

# RIVERSIDE GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF MEETING – WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST 2009

The meeting was opened at 7.35 pm by the President, Cheryl Osborne.

### ***Attendees***

As per the circulated Attendance Book.

### ***Apologies***

Sharon Weismantel

### ***Special Presentation***

Cheryl introduced Pat Barker, our new Head Teacher – English, who came to Riverside from Beverly Hills GHS. Pat began by telling us about her background, and the value she places on the study of English as a subject through its capacity to expand the mind, mental horizons, the enjoyment of literature, and reading skills.

She acknowledged her skilled and harmonious faculty, with a good mix of new and experienced teachers. The department is currently assessing the Senior Program to enhance the learning experience for students. Several areas for developing a more coherent Junior Program have already been identified, and their implementation will begin soon.

The National Syllabus is still under development, with drafts due in February 2010. Fears remain that we will end up with a ‘lowest common denominator’ approach (ie less rigorous than NSW), and there is no guaranteed start date.

It was noted that film and graphics play a big part in the current syllabus; these different ‘text types’ can however be justified, particularly in light of the ‘laptops for learning’ roll-out.

It is important to encourage reading, to set an example by reading yourself, and to read your daughter’s own writings. Recommended reading lists are available, and the School participates in the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge for Years 7 – 9 (for a list of the books, see <https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html>).

The School Diary issued to every student includes a set of reference pages that include resources for reading/understanding/de-constructing poetry.

### ***Minutes of Previous Meeting***

The Minutes of the last General Meeting, held on 08/07/2009, were circulated.

**Motion:** To accept the Minutes as read.

*Moved:* Brad Powe    *Seconded:* Cheryl Osborne    CARRIED



Our thanks are offered to Monica Trapaga, who performed for free.

It was noted that, although an article did appear in the Northern District Times before the event, similar events in future would benefit by being advertised more widely. Highlighting the availability of free on-site parking might also be valuable.

### ***Grounds Report***

The quote for hand-rails near the Hall, and post-and-chain fencing around the garden beds is still to be obtained.

Rick Lovegrove will take up the job of Head Teacher Science at Mosman High from the start of Term 4, so a new staff coordinator will have to be identified to run the water use monitoring program and School working bees. The WaterSmart system is providing a variety of useful learning opportunities for real-life maths as well as for science subjects.

### ***General Business***

- There will be a mass meeting opposing the introduction of school league tables on Thursday 27/08/09 at Rosehill Racecourse, from 4.30 – 6.00 pm. All welcome.
- NapLan results will be available in the third week of August.
- The school leaving age (or go to TAFE + work) will be raised to 17 from the start of 2010, so it is still expected that the School Certificate will be phased out with the introduction of the national Curriculum.
- The Year 10 into 11 information night will be held in the School Hall on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of August. All Year 10 students and their parents are expected to attend.

### ***Future Meetings***

- September – Jimmy Shaw on School greenhouse proposal, gardens and conservation
- October – NO MEETING (school holidays).
- November – AGM? (may be shifted to February 2010)

**The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.**

**The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7 September**