

# ARNDELL ANGLICAN COLLEGE PARENTS & FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – AM MEETING

### Attendees:

Rick Harrison, Donna Pellew, Justine McAlpine, Cheryl Mount, Elizabeth Sheridan, Diane Elven, Sharon Fitzgerald, Megan Mansfield, Penny Miller, Suzanne Glinn, Vicki Clayton, Kerry-Ann Steiuhour, Gillian Van Der Eyk, Anne Sandell, Marianne Thornton, Paul Rodgers, Jillian Carpenter

### Apologies:

Anna Giarratono

### Meeting opened at 9:25am

### Minutes were accepted from the previous meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2007.

Moved by Cheryl Mount

### Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

- Megan Mansfield discussed that funds raised by Entertainment Book and Fish & Chip days had help pay for the painting on the concrete in the infants playground, which all children are enjoying. Also purchased new sport equipment and school jersey. Cricket pitch has been put on hold.

### General Business:

#### Family Fun Day:

Committee still need a lot more volunteers, suggested that it would be a good idea to approach staff. Arm bands are on sale before school until 9<sup>th</sup> November, outside student service building. Otherwise everything going well.

### Other Business:

- **SCHOOL IMAGE**

Concerns were raised about the current school image in the community. It was discussed that Arndell is getting negative feedback and parents are concerned about what is happening. Several parents believe the school has changed in the last 4 years.

The following points were raised as concerns:-

- Teachers – some parents felt that teachers have lost their enthusiasm, that replacement teacher have not been as good as previous teachers (French & music highlighted).
- Issues not being handled correctly and followed through- not enough communication with parents
- Learning Difficulties not being addressed
- School academic performances – concerned that we were falling behind due to the higher number of students with lower learning abilities
- Discipline issues- more so in year 6 and high school students- parents feel that students have no respect, that around bus stop area the language is horrible and there is the constant pushing and shoving. Not enough staff in the afternoon to police this.
- Uniform – parents concerned with teachers not doing enough to enforce school rules in regards to hair colour & tidiness.

- Bullying – concerns again about what is done with Bullies – Parent were told of Bully Policy

**In response to the above concerns Rich Harrison discussed:**

- Next year, and every year the school Diary is change to help cover Uniform changes to make it easy for students to know what is correct. 2008 Diary will have 3 pages for uniform.
- Discussed that the JNR school playground is now broken up into stages to help eliminate clashes with students.
- In 2008 there will be 6 extra Prefects, 1 for each JNR School class to help work with students and teachers. It was suggested that these students report to the teachers about students that are not complying with uniform rules. Parents also thought that the High School should follow this idea, as teenagers will listen more to peers than teachers regarding uniform etc.
- In 2008 a new Peer Support/Buddy program will run, still working through stages. Kindy & Year 6 will stay the same as in the past. It was suggested that maybe Year 10 or 9 should work with Year 6 to encourage students working together.
- Academic results have improved this year for Basic Skill. Currently the school has a high number of students with learning Disabilities, but due to the Building work and the huge debt currently in the school does not have any funds for extra "Support Teachers". Parents would much rather put improvements on hold and pay for more teachers.
- French will cease for K-2 next year. Also a new teacher will join the school
- Year 6 this year have been a challenge BUT Mr Harrison feels that they have improved a lot from the start of the year and the problem has been on going.
- Mr Harrison encourages parents to put concerns in writing and follow through.
  
- A new Parent discussed that she was extremely happy with the school, coming from the Public system she was impressed with what Arndell is offering her children.

- **SURVEYS**

Parents suggested that surveys be completed again to monitor changes from 12 months ago. Parents also said that it was important that the survey results be discussed, suggested a follow up Information Forum to discuss the results. Also, make available a section where parents can request to be contacted regarding their concerns.

- **TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS**

It was raised what qualification the teachers have to be employed at Arndell. A parent had been told that a teacher was not qualified. Mr Harrison discussed but could not comment on all staff.

- **UNIFORM SHOP**

Liz Moore still looking for Volunteers.

- **EXAM DATES**

Parents concerned that change of Exam dates had not been noted, in future a good idea to advice. Year 4 in particular had been changed to spread exams out, but no notice was given that exams were brought forward.

Meeting closed at 10:40am.

Mrs Donna Pellew  
Chairperson