

**CHERRYBROOK TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL Minutes of P&C General Meeting
Tuesday 18th October 2016**

Attendance as per the book

Meeting Minutes were proposed by Liz Groves and seconded by Rod Cuevas.

P&C was delighted to receive the presentation from Suzy Deadman, Learning and Support Teacher and here is the overview.

Learning support is any additional assistance provided to students. It may be provided to:

1. Improve basic skills
2. Enhance understanding
3. Improve social interactions and skills
4. Modify behaviour
5. Support inclusion
6. Ensure a student reaches their educational potential

Many students may require some form of learning support at some time in their schooling. Many students benefit from learning support during the transition from primary school to high school. This period brings a significant change in both the social and academic demands placed on students. Around 12.5% of students will require ongoing learning support. Less than 2.5% of students will require significant, ongoing learning support.

At CTHS SLSO and LST support is given to over 100 classes across all year groups and subject areas. We run targeted programs in reading (QuickSmart), managing anxiety, behaviour mentoring, senior mentoring, expressive language and social skills. There are two Literacy Workshop classes to support students in Stage 5. Whole school initiatives such as Here Hidden Head have been implemented to improve the literacy skills of all students. Alternate HSC programs are available including the introduction of General Mathematics 1

Homework Club runs for Stage 4 and 5 every Wednesday lunch and for seniors every Tuesday Period 6 and Thursday from 230pm. Lunchtime clubs run every day to support inclusion and give students a safe and supportive environment to spend their lunchtimes. All clubs are open to all students. Clubs operate in D1.3:

Monday: Chill out club: chat and computers

Tuesday: Card and game club

Wednesday: Homework club

Thursday: Thursday club

Friday: Chill out club: movies

Every term there is a party for Homework club (open to everyone who has attended homework club at least once that term) and a party for Chill Out club which is open to all students. The parties are themed. In term 4 we have the Halloween and Christmas Parties coming up.

Principal's report

Curriculum and Administration

- The Year 12 HSC examinations commenced last Thursday. Students are well prepared and at this stage appear to be coping well with the stress the tests bring. I'm confident students will achieve the results they deserve!
- Year 11 students have now commenced their HSC courses. Their Year 11 reports are in the process of being finalised. On Tuesday night 25 October there will be a meeting for all year 11 students and parents. The meeting will look at the demands of Year 12, what is expected of students and also allow the students' reports & assessment booklets to be handed out.
- The year 12 Big day out, concert, graduation and formal were all a great success. Students are to be congratulated on the way they conducted themselves during this time. All staff involved did a marvellous job and were most supportive of the students. A huge thank you to the P&C functions committee for all their support of the evening and the wonderful table decorations, marvellous cakes and catering. My sincere thanks to all my staff who "plugged the gaps" whilst I was on leave.
- Work has commenced on the 2017 timetable and will continue for the next few weeks. Student numbers are approximately 1900. This is slightly fewer than last year.
- Planning for our new building continues. Demountable have been moved and all the tenders let. We now await final approval from council before work can commence. Hopefully this will be the week after the completion of the HSC. Temporary remediation work is also taking place on the newly created vacant land to try and contain the mud after the recent rain.
- The library refurbishment is now finally underway. Anticipated end date is 11 November if all goes well.
- Funding: Yesterday the SMH ran an article describing Cherrybrook as one of the wealthiest non-government schools in the state, indicating that the school was sitting on large cash reserves that parents and the community had donated. Disappointingly, the journalist failed to point out that these are the school's total reserves and include government provided funds for operating costs, including casual and support staff salaries, utilities and educational items that have to tide the school over until the end of January 2017.
The journalist also failed to mention that the school has saved money for the current Library refurbishment and for a large COLA that will be constructed at the time of our new building being erected. A check of our funds at this time next year will show a completely different story once these saved funds have been expended for the betterment of our students.

Welfare

- Year 10 Peer support leaders for 2016 were trained over the past few weeks.
- The Year 9 camp is underway with students and staff leaving yesterday. A report from Mr Clements this morning indicated all was going well despite yesterday's poor weather.

Other

- Staffing: There will be 3 fewer staff needed at the school in 2017. A number of casual staff will no longer have positions but permanent staff will not be affected. At the present moment we have a vacancy in English. Hopefully this will be filled in the next few weeks.
- Year 8 Lifesaving commences Monday 31 October
- Stage 5 and Year 11 Drama retrospective will be held on Wednesday 26 October.
- Mr Woo was recently given a most prestigious teaching award and has been making waves in the press with his Wootube channel.

