

St MARY STAR OF THE SEA COLLEGE

P & F Meeting Minutes 9 June 2016

Attendance: Susan Adams, Scott Sutton, Tom Cuoco, Emma Magill, Anna Tomasiello, Elizabeth Cavdarovski, Lisa Torchia, Karin Sylvester, Jennifer Bean, Angela Hunter, Alfred Ruzunga, Rob Anderson

Apologies: Frank Pitt, Catherine Sutton

1. Welcome and opening prayer

2. Minutes of previous meeting:
Accepted Scott Sutton, Seconded Rob Anderson.

3. Correspondence – Funding request
A request was received from Mr Robson on behalf of his daughter Holly. This matter was carried forward to general business.

4. Treasurer's Report
Report attached.
Accepted Lisa Torchia, Seconded Tom Cuoco

5. President's Report
Report attached.
Accepted Angela Hunter, Seconded Scott Sutton

6. Pastoral Care Report
A general discussion occurred on the value of the pastoral care program and the various services it provides. If parents/friends would like to contribute to the meal program they can contact Catherine Sutton either directly or via the office. As there is currently a request for meals, it would be timely to contact Catherine if people are interested in supporting this valuable program.

7. P&F Events update.
All outstanding invoices for the Year 7 BBQ are now paid, There was a general discussion on the success of the event with thanks to all involved in organizing it.

The next event will be the Graduation Lunch held at 'The Lagoon' for Year 12 students, friends and family after Graduation Mass. This event is being organized by Cathie Martin and is an eagerly anticipated event on the calendar.

8. Principal's Report

Report attached. Emma Magill kindly presented the Principal's Report on behalf of Dr Frank Pitt.

Accepted: Rob Anderson, Seconded Alfred Ruzunga

9. General Business

Funding requests

(a) Holly Robson

Holly Robson will be representing Australia with her dance company 'Street Beats' at the World Hip Hop championships in Las Vegas. The P&F Guidelines were consulted in the discussion on Mr Robson's application on behalf of his daughter. Mr Robson raised two matters, the meeting agreed to consider the first matter which was seeking financial support for Holly Robson. The second matter of the Street Beats company applying to conduct fundraising workshops with the school was referred to the school.

Rob Anderson moved a motion that the P&F support Holly Robson in her hip hop dancing championships according to guidelines to the amount of \$800. Seconded Lisa Torchia, motion carried unanimously.

(b) Duke of Edinburgh program – Darren Grant

Darren Grant outlined the principles of the Duke of Edinburgh program and the benefits to the participating girls. In the past the school has used a private company to provide equipment and supervision with a cost to parents of ~\$300 per camp. Darren proposed that an alternative is for the school to run the program in-house using staff supervision and having a pool of camping equipment available for parents to hire for their girls to use. The equipment would include: 3 man tents; backpacks; butane burner and pots, sleeping mat, wet weather gear.

Rob Anderson moved a motion that the P&F provide \$8939 towards the provision of camping gear for the use in outdoor education.

Seconded Tom Cuoco, motion carried unanimously.

Other general business:

Discussion occurred on the Mothers' Day Dinner. The total funds raised on the night are unknown because the night was organized by the school (Marie Pulford) rather than the P&F. The funds raised on the night will go to the Alumni to distribute to charities. It was agreed that it was a great evening.

Next meeting: 30 August 2016

Treasurer's Report: Calendar 2016 to May 31st

1. Cheque Account (in Dollars)

OPENING BALANCE:			138,931.16
RECEIPTS:	31/3	Interest	58.87
	13/5	P&F Levy #1	47,162.00
TOTAL INCOME:			47,220.87

EXPENSES:

