

**THORNLEIGH WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL
MINUTES P&C MEETING
10th February, 2009**

Meeting Opened: 8.05pm

Present: As per attendance sheet

Apologies: Dana Logiudice, Jo Jennings, Jenny Young, Jenny Robertshaw

Correspondence: Cheque from insurer to cover costs of spoiled food in canteen.

Minutes of last meeting: Accepted by Margaret Cother, Seconded Suzi Knowles .

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Band Committee procedures – Bronwyn will be putting these in writing.

Flooding outside hall (Lake Thornleigh) – needs drainage and floating with concrete. Trees have lifted the concrete in this area. This will cost about \$1000. Please refer to more information in the Principal's Report

REPORTS

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Tabled by Phillip Wills

The children have started the year calm, involved and engaged. Student numbers are at 550, five down on last year at the same time. There are 82 kindergarten students, down from 96 in 2008. Initial interviews held for the kindergarten children have given the teachers a good idea of initial levels of literacy and numeracy. The Annual School Report was distributed in week 2. The After School Care building has been painted and will have external lights installed in the next week or so. Since the staffing and salaries dispute there have been some changes. The last 2 days of the year will be reserved for staff development days (end of school year for students will change to Wed 16th Dec) and teacher transfers are still available combined with some principal choice. Information nights are happening next week from 6pm. More details will be published in the Wednesday Weekly. The swimming carnival will be held on the 20th Feb. Due to changes instigated by the DET and Hornsby pool there is no free swim and no novelty race. A survey has been sent home to determine whether or not your child is able to swim competently for 50m. Only swimmers will be going to the carnival. No spectators. Hopefully there will be time for finals. House captains will not be sitting in the pool.

As part of the State Mini-Budget the Director General has promised \$150 million in "The Building Education Revolution" (tabled) to be spent on new facilities and refurbishment in schools. This money will go towards a number of projects including fixing the toilets. This will include a complete refurbishment of the building, replacing the pens, systems, urinals and getting rid of the plastic and replacing with stainless steel.

Stimulus Package – Each year representatives from Asset Management at DET visit the school to estimate maintenance costs. Last year's estimate for Thornleigh West was \$350,000. The school usually only gets about 10% of this. The Stimulus Package is going to provide money to address those repair and maintenance items that were on our list from the Asset Management visit. This does not include new Air Conditioning as it is counted as new expenditure. There will be about

\$200,000 for schools over 440 students. Mr. Wills has included on a list of repair needs:

- Carpets in 5D, 5C, 3L, 6W, 5/6S, RR
- Concrete/drainage outside hall
- Guttering – Blocks A+B+J
- Cricket nets – repair
- Basketball court resurfacings

Other suggestions include: Canteen floor resurfacing, cupboards in Canteen, amphitheatre (can probably fix using School's General Assistant)

TREASURER'S REPORT – Tammy Drew

New signatories for P&C sub-committees need to be organised for bank accounts.

UNIFORM REPORT – Susannah Knowles

There have already been 261 responses for the School Telephone Book. Janda is approaching businesses for sponsorship and will be offering discounts due to the timing of publication. Due to the economic downturn there may be fewer businesses in a position to fund advertising in the telephone book. It is hoped to get the book out by the end of Term 1 but obviously if we are getting "mates rates" for printing we will have to work in with the printer's timetable. Nadia will help organise the names and contact details for class parents.

Dr. Shoe has presented a cheque for \$180. The Uniform Shop has taken \$9000 this year at a rate of 1 item/minute! \$26,000 is in the bank and \$16,000 worth of orders is in. Orders for 2010 Kindergarten needs to be placed soon. The books are ready for auditing and Suzi is working with Suelen on this. As a result of changing the accounting system, the books are being cleared of all debits and credits. Suzi is working with Tammy to simplify the computing system used in the Uniform Shop.

Jenny Robertshaw is resigning as Uniform Shop convener, a position she has held since 2005, and from running the pre-loved clothing department. Since Jenny began this section in January 2006 1700 pre-loved items of school clothing have been sold. This has added up to \$1300 in funds back to the school community. Jenny has worked very hard in the uniform shop and Suzi acknowledged her extremely valuable input and dedication. If anyone is interested in running the pre-loved department (2 volunteers needed) or being Uniform Shop convener, please contact Suzi. Suelen is trying to computerise the pre-loved data.

The Uniform Shop would like some new change rooms and some roll away hanging space. A request for \$1000 has been submitted to the P&C Executive. Suzi will check whether the Hall Committee will pay for this. It would help to be able to lock the try-on clothes away when not in use as these often get soiled when outside groups use the Hall and the Uniform Shop facilities. An ad will be put in the Wednesday Weekly to see if anyone in the school community would be willing to build the change rooms.

The new operating hours are very successful. The Uniform Shop is now open on Tuesday morning from 8.30am to 9.30am and on Wednesday afternoon from 3pm to 4pm.

CANTEEN REPORT – Karyn Dakin

Hy Love will be finishing up in the Canteen on 11th Feb. The position of Canteen Manager has been advertised both internally and externally. Applications close tomorrow. Jo Jennings is sitting on selection panel. Anne-Marie is filling in at the moment.

