Minutes of the Colo High School P&C Association held on Monday, 26th October 2015

Attendance:
David Thurston, Mark Sargeant, Nicki Murphy, Michelle Smith, Debbie Thompson, Allyson Bradford, Rachel Julian, Narelle Reinhardt, Michelle Pludie, Lynda Biggs, Vanessa Bayldon

Apologies
Denise Decent and Lindsay Collette

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm
Previous meeting minutes for the 27th July 2015 were presented and discussed. D. Thurston moved that the committee accept the minutes. Seconded: N. Murphy Carried.

Correspondence In/Out:
In: Parent & Citizen’s Magazine; GIO Workers Compensation paperwork (to treasurer); various fundraising paraphernalia
Out: Minutes of meeting for 27th July 2015; Treasurers report 26th October 2015
Submissions for Consideration this week:
The passing of Linda Price was very sad, sudden & she’ll be greatly missed. During her time in the canteen Linda had raised more than $700,000 for the P&C. More importantly Linda was also helpful to many students who needed advice.
N. Murphy requested that a donation be made to the Cancer Council instead of flowers or other tokens (as per her family’s request). M. Sargeant will check with D. Decent regarding students raising funds for Cancer Council in memory of Linda.
Moved by D. Thurston that $500 be donated by P&C to the Cancer Council
Seconded: V. Bayldon Carried

Treasurer’s Report (V. Bayldon):
• Payment for $6,245.46 made to Industrial Arts department for Submission for CNC Shark.
• Payment for $100 made to Year 8 student (K. McInerney) as assistance in her competing as a NSW representative at the Pacific School Games in Adelaide in November 2015 (passed in 25th May 2015).
• Treasurer’s Report dated 26th October 2015 tabled and discussed as per attached copy.
  D. Thurston moved that that the committee accept the report.
  Seconded: A. Bradford Carried.

Canteen Report (N. Murphy):
• Stainless Steel benches installed.
• Preparations for Orientation Day organised.
• New sports shorts have been ordered. They are unisex & were tested by a variety of students. The majority approving them. There are limited stocks available at the moment. Stocks of the old style will have to be depleted before new stock is ordered.
**Uniform Status (M. Sargeant)**

3 changes for 2016 – 2 definite, 1 being sourced

1. One Shoe Colour– BLACK Moved and Passed by P&C with effect 2016 Confirmation will be made with PE department regarding their requirements. Communication will be made via newsletter & app to ensure all families are aware.
2. Shorts – as discussed by N. Murphy Will be brought in as required to replace old stock

- Skirts are still a major issue. P. Wright is looking into. A lack of them seems to be a problem. Brynors are not listening to what we want (instead telling us what they want us to have).
- Blazers will be an option. But they are not cheap and there will be a lead-time.
- Shirts not being looked at for change at this point. Polo shirts look the tidiest.
- M. Sargeant will have an update at November Meeting.

Air Conditioning (D. Thurston)

- Colo High School has struggled with air conditioning & electricity for a long time
- Half the school has been done last time but the remaining still remains due to lack of funds
- To complete the remaining air conditioning & electricity we need funding of approximately $50,000-$60,000 but will require a quote to confirm final amount.
- Involves an upgrade to the Power Board or 2 new Boards
- Additional cables are required but can’t drag them over the existing cables in the same duct as this would cause heart and burn the old cables.
- Better to remove old cables, replace with new cables – increasing power to all areas
- Power use levels are already too high with current boards causing blackouts in certain areas
- Would like to see every classroom with Air conditioning
- Changes to government budgets basically mean that what we spend on electricity in 2016 will be the same budget amount that will be provided for the following 5 years irrespective of the amount used
- Better to have the levels increased before the energy cost is capped
- Final layout, costs, etc. being quoted on – with a definite price for November meeting
- Some concerns about P&C funds being dried up with students & departments missing out on essentials
- Some concerns about government rescinding payments/grants that will leave Colo stuck with higher electricity bills & inability to provide text books to students
- M. Sargeant assured P&C that no student will be disadvantaged & the school will cover the general costs to the various departments
- Thoughts about Tree planting, Shade structures, & Window tinting for cooling & thus reducing our carbon footprint
- All options are expensive – only one can be afforded
- A decision should be made in November to allow time for works to be taken out over the Christmas Break
- Discussion followed... to be addressed November meeting when quote received