Cheque No.	Date	Description	Amount
751938	2/3	Yr12 Grad Lunch - Lagoon Deposit	1,000.00
751939	23/2	St Marys College: College Cross, Gym equipment, others	107,216.35
751940	18/3	Yr7 BBQ - Chicko's Chickens	363.80
751941	15/3	Yr7 BBQ - Packaging Direct	112.29
751942	16/3	Yr7 BBQ - Coniston Bakery	243.00
751943	5/4	Yr7 BBQ - Kieraville Butchery	340.00
751944	14/3	Yr7 BBQ - Scott Sutton - reimburse drinks, other costs	84.50
751945	18/3	Yr7 BBQ - Hasties Meats	145.00
751946	17/3	Student Grant - E.F. - Air Cheerleading in Hawaii	240.00
751947	15/3	Student Grant - O.M. - Air Cheerleading in Hawaii	240.00
751948	23/3	Student Grant - X.P. - Air Cheerleading in Hawaii	240.00
751949	21/3	Student Grant - G.B. - Air Cheerleading in Hawaii	240.00
751950	18/3	Student Grant - K.D. - Air Cheerleading in Hawaii	240.00
751951	???	St Mary College - Reimbursement of 2015 purchases - PENDING -	46,187.40
TOTAL EXPENSES:			156,892.94

BALANCE:	+29,259.09
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2. Term Deposit Account (in Dollars)

OPENING BALANCE			191,749.69
RECEIPTS:	24/3	Interest	1,290.76
TOTAL INCOME:			+1,290.76

WITHDRAWALS:

Cheque No.	Date	Description	Amount
		Nil	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:			0.00

BALANCE:	+193,040.45
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TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE:	+222,299.54
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WELCOME PARENTS AND STAFF

Firstly I'd like to thank the committee for standing again and to Jennifer Bean who has agreed to take on the role of Secretary. I fully understand the extra effort required to fulfil the roles on the committee.

Year 12 half yearly reports have been distributed and parent teachers interviews held. It was great to receive these reports electronically via SEQTA. Thank you to the Year 12 teachers for the great level of feedback provided. I have found SEQTA a really easy way of keeping up to date with my daughter's workload and progress and encourage you to jump on line and have a look at it. We wish our HSC students well over the next 15 weeks as they prepare for the HSC.

Our next event will be the Grad Lunch on 20 September at the Lagoon, and Cathie Martin will kindly take on the organisation of this event again this year. The lunch will be held following the Graduation Mass. Invitations will go out early Term 3 and as was the case last year students will be organising their own tables.

Thank you for attending, and please don't hesitate to contact me directly should you like to discuss anything concerning the P&F.

Susan Adams

P&F Meeting 9 June, 2016

Report from Principal

My apologies for not being at the meeting this evening, however, I will be away with other Diocesan Principals and the Bishop. I am grateful to Miss Magill for filling in and providing the P&F with an update on life at the College. Term 2 is moving along smoothly, with the girls engaged in a variety of learning and assessment tasks and both formative and summative assessments being completed to give teachers and students an indication of progress and areas that need further attention. This term is traditionally far more settled, as we are able to focus on more predictable aspects of school life and learning and teaching. Our Year 11 girls are going through the process of electing the 2017 school leaders. This is always an exciting time in the College as girls consider the many opportunities for leadership that are available in Year 12 and the possibilities such opportunities might hold for them as they consider their HSC commitments.

AGM - May 3 2016

The Annual General Meeting St Mary's Company was held on Monday 3 May and this was another successful celebration of the work that we have done throughout the 2015 school year. The Company members and the Board spent much of the day at the College, discussing our progress in 2015, joining the staff for morning tea and participating in a College assembly. The Members were delighted with the work being done in the College and they strongly affirmed the Board, the staff and most importantly the girls on the wonderful contribution that they make to St Mary's College. This was an excellent day and one that provided us all with the opportunity to reflect with pride on our year and to identify the opportunities and challenges that 2016 will provide.

