

Cherrybrook Technology High School P&C General Meeting

Tuesday 10.3.20

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Attendance as per book

Apologies – Erin, Esha, Janice, Vicki, Sarika

Last meeting minutes proposed by Ron and Esha

Special guests – Stage head teachers – Mrs Rebecca Howard (stage 4), Mr Gary Monahan (Stage 5) and Mrs Florence Adamou (Stage 6) spoke at length regarding their responsibilities. To name a handful of many; managing discipline, truancy and other activities across the stages, such as camps. Our stage head teachers are actively involved in the Presentation Day Assemblies as well as setting up the parent/teacher interviews. They outlined some of the NESA and DET requirements. Each head teacher outlined their individual stage responsible with their stage and other supporting staff. We would like to thank you all for taking time out of your evening and explaining your mammoth roles to the P and C community.

Principal's report to P&C 10.3.20

Matters of Community Concern

- The Corona Virus has not yet had a direct impact on the school and at the moment it is business as usual. However, we are closely monitoring the situation. At this stage the Year 11 camp scheduled for week 10 is looking doubtful. The Japan trip has been rescheduled until 2021 and today we made the decision to cancel the Royal Easter Show excursion.
- Q&A last night. Avid viewers of this excellent ABC program would have been pleased to see Mr Woo and twenty-five of our students and staff represented. Pleasingly, the first question of the night went to an ex student, Harry Sedha, brother to Arjun our current social justice representative. Our students were really well presented and enjoyed the occasion a great deal.
- Recent ministerial announcements – the minister has made a range of announcements recently about her concerns with various programs and government initiatives in schools and the success or otherwise of these programs. Further, the minister has established a task force of teachers to help address what the media has described as underperforming schools.
- International Women's day assemblies were enormously successful with wonderful guest speakers.
- Year 6 into 7 night was hugely successful. P&C catering was greatly appreciated.
- School development afternoons – the next is Monday 16 March. Discussion re final school day of year finishing for students at lunch on Wednesday 16 December.

Curriculum and Administration

- We are currently seeking quotes to provide a safe parking / storage spot for a school bus. Assuming we can find such a space we hope, with the help of the P&C to lease a 25-seat bus in the very near future. This will allow class and sporting excursions to proceed much more easily.
- Mufti – day tomorrow. The day is to have a “hippie” theme.
- CTHS students performed well at the recent zone swimming carnival with quite a few students progressing to the regional carnival. We were a close third in the overall rankings. I remain concerned about the number of non-swimmers at the school given the rising rates of drownings in Australia and the fact that this area has a high concentration of pools and we are relatively close to the coast.
- Year 12 students will commence their AP3 exams on Friday of next week. This can be a trying time but it is important to support the students and help them build resilience before the final exams.
- Staffing – at the present moment we are in the process of filling vacant positions in Careers, HSIE and our technical service operators. The vacancy in TAS has been awarded to Mrs Wendy Sheppard after the merit selection process was completed.
- Purpose of year 11 and Year 7 Interim reports explained, i.e. a snapshot of how students are settling into junior secondary or senior secondary school. The report is not intended to be a guide to academic outcomes. Reports on student academic progress will be via full reports and forthcoming parent / teacher nights.
- Curriculum review – where it is at for NSW students, parents and teaching staff? Details in last week’s Network.

Welfare

Year 11 Camp to Jindabyne Monday 30 March – this event been cancelled. “Mr Johnson reluctantly made the decision on Thursday to cancel the Year 11 Jindabyne Camp in Week 10 due to concerns about the possible transmission of COVID-19 (Network T1Wk7).

Important dates

Year 7 Parents / Teacher Night Tuesday 24 March - this event has been cancelled. Parents should have received an email regarding the cancellation of the Year 7 Parent/Teacher night due to the possible transmission of the COVID-19 virus. A copy of the letter is available in this edition of *Network* (Network T1Wk7).

- ANZAC assembly Tuesday 7 April
- Thursday 9 April is the final day of term.
- Staff return to school for Term 2 on Monday 27 April.
- Student return to school Tuesday 28 April.

