

Homebush Boys High School

P & C Meeting

19th June 2012

Meeting opened: 7.10pm.

Presidents Welcome:

Simone Burton welcomed guests to the meeting and introduced Ms Audrey Juska, HT Student Wellbeing who presented an informative power point presentation and discussion on her re-evaluation of the school **Anti-bullying policy.**

HBHS is committed to developing and maintaining an anti-bullying culture. What is bullying? Bullying is when a student or group, with more power at the time, deliberately and repeatedly uses negative word/s and or actions, against another student which causes distress and creates a risk to their wellbeing.

Some types of bullying are: Verbal (Name calling/Harassing/Teasing), Physical (Hitting/Pushing), Cyber (emailing), Sexting (on mobile phones), and Covert (bullying that is secret, hidden, less obvious and subtle).Stealing or hiding property. Forcing others to act against their will. Racist or Religious bullying. And from these, children can suffer Exclusion, Isolation, Humiliation and Denigration of reputation and Manipulation of the peer group. They can become fearful, stressed, depressed, withdrawn, angry, and even anorexic or suicidal. They may not want to go to school. Look for signs of bullying such as bruising, headaches and tears. School work can fall off in quality.

The school has created strategies for minimising the incidence of bullying and a 3 step procedure for discipline with is:

No Blame / Negotiation / Counselling
Parent involvement
Fair Discipline Code / consequences

School programmes include:
Peer Mediation /Peer Support
Transition Programs
Anti-Bullying Week

A Parent's Role would be the following things:

- Recognizing the signs: What can you do:
- Encourage your child to talk about it – get the facts – What happened? Where? When? Who was involved? Did anyone else see what happened?
- Try to keep an open mind
- Calmly ask questions
- Help your child reflect on what has been done
- Help your child work out what might be done`
- When you have a clear picture about the incident and how the child would like to handle it
Then contact the school
- Make an appointment to see the Year Adviser
- Calmly present the information
- Talk with the school about your ideas and what the school might suggest - collaborate

Don't:

- Get angry or upset
- Feel guilty or ashamed
- Make the children think it is not important
- Blame the children
- Blame the school
- Accuse people without knowing facts
- Look for scapegoats
- Demand to know all the details at once
- Look for easy solutions

Helping your child cope - Consider a range of strategies that could include:

- A buddy system
- Encourage new peer groups, gaining new friends
- Consult a Teacher mentor
- Developing self- assertiveness strategies
- Encourage open discussion – it's ok to tell someone when bullying happens

Mr Khurshed is looking to form a 'parent body' to get their view point on bullying and how it affects our children. This will be followed by a 'student body' formed from a selection of boys at the school to hear their view points as well. Parents interested in forming the panel left their contact details.

More information will follow on the schools anti-bullying policy in the months to come.

Attendance: As per record book

Apologies: Anita Kumar

Minutes Previous Meeting: Accepted Nick Miller/Seconded Cheryl Miller

Treasurers Report: Nil

Business Arising: Simone Burton reported that she attended the Rotary Dinner on behalf of the P & C.

Mr Jurd announced at Assembly that a competition will be held to design 'Thank You cards' for the P & C. The P & C Executive are to come up with parameters and the prize for the winner.

Ms Dwyer informed the meeting that the School Council had a very productive discussion on the School Anti-bullying policy at their last meeting.

Correspondence In: P & C Federation Journal

Correspondence Out: P & C Fundraising letter/ Letter of Thanks to Strathfield Rotary/Card of thanks to school office staffer Laura Donahue for her help with Trivia and Citizenship Ceremony duties. Thank you card sent to staff who attended the Garden Clean Up Day recently.

Principal's Report:

1. Mr Jeff Mallia has been nominated as the contact liaison person between the IMP and P & C.
2. HBHS Social Networking – The school is looking at Facebook and Twitter. Many schools use these social sites to get information out to the public. Examples are Merrylands H.S.
3. 2012 Year 8 boys will receive the final roll out of laptops in Year 9.
4. New Curriculum- looking at changing the 8 period day to 5 periods. To further discuss at the August P & C meeting.
5. Federal Funding of Public Schools discussed. See: www.igiveagonski.com.au

General Business:

Cheryl Miller advised the meeting that the P & C Annual Conference is on July 27th, 28th and 29th at the Bankstown Sports Club. We are entitled to send along 3 voting members. This is an opportunity to see how the P & C works with the Department of Education on all school related matters.

Catherine Lea nominated Kim Houhlias and Wendy Wong-See to attend with Cheryl Miller. Cheryl Miller seconded nominations.

Trivia Night - Saturday 11th August 2012 – last reminders to be sent out to P & C members and school parents.

A representative from the Inner West Teachers Association attended the meeting and presented a discussion titled 'Local Schools – Local Decisions'. This was to help explain why the Teachers Federation were holding a snap strike on Wednesday 27th June 2012.

Meeting Closed: 9.40pm

There will be no meeting in July due to School Holidays.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 21st August 2012 7.00pm start