

DEANMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION INC

Minutes of Meeting 30 June 2008

Present

Janet Pettigrew (President), Sharon Dixon (Vice President), Jeannie Metcalf (Principal), Greg Downes (Vice Principal), Samantha Maddern (Secretary), Deb Atkinson, Robyn Attwell, Scott Blackwell, Jeanette Brajdic, Kris Clapé, Suzanne Croston, Liza Harvey, Simon Higgins, Bruce Johnson, Jo Marwick, Ross Parker, Carol Pickering, Dan Rodgers, Jenny Smallwood, Anthony Stewart, Katrina Tap, Michele Wells, Kim Woolford.

1 Apologies

K Ireland, T Johnson, G Roberts, M Stewart, S Tyers

2 Introduction

Liza Harvey and Scott Blackwell were introduced by J Pettigrew. They are the Liberal and Labor candidates respectively for our newly created seat in State Parliament and were keen to attend our meeting to hear first hand about the school buildings issues, our quest for improvements and how they might be able to help. Scott's campaign co-ordinator, Anthony Stewart, also attended the meeting.

Liza is a small business owner in Scarborough with two young children. Scott is a former long-term resident of Scarborough who maintains a medical practice in the area. Scott mentioned that he has lobbied the Minister to re-prioritise Deanmore as a school in need of capital funds. Given this is an election year and our seat is a marginal seat, we will expect to hear and see a lot more from both Scott and Liza.

3 Acceptance of Minutes of Meeting 26 May 2008

Moved by J Pettigrew, seconded by B Johnson that the minutes of the General Meeting held 26 May 2008 is a true and accurate record of proceedings. **Carried.**

4 Matters arising from previous Minutes

Guide to Grant Writing Workshop: Robyn Attwell managed to attend this workshop held by the City of Stirling and came away with a lot of valuable information. Thank you Robyn for finding the time and energy to do this. As a first step, S Maddern will follow up with registering Deanmore on the relevant website to obtain a list of available grants. This will cost \$45. Secondly, early in Term 3 a sub-committee comprising S Maddern, J Pettigrew, R Attwell, K Woolford and G Downes will get together to collate information obtained to date re grant writing.

Hiring a stage – costs: Bruce Johnson obtained six quotes for hiring a stage. Thank you Bruce for your efforts. Unfortunately, even the cheapest quote is prohibitively expensive for the amount of time we would actually require a stage and the P&C cannot support expending funds on this.

5 Correspondence

Formal invitation from WACSSO to attend Annual Conference at the Burswood in August. S Maddern to accept invitation to send one Deanmore delegate (at no cost).

6 Principal's Report

See **attached** report. (If viewing minutes by e-mail, please refer to attachments on P&C website www.deanmorepandc.org.au) The following is a summary:

- 6.1 **Student reports** – reports out this Wednesday; thank you to the teaching staff for meeting this deadline and to Greg Downes for his invaluable assistance.
- 6.2 **Edudance** – once again, this has proved to be enormously popular with students. It will run again in 2009 but possibly the lesson days will be scheduled earlier in the week.
- 6.3 **School buildings** – rooms 1-4 are permanently locked; Greg Downes is the 'canary in the coal mine' who has to venture in first to give the all clear whenever some one needs to visit these rooms; Kim Dullard (District Director) has been very supportive.
- 6.4 **Ivory Coast school link** – thanks to Simon Higgins the link between Deanmore (initially via Mr Rodgers 4/5 class) and an Ivory Coast School is being established.
- 6.5 **Music Program** – in order to maintain the very high standards Deanmore has attained regarding its music program, the school may be looking for some top-up funding from the P&C for Symester 2. The P&C will consider this at its next meeting.
- 6.6 **Interschool sport** – Deanmore is hosting the athletics in term 3 (22 and 24 September for jumps and running events respectively); Deanmore may withdraw from interschool swimming in 2009 because of the relatively high costs involved (in terms of both transport costs and supervision) and focus on the faction carnival only; a decision needs to be made on this by the end of term 3 – parent feedback is invited.
- 6.7 **Science Grant** – Greg Downes obtained a grant of \$550 (one of 10 available) to be used during National Science Week in August; any suggestions on how this may best be spent are welcome.

7 Special Report – State School Teachers' Union

Michele Wells (Year 3/4 Teacher) is the SSTU Rep at Deanmore. Michele kindly accepted our invitation to attend our meeting to outline the issues that are currently in dispute between the DET and teachers. Michele first acknowledged the support of the School Council and distributed copies of the Union's pamphlet "*Is this Government doing enough for your children?*" which summarises the key concerns of teachers as follows:

- There is a need to think constructively about long standing issues in order to prevent the teacher shortage from getting worse; we need to encourage young people into the teaching profession and be able to retain them. We also need to retain the highly experienced teachers. This is all very difficult to do at present.
- Class sizes need to be reduced (although Michele noted Deanmore is doing quite well in this regard) to reduce behavioural problems and raise student grades.
- Teachers need more marking and preparation time (DOTT time).
- Teachers want a 20% salary increase over 3 years – two of DET's offers have been rejected to date.
- Teachers want more programs in place to deal with behavioural issues which are the main cause of teacher stress (again, this is not an issue for Deanmore).
- Accommodation for teachers in regional areas must be improved. Often it is substandard.
- There needs to be more incentive for teachers to seek promotion to principal, deputy principal and head of department.

