

HOME BUSH BOYS

P and C Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 19th August 2014

Meeting Opened: 7.00pm

Seminar: English Matters

Speaker: Mr Elaro

The guest speaker discussed How English classes are structured at Homebush Boys High School.

Mr Elaro informed us that he has recently restructured these programs in response to the introduction of the Australian Curriculum. It includes

- Focus on writing and developing writing skills
- More novels being studied
- Grammar courses
- Developing arguments and being persuasive.

He further discussed how classes are structured from year 7 to Year 12. and a break up of the individual years and the programs that are implemented.

Provided a list of books that are suitable for boys such as classics To kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, My Brother Jack by George Johnston, and Animal farm by George Orwell.

He stressed the importance of change and use of technology required with the age of digital technology. for example the use of audio books.

Mr Elaro emphasised the importance parents can play supporting reading and writing or our sons, for example encouraging a daily routine for reading, engage in reading ourselves, and support and encourage writing.

In Attendance: As per attendance book

Apologies: Cheryl Miller, Linda Tarasenko, Nicole Zabbol and Fiona Murray

1. Minutes of previous meeting:

Accepted: Mark

Seconded: Jeff

2. Correspondence

Inwards: general

Outwards: Nil

3. Treasurer's Report

HBHS Treasurer's report 18th August 2014

Current account balance of HBHS P and C account Bendigo bank: \$19,462

Insurance

On the first of August our property and voluntary workers injury insurance fell due. Legal liability cover falls due in November. Insurance is traditionally organised through the P and C Federation and affiliation fees actually include the third party element of insurance.

This year I received advertising concerning alternatives to this P and C Federation negotiated insurance. No doubt this is related to the current turmoil surrounding the Federation and knowing that several members of our P and C are particularly keen supporters of the federation and not wanting to involve myself in either extra work or politics I didn't understand, initially I wasn't interested at all in these alternatives. However, a renewal letter from the Federation didn't arrive, possibly due to their current difficulties and I had to search online for information so I thought I'd be conscientious and look at the alternatives as well.

One major drawback to our current insurance policy is that it requires us to give 14 days notice of any event we organize. To my knowledge this doesn't always happen. Osman Insurance brokers, in connection with Voluntary Parents Co-operative were offering insurance that doesn't require forms for every event and I thought this a real advantage. The advice of our President, Kathy, was that the forms are initially difficult but in the experience of schools she knew, they became manageable over time. I felt that in a high school where parents are not in regular communication in the playground, parties etc. it would never be easy to fill in forms and even if one or two people became familiar with them, with a change in P and C members the knowledge would soon be lost. In the past as well we have sometimes organised small events such as coffee and cake for P/T nights with less than two weeks notice. Insurance should cover such entirely reasonable events in my view.

Easy communication was also an advantage of the alternative insurance

which does make sense as they are out to win customers. I found it more difficult to access information from the P and C Federation.

The major drawback with Osman's insurance from our perspective is that it includes affiliation fees with the Voluntary Parents Co-operative. They may actually offer fine support to P and C's but as we will no doubt continue with our affiliation to the P and C federation and pay for legal liability insurance with our membership fees this is redundant expenditure for us. For this reason and because I acted against the president's advice, although with her general support, I decided to pay for the insurance, which was \$1,085 myself. We still have membership fees of about \$500 to pay in November.

My hope is that competition will encourage the P and C federation to re-negotiate with their insurers and come up with a more user-friendly product so that normal advertised P and C activities will be automatically covered without specific notification to the federation. That will make it particularly easy to return all our insurance to the P and C federation next year.

Catherine Lea

Kathy stated on behalf of the P & C we would like to thank Catherine for all her hard work in regards to organising the Insurance.

A motion was also put forward to reimburse Catherine \$1000. The motion was put forward by Kim and seconded by Kathy.

4. School council

The School Council was addressed by the SRC informing them that they will be starting an Anti litter campaign around the school. For 5 minutes after lunch music will be played through out the school while the students pick up rubbish.

Multicultural day raised a total of \$2000

Peer Mediation training has begun targeting low level conflicts beginning with year 7, 8 and 9.

Preparations and process involved in Presentation Day are being discussed and how it can be improved.

5. Principal's Report and Executive staff

Online Banking is now available and on the school website for parents and students to use.

Ms Dwyer explained that the Year 12 Presentation day will be held on the 18th of September. The whole days programme has been outlined and planned. An outdoor assembly will be held in the morning with the whole school present from 9 – 10.30am this will then be followed at 11am to 12.30pm in the hall where Graduation Certificates will be presented along with a year 12 musical performance, speeches etc.

A lunch will follow on the senior lawn. All other students will be dismissed at 1.30.

Mr Khurshed informed the P&C that the school is looking at communication and engagement with the community. The programme “Local School Local Discussions” It involves accepting social networking and looking at the use of Facebook and twitter links with the school. The programme involves engaging the community and expanding the ability of more parents and members of the community including other ethnic groups therefore increasing overall engagement.

Tim, Caitlin and other staff have attended courses which relate to communication . Future Principles and executive staff members will have to include community consultation with focus groups in planning for the schools future strategic plans.

6. Fundraising Committee

Trivia night to be held on the 6th of September and the theme chosen for the night is Star Wars.

The fathers day Stall will be held helpers needed please contact Linda.

7. Instrumental Music Programme Report:

There are about 12-15 students away for the Chinese tour therefore the Orchestra will be diminished for a few weeks.

Two tunes performed by Jordan Mallia were recorded by the JMC Academy, which went well

8.General News and Other Business

The contribution letter is being drawn up and will be out soon.

The last citizenship ceremony will be held this Thursday August 21st.

Next Meeting: October 21st.

Meeting closed: 9.15 pm