CARLINGFORD HIGH SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION INC.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH 2007

Opening/Welcome by President – B. Rooney: Meeting declared open at 7.40 pm.
Chair: B. Rooney (President); Minutes: W. Whittaker

1. The President opened the meeting and welcomed parents.

Present: T. Alexander; B. Bigdeli; M. Cochrane; L. Healey; L. Jenkins; K. Mould; M. Naicker; R. Nesbitt; B. Rooney; A. Simpson; J. Simpson; A. Throssell; W. Whittaker; (13)

Staff: R. Clarke; D. Halloran;

Apologies: T. Apollonov; L. Langley; M. Lewis; J. Nixon; N. Philip; P. Roy; D. Solomon; G. Trau; N. Wood; M. Youseff;

2. The General Meeting was suspended for a presentation by the Carlingford High School Economics Teacher – Mr. Matthew Palmer. Mr Palmer is also the Teacher’s Federation Representative at the school, the Year 7 Advisor, and is a part of the school Welfare group.

Presentation included:

Federation Issues –

- Ban on A to E reporting. Teachers Federation encouraged ban on the new system of A to E reporting that has been proposed by the Federal Government. Federal Government instructed State Governments that they have to adopt this new system or funding will be cut. Teachers Federation gave reasons why this type of reporting was not a good idea:

1. Not properly thought out and implemented – rushed through; No software supporting new system; Unable to respond to queries on new system.
2. Teachers have right at present to choose format of report that best suited their community and are being forced with the new method to use one style. Takes away the teachers ability to decide what sort of reports suits our kids/environment.
3. Could lead to labelling of students and schools … no flexibility to award anything other than A to E. Could be detrimental to the labelling of students/schools (some will get A’s others may only get D’s and E’s).

- Teachers at CHS voted to support the ban on the new proposed format.

- State Government took Teachers Federation to court re the imposition of the ban. Court supported Federation view, and instructed NSW Government to enter into negotiation, and no penalty imposed on the Federation.

- To date – no negotiations between NSW Government and the Federation have taken place – so ban is still in place, and reports will continue at CHS to be presented as in past format.

Your Rights at Work … 2 days of action last year. Still ongoing. Teacher’s Federation feels strongly about changes in workplace relations that were introduced recently by Federal Government. Next action on Sunday - 22-APR-07 at 11.00 am - involving all unions across NSW in March and activities at Hyde Park.

- Significant concern at Individual Contracts that are to be bought in for teachers … and related to performance pay. Public education needs to be supported through collective agreements.

- NSW Election – more beginning teachers, and more support for beginner teachers. Pre-school provisions. TAFE Funding. Reduced Funding on Special Education Support – going backwards.

Welfare –

1. Gather information thru observations, reports from students, parents and teachers. Works best if problems are brought to the attention of Welfare Officer … difficult for them to see all the problems for themselves. Encourage students to talk about any problems to the Welfare Officer.
2. Tries to establish a true version of events. Now tracked on intranet via STAN system. Database of information about what has happened over time related to any student. Gives ready information of history to assist with looking into any problems. Allows information to be shared with appropriate teachers/staff.

3. If related to discipline (e.g. bullying, fight) which would go to the School Deputy (currently Joanne Sim for Yr 7) to deal with the issue. Discipline may be lunchtime detention, withdrawal (from class, or for portion of day), after school detention (Wed or Fri between 3.30 pm and 4.10 pm – parents notified by letter sent home that needs to be signed), suspension warning letter, suspension and interview with Deputy (short 1-2 days / long – 5 to 20 days).

4. Counselling/welfare – may be considered appropriate to refer to school counsellor. Student needs to self-refer to see counsellor (treated confidentially), or parents need to give permission.

5. System is designed for handling problems – but can also recognise achievements.

6. Regular meetings held for group discussions to assist with any issues faced by counsellors.

Rain Water Tank …

1. Looking to install a Rainwater tank … initial stages of planning.
2. Can be included as part of a learning program – in geography/sciences …
3. Looking to ways to use water collected.
4. Considering achieving funding through grants that are available.

Q: This Friday – Make A Difference Day (MAD) ???
A: Organised through Christian group/Youth workers. Youth Group open to all students (not just religious based).

