

Waverley College Parent Association Meeting

Term 3: Tuesday 8 August 2023

Minutes

Meeting commenced: 5.07pm

1. Acting President: Jade Stapleton

- a) Welcome and thanks.
- b) Acknowledgement of Country.
- c) Minutes of previous meeting on **Tuesday 9 May 2023** accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.
- d) Welcome to Billy Nicolas, new Foundation Officer.
- e) Apologies: **Stephen Ghattas**

2. Business Arising from the previous meeting.

- a) Secondhand clothing off to a good start. Has raised approximately \$13,000 to date.
- b) The recent Health Week was a success and welcomed by the boys. Some refinements to be made to program next year.

3. Thank you to Jade and Welcome Louise Lakomy

- a) Jade thanked by Daniella Strbac (on behalf of the Committee and School) and by Graham Leddie for her generous contribution and support to the Committee and to the School generally.
- b) Welcome Louise as new President. Louise is Liam's Mum. Liam started this year at the School in year 7. Louise also thanked Jade for all her work.

4. Principal: Graham Leddie

- a) Graham has recently returned from extended leave. During his leave he attended the Edmund Rice Congress at Dublin University. It was an enriching experience that Graham can bring to the School.
- b) Teacher shortages have been a real challenge for the School. Shortages are a world wide issue. In particular STEM teachers are very hard to recruit. In Australia the applicants from overseas haven't come back post COVID.
- c) Keeping a positive morale and mindset with the Teachers is a goal and strategy to retain teaching staff.

- d) The School has offered 2 intern placements for 3rd year Sydney university students.
- e) Government funding restructures have presented challenges to the School funding. Funding shortfalls need to be made up by fees, also the School is looking to increase its fund raising efforts. It is School policy to be transparent where funds are used.
- f) The new Science Centre is aimed to open in term 4 of 2024 (at a cost of \$35M), subject to funding availability. Graham ran through the design and use of the Centre and construction costs.
- g) There has been a big demand for microwave oven use at the School. The School is supportive of boys preparing meals and healthy eating. The School is installing 17 microwave ovens and setting up a new area where the Tevlin Lockers were.
- h) NAPLAN: Improvement in writing. Awaiting further data before any further meaningful reporting.
- i) There will be continued focus on strategies to keep the boys active e.g. new basketball hoops in quadrangle area. But spare space is an issue.
- j) Teacher interviews were discussed.

Q&A

Question: Will building the Science Center disrupt the School? **Answer:** The location of the Centre means disruption and noise will be minimal.

Question: Will the Science Centre take away Teacher carparks? **Answer:** Priority for space is student use. Carparks will be affected by the development but options are being reviewed. Providing Teacher carparks is an important incentive for Teachers.

Question: Does the School have a teacher shortage? **Answer:** School currently has full complement of staff but it is a daily challenge.

Question: What is the short to medium term strategy to improve STEM at the School? **Answer:** School is putting more rigor into STEM. School has 22 subject markers for HSC which is a positive sign.

Question: What is the plan with Parent Teacher Interviews going forward? **Answer:** School is currently assessing and evaluating both format and timing. It does place a great burden on Teachers. School is looking into optimal use of Teacher time and parent/student experience.

Question: It would be helpful to see class averages on CANVAS? **Answer:** Graham will look into it and report back.

5. Deputy Principal (Students): Gabrielle Smith

- a) Recent surveys indicate the average Waverley boy is only having on average 6 to 7 hours of sleep per day. Studies have shown that 8 to 10 hours is essential to reduce anxiety and stress.

- b) School psychologists are preparing programs to assist Boys to deal with anxiety and stress.
- c) Mobile phones will be banned from the School from term 4. This will be broadcast to boys in following week. The meeting discussed, pros and cons of this policy and issues with enforcement.
- d) With the mobile phone ban, School wants to ensure boys are active at lunch and not relying on laptops at lunch/recess.

6. Other Business:

- a) All future meetings to be face to face. Meetings to start at 5PM in consideration of Teacher time. It was acknowledged that the 5PM might make it difficult for some parents to attend. Morning meetings (7:30AM start) to be considered for next year.
- b) Prior to next meeting Louise and Peter will work on a budget for next year. Budget to be approved at next meeting.

Meeting closed: 6.42pm

Next meeting: AGM 1 November 2023, 5PM