Alumni

We had the pleasure of Alumni group member Michael Skott (1996 School Captain) present the Alumni objectives and approach. CTHS Alumni Group objectives aim to engage prior students to enhance current students' outlook and experience

P&C was supportive of the objectives and approach. While the current focus is on building and growing the Alumni group and helping the school with mentoring/coaching & career/leadership development, fund-raising can come later on once established and fully operational. P&C asked what help if any was needed. Michael responded indicating the continued linkage with the P&C including a representative from P&C as part of the Alumni group. Principal Gary Johnson also indicated that Brett Clements (Deputy Principal) will continue to represent the school at the Alumni group. Gary also indicated that the school can also leverage Alumni members on specific services/advisory such as legal, building etc. as needed.

There is an open action from the previous meeting relating to the new Education department Social media policy that requires any site especially Facebook pages related to the school including the Alumni FB page have a school representative (head teacher or exec) as the moderator. This was subsequently discussed with the Alumni group members and Brett Clements during the 22nd October Alumni group meeting and resolved. Brett now has administrative rights to the Alumni Facebook page and also to all other media related to the Alumni group (LinkedIn account, CTHS Alumni email account and Google drive which hosts the Alumni Database).

Federation Report

There has been some significant concerns from parents worrying that the new HSC minimum numeracy and literacy criteria might result in their child failing to get an HSC. This has been compounded by poor reporting in the media with undue focus being placed on the year 9 NAPLAN result. The idea behind the standard is to ensure that all those obtaining an HSC meet what is considered to be a national minimum standard for numeracy and literacy, something all parents would wish for their child. P&C Federation have been working with BOSTES to produce clear guidelines for parents to help understand what the minimum standards actually mean to students seeking an HSC.

The minimum numeracy and literacy standards are based on a national standards Australia Cores Skills Framework which identifies the level a student should be at when leaving year 12. The emphasis on this is that this is a minimum standard deemed suitable for students entering the workforce or tertiary studies.

The first time students get to demonstrate they meet the standard is the year 9 NAPLAN. Students that get band 8 or higher in reading, writing and numeracy will have demonstrated that they already meet the standard. It is important to note that those that meet the standard in year 9 have actually reached a year 12 standard well ahead of time. For Cherrybrook Tech around 67% of students reach band 8 in reading, 53% in writing and 85% in numeracy by year 9 (based upon 2015 NAPLAN figures), very few if any children at CTHS will be impacted by this requirement.

For those students that don't meet the band 8 NAPLAN in year 9, they have not failed, it just means they are on a normal trajectory. They will have numerous opportunities up until term 3 in year 12 to demonstrate they meet the standard. This is not by resetting the NAPLAN as this is a national test completely divorced from the minimum HSC standard requirement. Instead they will sit a BOSTES approved numeracy and literacy test which they will be able to take between year 10 and 12. Students can re sit the test until such time as they meet the standard. For those that do not get to the minimum standard by the time the HSC exams come around, they will participate in the exams as normal but will only be awarded a RoSA (Record of School Achievement). They then have up to five years after the HSC to demonstrate they have met the standard so they can then be awarded an HSC.

Funding sub-committee

The AC3 products have been updated and the portal fixed up (thank you Craig Anderson). A rep has been invited to the year 7 open day.

Sponsorship

Current discussions are in progress with Century 21.

Markets

This initiative is yet to provide any income. We are currently investigating the possibility of Sunday markets and other ways to increase traffic.

Directory

Rod Cuevas is speaking with Michael regarding a November issue.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Statement of Fund Status and Bank Balances are as follows,

	NAB AUD	St. George AUD	TOTAL Fund AUD
General	425.57	121,614.06	122,039.63
Grounds	352.45	49,172.23	49,524.68
Building	250.00	248,438.62 *	248,688.62
TOTAL Bank	1,028.02	419,224.91	420,252.93

* NOTE: St. George Building Fund Balance include a Term Deposit of AUD 240,000- @ 2.9% p.a. maturing on 19th March, 2017

Canteen Subcommittee report: CTHS work, Health and Safety plan Final proof of first draft to be given to subcommittee members this week.

Action from review of WHS Plan

- Need to discuss Federation guidelines with Tim Spencer
- Need to discuss some site related WHS items with principal and obtain some additional detail
- Need to then visit canteen and check processes against the WHS plan

Aim is to provide P&C Executive members a more advanced draft copy at November meeting.

Canteen Accounts

	Westpac AUD
Cash Reserve	66,686.82
Term Deposit	100,000.00
Cash Bonus – Long Service Leave	30,021.68
Cheque Account	116,030.78
TOTAL	312,739.28

P&C representation at school functions

- Janice Marshall and Tim Spencer to attend Year 10 Transition Assembly, 13 December 2016
- Stephen Phillips to do Presentation night awards for grades 7-11 on 6th December Evening
- Rod Cuevas to do sports awards on 8th December Morning.

Correspondence in/out - A letter from Member of Parliament to P & C president regarding question raise at a previous P&C discussion.

Action: Stephen discussed the matter to the members that content of the letter was not correct and he will write to the MP advising the same requesting that the response be corrected to address the question.

Next Meeting: To take place in the Staff room, on Tuesday 22nd November 2016 at 8 pm.