Enrolments 2017

We have interviewed over 230 girls who are interested in joining the College as Year 7 students in 2017. There is a sense among the staff conducting the interviews that the girls have made up their minds that St Mary's is the school for them and that the enthusiasm shown by the girls indicates a very promising group of candidates for next year. The girls I interviewed were certainly very excited by the prospect of becoming St Mary's girls and the families were quite nervous about the prospect of their daughters not gaining a place. During the interviews parents were generally well informed about the MYP and were excited by the possibilities that this program offered. It would appear that enrolments will continue to be healthy in 2017.

St Mary's SRC

The St Mary's SRC have been busy throughout the year organising a variety of different awareness raising and fundraising events in the College. A new initiative that the girls introduced was the concept of a Good Samaritan picnic involving each of the College's. This was

not a fundraising event; rather it was an opportunity for each of the Colleges to work in solidarity and to reflect on what it means to be students in a Good Samaritan College. As a result each College held a picnic in their grounds on the week commencing 15 May. I heard wonderful stories from the Principals of the various Colleges talking about the plans their girls had put in place to support this initiative. The most touching was the joint picnic being held between students from Mater Dei and St Pat's on the St Patrick's College campus. I felt very proud hearing principal's speak about how their girls were responding to this initiative planned and brought to life by our SRC Captains.

Pastoral Care

Our pastoral programs continue to focus on the area of positive relationships, with each other, within our various communities and within our families. Much work has been done with senior students over recent weeks on looking after themselves and ensuring that they are treating themselves well. Our counselling staff and our pastoral teams have been conducting workshops in the areas of stress management, wellness and healthy work and study habits. Anxiety is an issue for many girls in the College and working with students and families in this sensitive area can be difficult. We continue to provide staff with opportunities for training and support and our staff mentoring program has been focusing on this issue and its impact on the learning and teaching process. If your daughter is having any problems in this area, please talk to their House Coordinator as there are strategies and processes that can be put in place to support your daughter.

Board of Studies Inspection

The College will be inspected by the Board of Studies for registration and accreditation this year. As a result, all of our documentation, including policies, assessment schedules, scope and sequence charts, programs, work samples and various other requirements had to be lodged by the 31 March. The result was that staff worked quite intensively for much of Term 1 on projects besides what would normally be expected at the start of a new school year. Board Inspectors will visit us in August to view our facilities, visit classrooms and talk with Heads of Departments and teachers about teaching and learning at St Mary's. This is a five yearly process and one that always goes well, however, it does keep us on our toes and allows us to reflect intensively on learning and teaching at the College.

Learning Experience

The NAPLAN tests for students in Year 7 and 9 were conducted from the 10 – 12 May. As you are aware, the areas tested are reading, writing and language conventions (spelling, punctuation and grammar) and two tests in numeracy – a calculator allowed test and a non-calculator test. The tests seem to have been trouble free for the vast majority of our students with very few issues raised and the girls appeared calm and relaxed throughout the test period. While this is a disruptive time in the College, as classes are cancelled or moved, areas are out of bounds and timetables are changed, by and large, NAPLAN ran very smoothly.

I had the opportunity to join a focus group of Year 7 students who had been selected to provide their insights into the MYP and how they were coping with the program. The students were overwhelmingly positive about their classes and the way teachers were implementing their courses. While they found the workload to have increased significantly from primary school, they all stated that they were enjoying working and studying in a different way and they were very satisfied with the opportunities the program provided. The girls spoke about the experiences the MYP offered, talking positively about the language program, the focus on global perspectives and the different ways of working in classrooms.

College Website

The College is in the process of developing a new website. Marie Pulford, who looks after Marketing, Enrolments and a variety of other areas in the College is leading this project. The focus of the new website is to try and capture the energy and enthusiasm of the girls in their various endeavours in ways that give people a sense of the great things that happen at the College and to give an insight into the wonderful community that we are part of. I will continue to update the P&F on the website as it continues to take shape.

Best wishes for a relaxing long weekend and, hopefully, a peaceful and trouble free end of Term. I look forward to being in attendance at the next P&F meeting in Term 3.

Best wishes

Frank Pitt
Principal