

RIVERSIDE GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2007

The meeting was opened at 7.37pm by the President, Cheryl Osborne, who welcomed all present.

Attendees: as per the Attendance Book.

Apologies: Judy King, Val McGarry, Inez Hunt and Cathy Greer.

Minutes of Previous Meeting. These were of the meeting dated 14 March, 2007.

Motion: To accept the minutes as read.

Moved: Sharon Weismantel *Seconded:* Cheryl Osborne CARRIED

The President, Cheryl Osborne welcomed Jenny Haigh, Head Teacher for Teaching and Learning to our meeting.

Jenny Haigh gave a presentation on her role and the programs the school has developed to assist students who require additional support. Jenny Haigh advised all present that she is responsible for Learning Support and Languages.

Riverside Girls has one STLA Teacher, Suzie Ager and two Teacher's Aides. This team operates in consultation with the Head Teacher for Welfare. The transition of Year 6 students into Year 7 for those who have learning disabilities necessitates many meetings between DET, schools and Head Teacher of Teaching and Learning and the Head Teacher of Welfare.

There are five students with disabilities that took part in the transition program. A couple of students have autism.

Jenny Haigh in her role as Head Teacher of Learning Support is to familiarise teachers with the expected behaviour patterns of students with autism and learning disorders. The Year 7 girls participated in a session which offered them information about how these students would behave and the girls were encouraged to accept and celebrate the differences between all students.

Teachers will modify the program for students with learning disabilities in order to assess normal curriculum.

Learning Support Provision

Five Year 7 students are working with the STLA. The benefits for these students is that it will help them to achieve the expected outcomes in the normal curriculum. The information will be placed on the intranet and this will assist the Teachers in adjusting their programs to encompass these students in specific faculties.

Two Teacher's Aides, Jackie Rose and Susan Kingston will help Teachers who have students who need special assistance. The students who need special assistance will monitor students before school and at lunch time.

One Teacher's Aide spends 1 week with a student and writes a report to develop a program for students with specific learning difficulties.

The STLA, Suzie Ager works 3 days per week and has assessed Year 7 and has identified the Year 7 students who have learning support needs. All Year 7 students undertook the Neale Analysis assessment which assesses the reading age, reading accuracy, reading rate and comprehension. The results of this test identified 18 students who would benefit from 2 x 40 minute periods per week. Year 8 students will be tested next to ascertain if any girls in that year require additional support.

Special Provisions

Riverside Girls has some students who need access to special provisions, for example, extra time to complete tests, a reader, scribe/writer, computer etc. A database will be developed and will be placed on the intranet to assist with assessment tasks.

Life Skills

Some students will not be assessed by the normal outcomes. Modified outcomes will assess students who cannot meet the outcomes of the normal curriculum. Teachers will select the tasks for the students to do in order for them to meet the modified outcomes. This will assist the transition from school to community and help them find a pathway into the community. They may consider TAFE courses and work placements as options.

Professional Learning

Professional learning occurs across all curriculum areas. Support teachers modify the curriculum. For example, stage 6 has 13 outcomes for English and includes

- study text in context and compare
- Look at techniques
- Analyse
- Technologies used

The life skills student would be assessed using the following outcomes

- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Student can respond to a situation

Students who undertake the Life skills program do not receive a HSC, however, they do receive a report.

Question from parents:

Q: Can parents raise concerns and would their daughter be tested?

A: Yes, the parent, student and Jenny Haigh would meet and discuss the areas of concern.

Q: How do students receive support?

A: There are 8 groups of students currently receiving support. They have 2 x 40 minute lessons per week. They attend normal classes for the other 38 lessons. All Year 7 students undertook the "Torch test". This assesses the students reading, writing, understanding and comprehension skills.

Q: Will parents be given the results of this test?

A: Essentially no. Peggy advised the parents that this is only one test and students do have good and bad days and this was conducted in the first few days of the girls attending high school.

Parents expressed concerns regarding the formation of these groups and also that they would not be informed about the results of the tests. The parents felt that they should be privy to this information, that is, the results of the tests as they felt they were responsible citizens and considered they could also make appropriate judgements.