Q: How often do you get to the stage of Long Suspensions ?
A: Not frequently. Several stages need to be passed through to get to the severity of a long suspension. Would only happen after a period of time and repeated infringements, and where other methods have not modified the behaviour of the student to an acceptable level.

3. The General Meeting was suspended for the running of the Extraordinary General Meeting.

EGM:

4. Nominations for the following position were taken and voted upon:

   Position of Second Vice President.

   Nominations: Narelle Wood
   Proposed by B. Rooney Seconded: J. Simpson Carried

General Meeting Resumed at 8.15 pm.

Previous Minutes:

5. Minutes of the meeting 14-Feb-07 were circulated prior to this meeting by e-mail, and copies were available at this meeting.

   M. Cochrane moved that the Minutes of the Previous Meeting be accepted.
   Seconded: L. Jenkins. Carried.

Business Arising:

6. -
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<td>1</td>
<td>Federation of P&amp;C</td>
<td>Receipt for Affiliation &amp; Insurance Second P&amp;C School Mailout - Term 1, 2007 incl:</td>
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<td>- Letter from the P&amp;C President</td>
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<td>- 2007 Annual Conference Information - Leaflet</td>
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<td>- The Partnership between Schools and Established Parent Organisations - Leaflet</td>
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<td>- Inaugural P&amp;C Day (Wed 7-MAR-07) - Leaflet</td>
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<td>Federation of P&amp;C</td>
<td>Flyer - <a href="http://www.siteart.com.au">www.siteart.com.au</a></td>
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<td>Federation of P&amp;C</td>
<td>P&amp;C Journal Term 1, 2007 – Vol 58 No 1 Mailout including:</td>
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<td>- ‘Values Alive and Well!!’ Brochures</td>
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<td>- Service-Learning Conference 2007 - Syd 18-20 Apr 2007</td>
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<td>- Roots and Shoots - Program of the Jane Goodall Institute</td>
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<td>- Chaplains in Schools (Letter)</td>
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<td>- 2007 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes - Rewarding School Science - Leaflet</td>
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<td>- Say NO to Drugs - Leaflet</td>
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<td>- Blue Dog Posters and Prints - Leaflet</td>
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<td>ACSSO (mailout)</td>
<td>Unique National Awards Program by Leading Community Group Focuses on Animal Welfare Education in Schools and Communities.</td>
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<td>ACSSO (email)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>No Frills Shopping Tours</td>
<td>Fundraising Promotion</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Tribe Research</td>
<td>School Improvement Survey offer</td>
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Correspondence Out:

nil

REPORTS:

Principal’s Report – (R. Clarke):

7. Copies of the Principal’s Report were circulated at the meeting.
8. Looking to fill 3 different head teacher positions involving panel interviews. Very time consuming.
9. Concern at difficulty with the incorrect references to Carlingford High School as the location of the recent incident that was publicised. It was not our school - but another school in the Carlingford area.
10. Ministerial notice that K. Premnath was nominated for Brother John award.


11. Latest Carlingford Calling reported on 4 year 11 students that attended leadership program.
12. Selected Yr 11 girls will be attending Parliament House.
13. Year 7 vaccination program went well.
14. Home school liaison officer visit – looks at students up to age of 15 with attendance problems. Provided school with exemption form for students who will have extended absence to go overseas (prevents these absences from being recorded/reported as general absences which affect school).
15. Open day and Open Night next week – will have Year 8 guides to assist who are being trained at present.
16. Yr 12 student given a special award – Glen Ryan Award – as she overcame significant illness/difficulties to get through HSC.
17. Education is not just academic; it’s about the development of the whole person.
President’s Report – B. Rooney:

18. Thank you to teachers and all concerned with a wonderful Presentation Night held recently.
19. Thank you to those in P&C who helped with the welcome to Year 7 parents. Thank you too to the teachers involved.

Treasurer’s Report – (per W. Whittaker - J. Nixon - absent):

20. Written report provided and briefly examined.
21. Information related to school fees being handed over – will happen at the end of the term.
22. Suggestion to look at option for Building Fund account being changed to an internet account.

