

**ARNDELL ANGLICAN COLLEGE
PARENTS & FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 7th NOVEMBER 2007**

Attendees:

Dr John Goddard, Donna Pellew, Justine McAlpine, Lisa Barnes, Veronica Bittendorfer, Doug Spence, Carla Panos, Zoi Papatheodora, Colin Thompson, Natalie Doyle, Sue Hogan, Eleni Solomou

Apologies:

Kalita Van Ewyk, Neile Thompson

Meeting opened at 7.10pm

Opening Prayer by Dr Goddard

Minutes were reviewed and accepted from the previous meeting held on the 5th September 2007.

Moved: Lisa Barnes

Seconded: Natalie Doyle

1: Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

- Equestrian Carnival – was cancelled in 2007 due to "Horse Flu". It will be rescheduled in 2008.
- Girls Stocking –Advised that Uniform Committee have decided that Navy will remain the colour.
- School Scheduling:- Dr Goddard mentioned that all departments have discussed concerns with clashes

2: HEADMASTER COMMENTS

- Dr Goddard apologise for not attending Monday AM Parent Forum
- Fun Day- Congratulation to the "*Fun Day Committee*"; at this stage all report are that everything is going extremely well , with the 2nd Hand Book store well stocked and will return a 100% profit.
- Uniform Shop -Dr Goddard praised Liz Moore's work and congratulated Liz with the improvements regarding the pricing and quality. Still Volunteers needed
- Carol Service- Reminded Parents that the School Carol Service will be held on the 7th December in the Performing Arts Building.
- 2008 Dates- Term dates for 2008 are now finalised and available, will be published in Advocate. Dr Goddard discussed how the School Year is broken up with students attending 186 days per year with Staff having an additional 8 "*development*" days.
- School building plans – no major plans projected for 2008 as we try and reduce borrowing.
 - i. Some minor work will start at the North Richmond site but still need Council Approval.
 - ii. Ground Staff is requesting an equipment shed/workshop.
 - iii. Uniform shop needs to be improved with increased stock holding the current site is too small.
- Accreditation & Registration- 2008 the school will be up for inspection. Last assessment was 2002. Board of studies are very strict on Independent Schools, all aspects of the school will be looked at. The school will then be accredited for 5 years. Dr Goddard expects inspections to take place Term 2-3

3: P&F REPORT -by Donna Pellew

- Donna Pellew thanked everyone for their support throughout the year, attending Parent Forums or Functions
 - Through the money raised the P&F have been able to purchase several items as requested from different departments. Some of the donations are:
 - i. English Department received a new DVD player & TV
 - ii. After School Care new toys & refrigerator
 - iii. Infants department new floor paintings including Hopscotch, which have proven very popular

iv. New sporting Equipment & Jerseys

- Pavers – Great response, this project will commence Early 2008 working on the area in front of the Year 3 Classes. This project was larger than expected. P&F are working with the Ground Committee. Another suggestion has been that Pavers be sold to Past & Present Year 12 students and they can be used in a BBQ/Common Area that has been requested to be built.
- Taste Testing – A thank you to the Parents of Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 who participated in the Cereal Taste Testing. The P&F will be receiving a cheque for approximately \$650.
- Request has been put forward that a Trophy Cabinet be purchased for the Performing Arts Building, students did extremely well at Hawkesbury Eisteddfod and it would be nice to have Trophies on display
- Wood Work Department – will be having a stand and the P&F will match any funds raised. The P&F encourage other departments to do this.
- Functions for 2008 – Planned functions include
 - i. Tea & Tissues for first day of School, to welcome new families and Kindy mums
 - ii. Walk-a-Thon in Term 2,
 - iii. Dinner/Dance – To encourage Meet & Greet
 - iv. Trivia Night – End Term 2
 - v. Golf Day – August
 - vi. Fun Day – November
- **P&F TREASURER REPORT** – Presented by Donna Pellew
 - Discussed the main Fun Raising Events (including the Uniform Shop) and amounts raised (Detailed report attached and available on request). In total the P&F have raised approximately \$77,000

4. General Business:

• EXAM DATES

i) Junior School -Parents concerned that change of Exam dates had not been noted. Year 4 exams in particular had been changed to spread exams out, but no notice was given that exams were brought forward. Some parents thought exam timing with Musical was a concern as a lot of time at the start of this term was spent on Musical Rehearsal/practice instead of revision.

ii) High School – Parents concerned that Students did not get Timetables. More notice would be appreciated. If possible it would be great to receive a schedule at the end of Term 3. Parents concerned that too many exams were crammed into each day, this placed a lot of stress on students.

Parents also mentioned that students that were not sitting exams but were in the hall at the same time were distracting the students that were sitting exams. Mentioned that it would be preferred if they could be separated.

○ Dr Goddard responded and discussed why the Exams had been scheduled this way, saying that students were very distracted after lunch returning to normal classes and explained that the timetable was better structured to accommodate 3 exams/day

- **ADVOCATE NEWSLETTER** – Email system does not seem to be working, people who attended Forum said it often was not read. Dr Goddard reminded parents that you can request a paper copy to be sent home. Comments made that a School Calendar be sent out monthly to advise up & coming events. Parents are concerned that events are overlooked & insufficient time given as parents do not check emails regularly and are not reading their emails until after the date.
- **FIRST AID** – Discussed what First Aid Training teachers have. Dr Goddard advised teachers have courses every year to keep them up to date. Discussed when parents expected to be advised of injuries and suggested a simple note be raised to be sent home with children when they attend “sick bay”.
- **UNIFORMS** - Parents expressed that they thought more Discipline was needed with students who do not comply with the school uniform policy. Concerned were raised with obvious things not being corrected eg/ tights under dresses, coloured headbands, ballet shoes. Dr Goddard ensured parents that teachers are working together on this matter.

- **DISCIPLINE** – Parents raised concerns that students that are disrupting classes are not being disciplined. Discussed that more notes need to be sent home to offending students and tougher penalties apply. More parent involvement and discussion on school policy. If students don't want to follow these rules then leave.
- **SCHOOL IMAGE** – Concerns about the school image.
 - Why are parents withdrawing their children?
It was discussed that a small % would be related to money. Dr Goddard is very frustrated and doesn't have the answers, mentioning that the BAS results were above State standard. Parents were concerned that the "interviewing" process was not important. Dr Goddard assured the Forum that not every student is accepted into the school, also mentioning that students have been told to leave recently.
 - What can be done?
Suggestions were congratulate/award the students that do follow the school rules. Use the school notice board more. Try and get into local papers more regular for students that excel for sports, arts etc. Publish and have available school Test results on school website for BAS, ELLA & HSC so parents can be reassured
- **TEACHERS-** There will be some staff movements in 2008, several staff have moved onto better opportunities that could not be offered at Arndell (eg/Heads of Departments). Parents feel that some teachers are flat, but also mentioned that some of the staff are outstanding!
- **LEARNING SUPPORT-** Discussions about not enough Learning support Teachers or Teachers Aids. That concerns that both the brighter (LEAP) students and the struggling students are not getting enough support.
- **ARNDELL 20TH ANNIVERSARY** – Dr Goddard opened the Challenge to start to think what the school Community should do to celebrate the 20th Anniversary in 2010.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Mrs Donna Pellew
Chairperson