2006
3. North Rocks Public School Roxfest - 2006 North Rocks Festival of Young Persons Poetry and Art - 4-8 September
4. Baulkham Hills Shire Council Volunteer Recognition Event
5. Michael Grose Parenting Ideas Michael Grose Parenting Monthly Newsletter, Kits and Presentations
6. Sweet Success Fundraising Fundraising Promotion
7. Tunra (University of Newcastle Research Associates Ltd) Literacy Tutors Course - Course in Spelling and Reading through Phonics for Tutors
8. Harlequin Schools Collection (Uniform Shop Material)
9. Sydney Sportphysiotherapy Centre Change of Address Advice / Offer of Information Sessions
10. Fundrasia Fundraising Promotion
11. Go with the Glow Fundraising Promotion
12. Sydney Digital & Print Services Fundraising Promotion - 2007 P&C Family Organiser
13. ACSSO (email) National and International News Roundup - 4 July 2006
14. ACSSO (email) NEiTA Teaching Excellence Awards & Australian Scholarships Group Community Merit Awards
15. Nigel Stoneman Vilification and discrimination issues

Correspondence Out:

# From Description
1. P&C President Messrs Hopley, Arblaster, Hardy, Kwong - P&C thanks for their recent presentations at meetings

REPORTS:

Principal’s Report – R. Clarke:

6. See attached copy of Principal’s Report.
7. there is a need to engage the whole school community on the proposed Grades A to E scheme, to explain the key points and issues to be addressed.
8. the school will be 40 years old in 2007, and celebrations would be appropriate.

There were no questions from the meeting.

Welfare Report – D. Halloran:

9. 100 "excellent attendance" notes and 180 "please explain absence" notes have been issued this year.
10. The Beyond Year 10 program will run for 2 weeks in term 4.
11. Rewards Day 2006 will be on 11 December at Luna Park.
12. the SRC charity for 2006 is the Exodus Foundation. Students are examining opportunities for active participation.
13. A parent questioned the process wherein a student report listed unexplained absences, and then a "please explain absences" letter was subsequently received. Instances of absences caused by representative sporting events being "unexplained" were also mentioned. Ms Halloran advised that the school's recording system routinely generated reports of 3 consecutive unexplained absences, and that "please explain" letters were issued after 4 or more unexplained absences. She assured the meeting that the school worked to ensure that corrections were made where absences were subsequently explained. Considerable discussion ensued about how to avoid lesser numbers of absences being listed as unexplained, by ensuring that explanations were effectively communicated to the school and recorded.

Treasurer’s Report – T. Apollonov:

14. Copies of the attached report were circulated at the meeting.
15. The 3 P&C accounts are now being reported separately - P&C General, Building Fund, Uniform Shop. The meeting noted the improved presentation and ease of understanding of the accounts. There were no questions from the meeting.

President’s Report – B. Rooney:

The President made the following points:
16. The landscaping working bee in late June was successful.
17. The school Public Speaking competition would be held in a week’s time.
18. Use of the school intranet / internet site was encouraged, and comments were invited.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Uniform Shop – G. Trau:

19. G Trau reported, and raised the question as to why the Uniform Shop does not sell the school sport shirt, given that it sells all other sporting apparel. The history behind the selling of the shirts through the Canteen was revisited, wherein the Canteen is open much more frequently than the Uniform Shop, and the Uniform Shop originally sold only 2nd hand clothes. After discussion, the meeting concluded that there was no reason why the Uniform Shop should not offer sports shirts for sale, at least on a trial basis, but expressed the view that this should not result in financial dis-benefit to the Canteen. The following motion was put to the meeting:

Motion 1: That the P&C approves the purchase by the Uniform Shop from the Canteen of five each of the available sizes of sports shirts for on-sale in the Uniform Shop.
Moved: M. Cochrane Seconded: J. Darling Carried.

Motion 2: That the above process be approved for action on an ongoing basis.
Moved: M. Cochrane Seconded: K. Mould Carried.

Traffic & Safety – (position not filled):

20. The President informed the meeting that Peter Roy has volunteered to serve on the Traffic and Safety Committee. The following motion was put to the meeting:

Motion 3: That the P&C approves Peter Roy's nomination to the T&S Committee.

Music Support – ():


Landscape Committee – J. Lloyd:

22. The next working bee is scheduled for 10 September 2006. J Lloyd reported later in the meeting that the June working bee had involved work at the front of the school by 20 parents and 5 teachers. The September project is the planting of 300-400 plants along the north-east driveway.

School Council Report – M. Cochrane:

23. M Cochrane reported discussion in the School Council about school facilities, and referred the meeting to page 2 of the Principal's Report for details. The Council noted that the planned 2007 school population was 1000 students, with 160 Year 7s expected.

Regional School Council Report – N. Stoneman:

24. No report

GENERAL BUSINESS:

25. Bus priority pass system – (N. Philip)
N Philip informed the meeting that he intended to submit an individual proposal for a priority pass system to apply to the after-school Epping bus, for the school's consideration. A paper on the proposal was table for information.
Discussion broadened onto timetable changes that adversely affected students linking with the Carlingford trains, and onto the lack of capacity of current school special buses. J Darling advised the meeting that complaints about the government buses serving the school should be made to Mr Jo Larocca of Sydney Buses on (tel) 9941 6818. The meeting noted that these matters would be referred to the Traffic and Safety Committee for action.

26. **P&C spending program – (B. Rooney)**  
The current opportunities for P&C spending as discussed at previous meetings were summarised in an information paper tabled at the meeting. The President advised the meeting that these would be discussed with the school, with a view to bringing specific proposals back to the September P&C meeting.

27. **School Rewards Day – (B. Rooney)**  
The meeting noted that costs for the day had not been determined, but noted the school's intention to proceed. The meeting indicated its support in principle for the day, including its likely financial assistance.

28. **Vilification and discrimination – (N. Stoneman)**  
N Stoneman spoke to his letter tabled in Correspondence In. He expressed his concern about the behaviour of avowed Christian students in the school allegedly vilifying and discriminating against an agnostic student, in the form of a suggestion that the agnostic student would "go to Hell". This caused distress to the agnostic student. Mr Stoneman referred to Bible passages relating to the suggested low status of "unbelievers", and questioned whether such teachings were in conflict with anti-discrimination laws. He moved a motion, which asked the meeting to deplore bullying and to seek P&C Federation comment on whether these Bible teachings should be allowed in State secular schools.

Discussion ensued which indicated that the meeting clearly deplored bullying in any form. The meeting recognised that the offering of religious instruction in State schools is mandatory, that the specific material taught was provided by parties external to the school system, and that the material taught was not prescribed in any State syllabus. The meeting wished to consider Mr Stoneman's motion in 2 parts, but he declined this. The motion was not seconded, and therefore lapsed.

29. **Funding of school improvements**  
The Principal informed the meeting that a total of the order of $5.9 million had been spent on school improvements in the last 10 years.

**Meeting Closed:** 10.07 pm

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 13 September 2006.