K. Mould moved that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted.
Seconded: M. Naicker Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Uniform Shop – (per W. Whittaker - G. Trau – absent):

23. New volunteers working well in the uniform shop.
24. Issue of hats will be brought to the attention of the teacher uniform co-ordinator (J. Long) so that it can be progressed through that forum with the student body.

Q: Why doesn’t school sell all of the uniform?
A: Uniform shop was originally set up in very limited location – and to allow sale of 2nd hand uniforms. As some new items were added to the uniform with the school emblem/logo – these were sold by the uniform shop as well. Uniform shop (even in its new location) still would not have the room to stock/sell all items of the uniform. Those not available at the uniform shop can be purchased at Lowes.

Traffic & Safety – (per B. Rooney - P. Roy - absent):

25. Has been in contact with the previous Traffic & Safety Officer, and is looking at options that need to be followed up.

Music Support – (K. Mould):

27. Senior Solos night has been held.
29. Stage Band 1 will play at Open Night next week.

Landscape Committee – (J. Lloyd):

30. Working bees to be held Term 2, 3 and 4.
31. Will be working on gardens at front and side of the school.
32. All helpers welcome to give 2 hours of time perhaps on a Sunday to help out.

School Council Report – (M. Cochrane):

33. Security fence to be in place by end of 2nd term. Does not include the playing fields.
34. Ramp to be finished in near future. Dept. has decided to extend covered areas/walkways.
35. State Labour candidate has visited school with indication of funds available for extra work on science labs if she is elected.
36. Provision of buses in the afternoon has improved to meet requirement to meet trains at Carlingford or Epping station.
37. 40th Anniversary – Ms Furness managing the organisation. Will be looking to contact ex-students. People interested in attending can contact the school and leave their names. Anniversary will be celebrated over Wed 19 Sep, Fri 21 Sep – Gala Dinner ?, Sat 22 Sep – School Visit? Mention this is happening to people you know who might be interested in joining in the anniversary celebrations.


38. No report
39. Progress with P&C fund for subsidizing students representing Carlingford High. Draft document on proposal has been distributed. As no-one was available at the meeting to talk to this proposal, discussion is deferred to the May meeting.

40. CHS Three Year Strategic Planning Cycle - 2007 is next round of the Parent Survey. B. Rooney outlined what is involved. Will need to start working on timelines and survey content. Initial volunteers: N. Philip, M. Yousuff, A. Simpson, P. Roy (recorded at previous meeting).

41. Q: How to address bus issues – Do they get reported to the bus company or to the school.
A: Problems should be reported to both bodies … the school can follow up if they are aware of problems - Contact Joanne Sim. Parents can follow up to with the Bus Company direct to advise of issues. P&C Traffic and Safety committee can also follow up if it is a reoccurring problem.

42. School Hats Issue to be followed up through teacher responsible for teacher uniform co-ordinator (J. Long) so that it can be progressed through that forum with the student body. Might be appropriate for parents via P&C to provide some input to this process – as they have concerns that the policy of wearing hats is not being well adhered to, and would like to have input to the type/styles available. Year 7 students are well versed in No hat – No play model from their primary schools. Problem is that older students don’t wear the hats, and as these are often role models for the younger students, the younger students tend to not wear the hats.

Need to get a committee to look at all aspects of the hat issue. Is there another school that has successfully managed to get the student body to wear hats? How did they do it? What styles were acceptable? How was this enforced? Needs to get buy in from staff for consistency. Information from the Cancer Council.

Committee: M. Naicker / A. Throssell

43. CHS 40th Anniversary … as per detail in the school council report. Offer of help from parent working at Ekserleys to be passed on to the school.

44. Some Permission notes tend to have sign off on back of the note containing all of the details for what the note was about. Could it be ensured that sign/off and return slips are able to be returned so that parents can retain all the details of what the note is concerning. Maybe a template for these forms should be made available so that all notes have a common format.

45. Would be useful to have a mentoring program for new parents – who have Q’s but don’t necessarily want to bother the teachers/schools, or don’t have the opportunity to follow up at the school. Could they contact experienced parents who might be able to help. Also look to build up FAQ portion of website – if you have Q’s that could be included, email them to the P&C secretary to see how this may be added to the website.

Meeting Closed: 9.45 pm


Minutes taken/typed by W. Whittaker