What can we do to assist the teachers in this current dispute? We can promote and support the above issues amongst our own families and general community in a positive manner, noting that at every opportunity teachers ensure their dispute does not negatively impact upon childrens' education. Ultimately, we need to remember that working conditions for teachers = learning conditions for our kids, so as one suffers so will the other.

The other teachers present at the meeting endorsed Michele's views. J Pettigrew will write to the Minister indicating general support for the Twomey Report recommendations and for the teachers' demands generally. R Parker will look at updating our website to provide some information on the issues.

Thank you Michele for your informative report.

8 Treasurer's Report and allocation of funds

See **attached** report. It states there is \$13,670.90 in the P&C account available to be allocated. **Moved by S Maddern, seconded by J Pettigrew** that the P&C contribute \$2,650 towards the computer lease for 2009. **Carried.** This means we have fully funded the \$5,000 required for 2009.

Greg Downes has purchased the interactive white board for \$5,700. **Moved by S Dixon, seconded by K Tap** that the P&C contribute a further \$700 (in addition to the \$5,000 previously provided). **Carried.**

Further expenditure held over pending announcement from the Minister re Deanmore which is expected some time in July. But possibilities include funding Maddie Barry's work with the school choir and the purchase of a worm farm for Mrs Jenkinson.

Parents organising the spellathon for term 3 raised the possibility of offering prizes of up to \$30 for the student in each class who raises the most money on the basis that this was done approximately 3 years ago. However, the P&C was not supportive of this at all for a variety of reasons. This feedback will be given to the fundraising reps who will be asked to reconsider what funding they require and for what purpose. For reconsideration at the next P&C meeting.

9 Matters arising from Subcommittees

- 9.1 **School buildings** – an enormous amount of money has been spent on rooms 1-4 (in excess of \$500,000) but the odour is still there. DET has said no further money will be spent on remediation. Not sure what the next step is. Our priority remains getting a new school. Regarding a capital works upgrade, Deanmore remains no. 1 for admin and no. 2 for toilets in our district.
- 9.2 **Fundraising** – we are hopeful we will reach our target of \$5,000 profit from the sale of chocolate freddos provided every family who actually received a box of chocolates returns their money and/or unsold chocolates – there are currently approx 50 outstanding; there will be a Fathers' Day family movie night on Friday 11 September at Warwick Cinemas.
- 9.3 **Canteen** – as predicted, canteen back in the black.

10 General Business

- 10.1 **Music as a specialist stream** – the P&C would like to acknowledge the efforts of Jenny O'Donohue and Maddie Barry. The music items performed at the assembly last Thursday were extremely impressive.
- 10.2 **Assemblies** – S Maddern requested on behalf of parents that merit awards be handed out at the beginning of each assembly (or as close to the beginning as is practicable without detracting from the classroom's performance) rather than at the end to accommodate parents who just want to see their child's moment in the sun.

- 10.3 **Community initiatives** – following up from our last meeting S Maddern suggested that we support the RSPCA by collecting towels and blankets for the animal shelters. J Metcalf will speak to Clint Holland about arranging for his year 7 students to co-ordinate this. Another suggestion is to link Deanmore with an aboriginal school (something Jo Marwick has previously been involved with) – J Metcalf will identify possible schools.
- 10.4 **Head cleaner** – Mariana, Deanmore's long serving and very capable head cleaner has resigned due to the effect of her work and workload on her health. There will be a presentation to her in the staff room in term 3. A P&C rep will attend to present Mariana with a card and small gift to the value of \$40-50.
- 10.5 **The circus is coming to Deanmore** – Deanmore students will be able to participate in circus skill sessions on either a Monday, Wednesday or Thursday after school in term 3. D Rodgers will provide further information soon. This is funded by the grant Dan obtained which is valued at \$25,000.

Meeting closed 9.15pm.

Next meeting: Monday 28 July 2008, 7.30pm in the Staff Room

Summary of items requiring action

- 4 **S Maddern** – register Deanmore on grants website; co-ordinate meeting for early term 3 with subcommittee.
- 10.3 **J Metcalf** – liaise with Clint Holland re collection of towels, blankets etc for RSPCA
- 10.4 **J Metcalf** – advise P&C Exec of morning tea for Mariana