Other matters

- Check school website for photographs of all school major events. Some lovely photographs of the Year 7 camp are available

Federation report:

Congratulations to Tim Spencer (CTHS P&C President), for being appointed as the President for the Federation of Parents and Citizens (P&C Federation) for the North West Sydney electorate.

The NSW Curriculum Review final report is due in April. P&C Federation is concerned that the NSW government will try to simplify the report to score quick political points such as instructing NESA to remove an arbitrary amount from syllabuses, putting more restrictions on teachers or calling for a back to basics approach. This will have no impact on improving educational outcomes.

We were recently involved with the Schools Lifecycle Steering committee which deals predominantly with new schools. We have had the opportunity to deliver presentations to new Principals and their Executive members and Directors Education Leadership in community engagement and forming a P&C.

NSW NAPLAN Review is currently under way after the Federal government failed to implement a national review of NAPLAN. P&C Federation have been granted a face to face meeting with the review panel and will be conveying our message that NAPLAN needs to return to informing teaching and learning.

P&C Federation is seeking to have P&C Associations included within the Educational Services General Staff Award. We have made application to the Fair Work Commission to try to make this happen. We have a session with the deputy commissioner on Thursday to put our case. If successful, this award will simplify employment for P&C Associations by only having one award covering all employees.

There will be another education council meeting in several weeks and the Minister has called a pre education council meeting of all key stakeholders. It is likely that the main topic of discussion will be the NAPLAN review.

You may like to visit and learn more about the P&C Federation, <https://www.pandc.org.au/about-us/>

Alumni:

- Presently, nothing to report. Alumni travelling along well. However, we are currently looking for a new community member to take over the Alumni position. This person will shadow Erin Cockerton in 2020, to understand the role and take over the position in 2021. If anyone is interested please contact the P&C Committee. Many thanks.

Canteen report:

- Judy Jack is retiring from the CTHS canteen after 24 years! The P&C presented her with a 'thankyou gift' and thanked Judy for her hard work and dedication over the years. Judy thanked the parent volunteers, canteen workers, Gary Johnson, staff and delightful school students for their kindness and support over the years.

- 3 machines are now being used within the canteen – average \$600.00 a day on the terminals.
- Tim or Helen to follow up with the bollards in the canteen area, so that the food windows can be smooth running.
- Break in has occurred in the canteen. The vending machine (drinks machine) caused a lot of damage to the machines. One machine can't be fixed and the other machine can be fixed. The roller doors locks are also damaged, so the idea is to make an extra window for the canteen serving windows. If this was done, some re-arranging of the canteen, storage and office...short term solution, but this could work. Tim will visit and chat Vicki and the canteen staff about the possible solutions. Vending machines won't be replaced, no insurance as the machine are too old. Profit margins for these drinks are 0!
- Tim, will ask Rod to come through and take a look at the design of the canteen areas. Remove hand rails, fill in the triangle and look at a covering the area.
- Gary will seek a quote this week for taking away the triangle area, so more space is available for the lines.
- Janice will attend our next meeting to do the final sign off and feedback re the report she completed last year.
- Vicki reported a lot of new volunteers, which is wonderful, thank you.
- Healthy Canteen going well.
- Volunteer luncheon – 1st Wednesday in June.

Treasurer's report

- Healthy bank balances
- Updating the MYOB programs
- Remove Stephen Phillips and replace with Daniel Allbutt (Vice President), and ensure that the P&C President, 2 Vice President's, Treasurer, and Secretary are signatories to bank accounts. Consolidate canteen into the main account, branch and 1 ABN. Currently the Canteen is using the Schools ABN – this needs to be closed. This motion was put forth and the committee agreed to this.

Next P&C meeting (28/4/20), our special guest being Mr Pedley-Smith, who will update us on his Rites of Passage Group. School community welcome.

General Business

Discussion of 2020 final school day – students to finish prior to lunch on Wednesday 16 December 2020. P&C community agreed this can go ahead for 16/12/20

We would like to officially thank Gavin Poole for being an active executive member on the P&C over the past 8 years.

Meeting closed – 9.10pm

Next meeting – Tuesday 28th April, 2020