Peggy acknowledged the parents perspectives on this issue and added that some girls may have been nervous, apprehensive etc and this has the potential to skew results. The school does not want any student to be labelled. The results are an indication to the school and the most preferred method is to work with the girls to overcome any shortcomings that have been highlighted. It may well be that some girls only need to work with the STLA for a short period of time and others may need a little longer. Peggy asked the parents to trust the school's judgement.

Jenny Haigh is also the Head Teacher for Languages and advised that girls have the opportunity to learn Spanish, Italian and German. The study in Year 8 is mandatory and it is considered by DET to be a 100 hour subject.

Question from parents:

Q: Can you explain the level of support for students who study a language that is not offered by the school?

A: Students would do a language through the Open High School basically by correspondence. Students will receive tapes, notes etc. Teachers are based at a school and students can contact them. An appropriate allocation of lesson time will be scheduled in the timetable. Students could go to the library or to the senior study area. Students who wish to study through the Open High School need to be able to self manage and be very independent learners. Most students who do a language are background speakers and come from NESB.

Q: How are students coping who have autism in Year 7?

A: Jenny Haigh advised that it is ongoing. They are developing a story book for behaviour. The situations are lessening and advised that autistic children will always have difficulties. Jenny advised that she is not satisfied with the level of funding the school is receiving for these students.

The President, Cheryl Osborne thanked Jenny Haigh for attending the P&C meeting and felt the presentation was extremely worthwhile for all parents.

Mr Rick Lovegrove, gave a brief update on the progress of the environment projects and introduced Jill Mathers who is prepared to take on the environment and grounds position.

Mr Lovegrove asked was there any possibility of having a working bee this term. Rick advised that we have received 2 extra mulch deliveries since the last working bee. A major project which needs undertaking is the eradication of the asparagus fern. Jill advised she will investigate what environmental sprays are available and perhaps sprays that can be used with backpacks. Rick advised that the eradication of asthma weed also needs to be undertaken.

A parent asked if the grounds audit had been conducted. Peggy O'Neill advised the committee that she will ask for the report from the tree audit. Jill informed the committee that she will present the report to Ryde TAFE with a view to having our position on the waiting list reviewed.

Rick Lovegrove will investigate the pros and cons of solar panels.

Peggy advised that Craig Teece will be attending the next meeting.

Business Arising:

- o Name of student who is participating in the State Ice Skating tournament
- o Working bee to be rescheduled to 23 June, 2007 1-4pm with another working bee for term possibly 29 September.
- o Cheryl Osborne will send article to Peggy for inclusion in next Currents issue.
- o Riverside Swings 18 May, 2007 at 7pm. If anyone can help please contact Val McGarry on 0402 851 711

Correspondence In:

Fundraising material
Playground equipment
RTA Road Safety around schools brochure
Glow products
Cheque for Hunters Hill P&C affiliation has been banked
Message from Kathy Greer, P&C District Rep encouraging participation of the Riverside Girls P&C to attend P&C AGM this year 27-29 July.

Correspondence Out:

Emails regarding P&C Meeting 9 May

Principal's Report:

1. Riverside has applied for the School Stewardship Chaplaincy grant. The grant is for a 2 year period. A local church has approached the School and has links to youth workers, community service organizations and can offer assistance to students and families in need.
2. Claire Reoch appointed English.
3. Visual Arts position still to be filled.
4. Mr Gerdes replacement is Wendy Mortimer and she will commence in term 4.
5. Ms Thompson has been appointed to the English/Drama faculty.
6. Ms Henz has extended her leave and will be back in term 4.
7. Rose Dais will be a new addition to the English staff.
8. Peggy O'Neill inquired if the Trivia night was still proceeding and who would contact Colin Slow and Warwick Folkared regarding the questions & MC.
9. Income from school fees are fairly normal in comparison to past years. There is an amount of \$147K outstanding in fees and the school anticipates they will not receive this money.
10. Peggy advised that the school will be sending reminder notices to parents regarding the school fees and perhaps the P&C may wish to include a reminder notice to parents regarding their P&C contributions.
11. The air conditioning has been repaired in the performance centre.
12. The new building experienced leaks in the recent wet weather.
13. The girls toilets have been upgraded and the walls have been painted in lilac and mauve tones. The upgrade of the toilet block is aesthetically appealing.
14. The school is experiencing mean behaviour and suspensions will be issued as the school is struggling with nasty bullying. All cyber bullying will be referred to the police.
15. The school will introduce an antisocial behaviour program. Low level behaviour will not be reported to parents, however, serious breaches or real mean behaviour will necessitate in parent(s) being informed..
16. Mr Saad – Head Teacher of Mathematics will give a presentation at the June P&C meeting.
17. Judy King and Peggy O'Neill will be unable to attend the next P&C meeting. Mr Craig Teece, Deputy Principal will attend.
18. Peggy asked if the P&C could support the Dance Team by offering them \$1,500 in funds. A revision of the accounts took place and it was discussed at much length. The P&C had committed \$13,350 from the special projects fund to support various requests at the March P&C meeting. The balance in the special projects is \$1,600 The P&C has to pay insurance and this will be in the vicinity of \$800 based on last year's amount which will leave a balance of approximately \$800. The committee felt that although it would like to fund the entire amount, at this time it was impossible. The P&C received a cheque from the school for \$40,761 in March. This amount was divided into Library, Special projects and grounds as per the existing agreement. The P&C is holding a Trivia Night, but that is not until

August. It was agreed that there is no guarantee that the P&C will receive another influx of funds from the P&C parent contribution scheme. Therefore, the decision reached was to provide a partial grant of \$500 to support the Dance Team.

Motion: To provide \$500 to support the Dance Team

Moved: Cheryl Osborne *Seconded:* Cheryl Brown CARRIED

19. Peggy advised Education Week will be 14 May – 18 May and Education Day will be 17 May. Enrolment offers will be sent out on 23 May. Stu Vac for Year 12 will be 14 and 15 June. BATH Day will be 15 June. Weeks 9-10 of term 2 will be the trial HSC. Week 10 – half yearly reports will be issued.
20. Reminder about Riverside Swings.
21. Peggy gave the P&C some gift vouchers from North Ryde RSL for the school's Trivia night.

Treasurer's Report.

Opening balance	\$ 8,946.16
Income	41,565.84
Expenses	<u>13,350.00</u>
	<u>\$49,694.</u>

The Library submitted their wish list. It was agreed that the amount of \$20,226 be given to the Library to purchase resources.

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's report

Moved: Sharon Weismantel *SECONDED:* Cheryl Osborne CARRIED

Music Committee Report:

Brad Powe provided an update and advised that the committee met on Tuesday 8 May. The Brass Band night was successful and all is going well for the Riverside Swings night on 18 May.

Motion: To accept the Music Committee report

Moved: Brad Powe *SECONDED:* Cheryl Osborne CARRIED

Fundraising Report:

1. Planning needs to be undertaken for the Trivia Night.
2. It was agreed that the evening should be 7pm for a 7.30pm start and finish at 10.30pm.
3. Cheryl Osborne will consult with Val McGarry regarding games for the night which will be offered in between the rounds of trivia questions.
4. Guests will be required to bring their own nibbles, soft drink, coffee etc.
5. Peggy O'Neill suggested Cheryl Osborne consult with the Band Committee to aid scaffolding.
6. Vouchers need to be obtained for prizes.
7. Cheryl Osborne will speak to Inez Hunt regarding letters of introduction.
8. Sharon Weismantel offered to contact business in Rhodes for donations.
9. Peggy to get an Oasis report and ask suppliers for a donation.

10. Cheryl Osborne to advertise the Trivia Night.
11. Acknowledgement of supporting businesses to be displayed on the tables and published in the newsletter.

General Business:

Craig Teece has booked the gelato machine for BATH day. The school will have the gelato machine on 14 and 15 June. The gelato machine will be operational from 9.30am – 2pm on Friday 15 June.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13 June.