

St. Patrick's College Parents & Friends' Association

General Meeting, Tuesday, 15 November 2016

Welcome: Not required. (Meeting immediately followed the AGM, commencing at 8.20pm)

Opening Prayer: Not required. (As per above)

Status of Minutes: Draft for amendment/confirmation at the next scheduled meeting (Executive only) on Tuesday, 21 February 2017.

Meeting Chair: Greg Boon

Minute Taker: Stephen Burke

Attendees: Simon McInerney, Stephen Burke, Greg Boon, James Byrne, Simon Cobiac (Principal), Henk Van Zetten (Life Member), Marlene Van Zetten (Life Member), Ann Viney (Life Member), Anne Britton (Life Member)

Apologies: Nil

Previous Minutes: Minutes from the General Meeting held on the Tuesday, 18 October 2016. Minor amendment requested to correct November meeting date to Tuesday, 15 November 2016.

Decision: The minutes were true and correct

Proposed: Ann Viney **Seconded:** James Byrne

Business Arising from Minutes: Confirmation of payment request to purchase baskets to be used for Christmas hampers by St. Vincent de Paul Society (previously approved at 18 October meeting).

Correspondence In: Donation request

Decision: No action required.

Correspondence Out: Nil

Treasurer's Report: Held over until the next meeting pending a revision to the Annual Treasurer's Report.

Principal's Report: The Principal thanked the Association for the gift of the flowers and organization of the event to acknowledge his farewell from the College. He had reflected on his past experiences with the Association and made the following observations:

- The active membership of the Association had decreased from 15 to 20 members at the beginning of his 14 years as Principal to 3 to 5 members. He stated that this was a national trend, and many schools and colleges no longer have an active Parents and friends' Association.
- Despite this trend, he highlighted the role of the Association role in initiating and/or supporting events to inform parents on current issues, and the strong representation for St Patrick's College within peak parent bodies.
- More specifically, he identified the a number of projects fully or partially funded through the Association, including the retractable seating, the Chapel audio visual update, the bus shelter and the sport/cricket shelter.

In terms of more current activities within the College, he reported that the Valet Ceremony was a moving occasion, being well catered for and having a good attendance. He advised he was in the thick of a staffing changes and recruitment for departing staff, including Mrs. Penny Ludicke who was taking up a Deputy Principal position in NSW. This was one of a number of late changes to the staff of the College.

Examinations have begun and were well organized. The Edmund Rice Centre provides a great environment for this purpose. The College Remembrance Day Ceremony was respectful and included a presentation by Year 10 students. Students presented the entire event except for a speech by Emma Jenkins, a teacher/chaperone for the Frank McDonnell Scholarship, on her experience as a participant.

Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents Council: Attendees at the recent TCSPC AGM and Conference provided a summary of the issues discussed and pointed to the high quality of the speakers. One speaker in particular, who spoke on her experience with ICT and her school age children, could be considered as a possible guest speaker. While a previous speaker on similar subject matter did not receive strong support from parents, it was considered that retrying with a different approach might be more successful.

Decision: The matter to be considered further at the next meeting.

Greg provided an overview of the new communications strategy that had been implemented by TCSPC, noting in particular the regular newsletter. He also provided an overview of the current efforts to develop a Parents Charter. A draft document is to be developed by the TCSPC in consultation with the TCEO.

A survey to parents via Survey Monkey will explore issues associated with school choice, both to and from Catholic systems. In addition, a Year 10 specific survey will be conducted. Greg advised these surveys formed part of the research conducted by the Australian Catholic University on a range of relevant topics.

General Business: The Chair took the opportunity to thank Ann Britton for her diligent service to the Association over many years. No other matters were raised for discussion, but there was a request to include a review of the current constitution and development of a prayer roster as items on the next meeting agenda.

Decision: Agreed.

Meeting Closed: 9.15pm.

Next meeting: Executive only on Tuesday, 21 February 2017, at 7.30pm in the school staffroom.

Closing Prayer: The Lords Prayer

St. Patrick, Pray for us/St. Mary MacKillop, Pray for us.