FUNDRAISING – Janda Tanner

The fundraising goal for Term 1 is \$5500. Last year's Easter Bun drive sold 216 dozen hot cross

buns. This year Janda is using Brumby's instead of Baker's Delight as they are able to deliver to us on the Wednesday before Easter. Buns will be \$13/Dozen. The Easter raffle raised \$1155 in 2008 and the Entertainment books raised \$600. These fundraisers will be run again in 2009. Janda needs 10 volunteers to help with the Hot Cross Bun drive and Mufti day.

Janda raised the question of the Family Fun Day which was very successful last year. Mr. Wills will ask Mr. Gallie re: games organization and check for an appropriate date. Possibly 1st March?

Janda is willing to run the Trivia Night but is looking for volunteers to organize the Yuletide Dinner. This will be advertised in the Wednesday Weekly again this week. If no-one comes forward this event will be cancelled.

Julie Birrell and Jenny Young are organizing the Spring Fair for 2009. Janda, Mr. Wills, Jenny and Julie are meeting on Friday to discuss. August 29th is the proposed date for the Spring Fair.

Janda would like a credit card facility available for the Trivia night and Yuletide dinner. Can we use the machine in the Uniform Shop?

Nadia reminded us that Certificates of Appreciation need to be distributed to the businesses that helped us last year. Nadia will help do these if someone can send her the school logo.

BAND – tabled by Bronwyn Meyer

Dave Bell, a former student, is now Conductor for the Junior Concert Band. The "Orchestra" has started with 7 members with some more possible. The conductor is Gabrielle Williams. At the moment the orchestra is practicing in the uniform shop. The library might be available on Monday afternoons for rehearsals. Adam Tomkins is leading the Training Band and the Senior Concert Band. Derek Barg is conducting the Funk Band.

HALL

Robert is standing down as convener of the Hall Committee. Janda volunteered to be the new convener.

GENERAL BUSINESS

French

Casual Teacher Term 2 – Nadia asked about whether there are any candidates. Mr Wills said there are 2 people who could be suitable. One is a contact via the Reading Recovery teacher, and another casual teacher who is a German speaker who also teaches French.

Folders for French work – apparently some parents complained about buying a folder to put French work in. Mr. Wills said the school would be able to buy these cheaply and could provide.

Security Fences

On the basis of events per term the level of incidents at our school is decreasing. This is possibly due to the people involved getting older and driving elsewhere. We only have a moderate level of security problems at Thornleigh West. Fences are only an option when reaching high levels of security risks. Regarding lighting around the school, it is recommended to have as little as possible to deter troublemakers from setting up camp.

Air Conditioning

Two parents have approached Janda in the last week about the lack of air conditioners in their children's rooms. There are 9 classrooms without air conditioning in block E, 4 upstairs and 5 downstairs. The teachers were asked whether they would prefer to spend money on air conditioning

in their rooms or on Electronic Whiteboards and they voted to have whiteboards which they can utilize for educational purposes for the whole year, rather than air-conditioning which is only used on occasional days during 2-3 months a year. The cost of air conditioning in the upstairs classrooms will be in excess of \$20, 000 and will need to include an electrical upgrade. The building is not able to have ducted air conditioning. Air conditioning for the top floor of block E will be looked at over the next 2-3 years. Last week's heat event is not common and last occurred 50 years ago. There are other rooms available for use for classes without air-conditioning when needed. These include the library, the AV rooms and After School Care.

Crossing Quarter Sessions Road

Dana approached the council for help with this issue. The issue will be discussed it at the next council meeting on 13th of Feb.

Grounds Committee

The Grounds Committee will work with in with the Science and Environment curriculum and allocate sections of the school grounds to particular classes to be responsible for. Mr. Wills is looking for someone to head up the Grounds Committee or, if not, he will lead it himself. There have already been a couple of volunteers. The Grounds Committee will need some funds from the P&C of about \$2000 for plants and equipment.

Subcommittee Member Lists & Signatories

Janice and Tammy need a list of the office bearers and signatories for all P&C subcommittees.

Uniform Shop (Old) – Susannah Knowles, Jenny Robertshaw, Helen Foster, Suelen Hands

Uniform Shop (New) – Susannah Knowles, Helen Foster, Janice Khoo

Canteen (Old) – Hy Love, Jo Jennings, Tracey Chessari, Suelen Hands

Canteen (New) – Tammy Drew, Janice Khoo, Jane Pines

P&C Main Account (Old) – Suelen Hands, Jo Jennings, Nadia Mahon

P&C Main Account (New) – Janice Khoo, Tammy Drew, Jane Pines

CBA Term Deposit (Old) – Suelen Hands, Jo Jennings

CBA Term Deposit (New) – Janice Khoo, Tammy Drew, Jane Pines

MDFDGG (Old) – Rosemary Trenaman, Kathy Stanfield

MDFDGG (New) – Kerrie Smart (Treasurer), Susan Jacobson

P&C Subscriptions

These were \$70 per child and \$100 per family last year. We will keep the prices the same this year in the hope that keeping the costs down will encourage payment.

Meeting closed: 9.35pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 17th March, 2009