Principals Report (M. Sargeant)

- Funds in from Gonski... equality for schools. Discussion followed
• Purple Day – support for Rainbow Kids of many different perspectives Gayby Baby screened – government changed regulations regarding screening – Colo High School offered an OPT IN option that allowed students, parents, & community to view the movie. The response was great.
• Dalian High School sister school in China – discussions have continued about our relationship
• Japanese Exchange Students programme will continue next year
• 2 students in Yr12 have had a Call Back for HSC Dance
• 7 students in Yr12 have had a Call Back for HSC Art Express
• Senior Dance Group appearing in School Spectacular in Nov ’15
• Tom Chia has a Dance Solo (Hip Hop Group) in School Spectacular
• Wednesday 28th October, opportunity to join Penrith Police Department as an Honorary Officer along with Council members & other Principals. Includes a Flight in Po Air 1. Provides a greater understanding for others roles in the community.
• Administration Manager – Marion Greeves – has decided to retire after her long service leave. Will require a P&C representative during interview process for her replacement.
• Congratulation to Amelia Thompson from Year 9 as a finalist in an Australia wide talent contest for Indigenous students.

**School Times (M. Sargeant)**
• Consultative Group Met; Feedback processed; Procedures queries
• Route issues – of significance - 3 services have been cancelled due to no-one to service & at least 50 people weren’t provided a service that they are now receiving. Many errors have been attended to.
• The school has received approval to go ahead with the school time change starting in 2016. A note will sent out tomorrow
• 8:05 start – 2:20 finish
• There will be no disadvantage to Yr 11 or Yr 12
• 8 buses will be ready at 2:00pm for a 2:20pm pick up
• Parent access into the school main car park will be restricted until after all the buses have cleared
• If a student misses a bus, the parents will be called (the same as previously)
• Teachers will be asked to let students straight out at the end of the day so they can catch the bus. Any discussion with students must hold at another time.
• Thursday will be a 1:00pm finish
• Mrs Bradford queried some issues raised at the consultation that hadn’t been recognised:
  • The Gravel Pit. Will take an extra load with parents not having early access to the school
  • The footpath out towards the gravel pit is in badly need of repair & with more kids using potentially using it, the issue will become worse.
  • Timetable for classes for seniors – VET/TAFE, etc.
• M. Sargeant noted that these issues hadn’t been resolved and will address at the next meeting.
• Discussion regarding students hanging around North Richmond on Thursdays (waiting for a bus?). M. Sargeant will drive past & query
Around the table

- Concern was raised on the negatively that some teachers are providing to the students regarding their school performance e.g. “if you don’t focus you will end up selling burgers”. This has lead to some students stressing out. M. Sargeant will address this with the teaching staff.
- What is Gonski. David will address this at the next meeting.
- Debbie Thompson thanked the school community for their support of her daughter Amelia from Year 9 during the recent Australia wide talent contest for Indigenous students.
- What does the Colo High School P&C actually do? David will address this by providing a description on the Colo website.
- Next meeting will focus the Air condition, please pass on the invite to as many people as possible.

Meeting closed 9:20

Next meeting 23 Nov 2015 and is the last for the year.

General Business

- Appreciation of the new APP & Electronic Board
- Request for Online payment system
- Request for Website to define what P&C funds go towards – many unaware & may increase payment of P&C Levy
- Admiration of new Yr 12 Jackets. Students are proud to wear them. Reversible great idea.
- Query regarding amount of students attending Colo in 2016. Reported that Yr 7 2016 is low but demography increases in years following. Low figures for 2016 are more about a low Yr 11 continuing.
- Discussion about the HSC being perceived by students as a negative. Perhaps teachers, parents, & social media need to take the pressure of kids. There is a choice. Figures show that 8 out of 10 HSC students have thought about suicide. Discussion followed about educating children & parents that the “HSC does not define you” and leaving isn’t “dropping out”.
- AMELIA THOMSON – selected top 25 – AIM programme. Thanks from her mum. Increased her self-esteem, wonderful achievement for her.
- Last day is Wednesday 18th December. Reports handed out Monday 16th.
- Year 10 electives issued last week
- Year 8 should be this week (still not out By The Way)
- Students had released “Bungers” (fireworks) at school. Fireworks are classed as Bombs & the police must be called.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Our next P&C meeting will be held on Monday, 27th July 2015 and will focus on school uniforms.