

St. Patrick's College Parents & Friends Association

General Meeting, Tuesday 15th, March, 2016

Welcome: Greg Boon extended a welcome to attendees.

Opening Prayer: "A Welcoming Prayer", Greg Boon.

Status of Minutes: Draft for amendment/confirmation at the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday 17th of May, (executive meeting) 2016.

Meeting Chair: Greg Boon

Minute Taker: Anne Britton

Attendees: James Byrne, Ann Viney (Life member), Greg Boon, Anne Britton, Simon Mcinerney, Maria Cadart, Paul Thomas (staff member).

Apologies: Simon Cobiac, Janette Kenyon.

Previous Minutes: Minutes from the general meeting held on the 16th of February 2016 moved as true and correct by Jim Byrne, seconded by Ann Viney, passed.

Business Arising from Minutes:

A welcoming letter from Greg has been mailed out along with the P&F fridge magnet to all year 7 and to new college families.

Correspondence in:

A letter from the Governing Council has been received by all college families concerning the selection of a new College Principal for 2017, following the news that Simon Cobiac will be finishing at the end of this college year. Parents have been invited to attend a meeting on April 5th, here at the college to discuss what they see as important and necessary in our new Principal. The P&F acknowledges the role being given to parents to participate in this important decision.

Correspondence Out: nil.

Treasurer's Report

The financial Report to the 15th of March 2016, was presented by Jim Byrne, seconded by Anne Britton. Passed. Current balance stands at \$94,360.18.

The motion was put forward by Anne Britton that the P&F contribute \$90,000 toward the construction of the new college bus shelters, seconded by Jim, carried.

Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents Council:

Greg explained the role of the TCSPC to new attendees at the meeting. Current issues for the council involve the future of the GST on education, education funding increases based on the CPI and disability funding. Greg notes that with a Federal election coming up soon there will be a lot of lobbying about education funding.

Principal's Report:

General Business:

Staff member Paul Thomas is involved in Mental Health Tasmania. Paul is the team leader of the 'Black Dog Institute' that works to assist those with depression in the and also has his own charity, 'Stigma No More'.

Paul spoke of upcoming events for mental health in the last week of June in which our student executive will be involved. This will be a big event in Launceston and will involve local media.

Paul specifically asked the P&F to support his wish to bring 'Nick Newling' to the college. Nick is a nationally acclaimed mental health speaker who worked at the college very successfully with the year 9 students last year. Paul would like to hold an open invitation evening for parents at the college. Nick would talk about the challenging attitudes toward, and the treatments available for those with mental health issues as well as the need to work at breaking down stigma toward these people. In general, opening up a conversation about mental health.

Paul would like the support of the P&F to organise and promote the event. The discussion evolved around the possibility of Nick speaking at an event for students also, (age to be determined) that could be held in school time preferably, or as an out of school hours' event, such as a breakfast. The P&F meeting resolved to support Paul in having these important social issues discussed at the college and that the meetings preference would be for the student presentation to be run during school hours so all students selected could be involved.

Greg made the suggestion that families leaving the college who have contributed over a long period of time to various aspects of college life be given some form of recognition, such as a certificate of appreciation. We can follow this up with Simon at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.

St Patrick pray for us/ St Mary MacKillop pray for us.

Next meeting – Tuesday the 17th of May, 2016, at 7.30 pm in the school staffroom. This will be an executive meeting.