

St. Patrick's College Parents & Friends' Association

General Meeting, Tuesday, 20 June 2017

Welcome: Greg welcomed all and thanked them for their interest in the Association and attendance at the meeting.

Opening Prayer: *Priceless Gifts You Can Give*

Meeting Chair: Greg Boon

Minute Taker: Stephen Burke

Status of Minutes: The minutes of the General Meeting held on Tuesday, 20 June 2017 will be distributed in draft form and approved at the next meeting.

Attendees: Greg Boon, Simon McInerney, Stephen Burke, James Byrne, Tony Daley (Principal), Ann Viney (Life Member), Janette Kenyon, Adriana Sorman, Filomena Brown

Apologies: Nil

Previous Minutes: Minutes from the Executive Meeting held on the Tuesday, 21 February 2017 were tabled.

Decision: The minutes were true and correct

Proposed: James Byrne **Seconded:** Ann Viney

Business Arising from Minutes:

- a. Undertake a Review of the Constitution (Action Item 1/17)

Extensive efforts to locate the current version of the Constitution have been unsuccessful and it was agreed that rather than continue the search, efforts should now focus on developing a new Constitution based on contemporary models elsewhere in the Catholic school system.

Action: Tony Daley undertook to use his network of school Principals to obtain contemporary models in use at other Catholic schools.

- b. Re-Branding of SPP&FA Stationary (Action Item 13/17)

Action: Stephen Burke agreed to follow up with Tina Boon to confirm status of College re-branding exercise.

c. Changes to Management of SPP&FA Finances (Action Item 6/17)

James Byrne advised that he had clarified the requirements to close the SPP&FA account with the CDF and transfer the funds to the College. He also advised that both he and Janette Kenyon were authorized signatories for the cheque account.

Decision: It was agreed that both James Byrne and Ann Viney should be authorized to use the SPP&FA Third Party Account (managed within the College accounting system) once it was established and that it be monitored through a monthly statement provided to the Treasurer.

Action: Proposal for approval of authorized persons once arrangements are confirmed (James Byrne).

Correspondence In: Hockey-related correspondence.

Decision: Forwarded to the Hockey Coordinator for the College.

Correspondence Out: Nil

Treasurer's Report: James Byrne advised that there were three accounts outstanding where payment had been delayed due to uncertainty over the approach to be used and he was very keen to finalise these payments/reimbursements.

Action: Stephen Burke to arrange a meeting with the Business Manager and the relevant College Officer (Michelle) to facilitate payments/reimbursements and confirm ongoing arrangements.

The Treasurer tabled the following documents:

- A statement of the Association's financial position as at 20 June 2017

Decision: Statement of current financial position is accepted.

Proposed: James Byrne

Seconded: Janette Kenyon

Principal's Report: Tony Daley focused his report on the current management approach to bullying within the College. For information, Tony tabled two documents; *Anti-Bullying And Harassment Policy: Students* and *Anti-Bullying And Harassment Policy: Students Implementation Plan*.

As a high order priority after his appointment, Tony undertook a review and update of the bullying policy in February 2017 and, to ensure its effectiveness, developed a comprehensive implementation plan. A definition of bullying was established within the College community to ensure a common understanding and a positive behavior system was introduced within the curriculum and through other approaches. Cyber-bullying was identified as a key issue and College-wide supervision was facilitated through the development of formal units of learning for staff, e.g. Year 8 lesson on developing resilience. Reporting is encouraged and any responses are undertaken in accordance with the Policy of Restorative Practice.

Performance measures are being developed so that the effectiveness of the Policy in addressing bullying can be understood and data collection is being undertaken, although it is only in its early stages.

In closing, Tony provided an overview on future changes to governance arrangements for the College and briefly discussed what that might mean in terms of opportunities for improvements and changes that might be less beneficial.

Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents Council: Greg provided a report on the success of a recent series of workshops presented by Debbie Pushor on Parental Engagement. The workshops were sponsored by the TCSPC and included programs for both parents and teachers.

An update (and copy of a letter) was also provided on the activities of the TCSPC in advocating to Federal Senators for a fair funding model for Catholic schools in Tasmania and on collaboration with the TCEO in promoting a clear understanding of the funding issues within the broader community. (At this point, Tony Daley gave a brief overview of funding issues with the current model proposed by the Commonwealth, from a purely College perspective.)

Greg advised that the Australian Parents Council (APC) was facilitating a movie night for parents, friends and staff on the ParentTech Program to encourage a greater understanding of technology as it impacts on school communities and students.

For information, Greg also tabled a document that described work undertaken for the U.S. Department of Education that is being promoted by Dr. Karen Mapp of Harvard University; *Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships*.

General Business:

Three matters were raised:

- a. Briefing on SPP&FA direction.

Tony Daley expressed the view that the College needed the SPP&FA to concentrate future efforts on information sharing, feedback and consultation. In this it was important to establish what is important to parents, how to encourage broad parent participation in these activities, and what issues are of concern e.g. drugs.

- b. Canteen food quality:

There was brief discussion on this issue. Adriana Sorman observed that 'unhealthy food' continued to be sold in the Canteen, and that College camps still allowed the use of energy drinks, but acknowledged that prepared food is progress towards healthier options.

In response Tony Daley advised that he felt the quality of food and management of the Canteen were outstanding and feedback from users was highly favourable. Every effort was made to provide appealing options for students and staff to select from that met good health and food nutrition guidelines/objectives.

- c. Management approach to bullying.

Refer Principal's Report.

Meeting Closed: 9.20pm.

Next meeting: General Meeting on Tuesday, 15 August 2017, at 7.30pm

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

St. Patrick, Pray for us/St. Mary MacKillop, Pray for us.