

MINUTES OF THE GIRRAWEEEN HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT'S AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION MEETING
July 25, 2007

The meeting opened: 7.30 pm.

Attendance: as per the attendance book.

Apologies: Stuart Cox, Terri Cox, Liz Dawes, Greg Murty, Lyall Wood.

Acceptance of minutes of the meeting of June 27, 2007:

Amendment to minutes: The \$2, 000 received from the Safe schools grant is to be used towards a review of all bullying, not just cyber bullying as stated in the minutes. Acceptance of minutes moved Karen Capizzi, Seconded Wendy Biddle, Signed by President.

Business arising from previous minutes:

None

Address by Greg Knight, representing Nathan Rees, Local state member:

Greg apologised for Nathan Rees who was unable to come due to a death in the family.

He re-iterated Nathan's offer of support and stressed Nathan's interest and passion for public education.

He drew attention to the letter that he had received from the Premier, Morris Iemma, confirming the grant of \$20, 000 for construction of the raised pedestrian crossing on Gilba road.

An additional letter from Nathan Rees promises he will continue to liase with Holroyd Council to ensure the swift construction of the crossing.

In addition, Nathan Rees would like to sponsor an academic award (\$200 p.a.) and invite one or two students to a day in parliament when the house resumes.

Peter Rose drew attention to some of the run-down facilities in the school, in particular the car parks and plumbing problems. Greg Knight asked that we email a list of requirements to the campaign office so that they would remain aware of issues affecting the school.

General discussion on necessity of having a school hall and the ongoing sewer problem that is diverting money that should be spent on education.

Peter Rose thanked Greg Knight for attending.

Principal's report

Parent teacher nights – went well except for some timetabling issues and teacher absences.

Suggestions from parents that all teachers should have photos so that they can quickly identify the child they are talking about. Comment on timing of the reports – some parents didn't like them being issued on the last day of term, others did.

Stress in Year 12 – An outside speaker addressed the students and gave a workshop on stress management. Well received by students.

Competition Fees – Many families have not paid, this makes administrative problems for office staff.

Student Leadership- Nominations for captains underway and prefect nominations to follow. Ms Das Neves is trying to shift the responsibility of school leadership more towards Yr 11 and SRC to free up Yr 12s. Next year's house captains will probably be from this year's Yr 11, with this year's Yr 10 providing vice captains. In future, Yr 11s will fulfil the role.

SRC Disco/mufti day – cancelled due to lack of support.

School Development Day – concentrated on gifted and talented teaching strategies.

Uniform – sample pants have been received – thank you Masa for modelling them! They will probably be grey with a small design embroidered on the pocket. Approx price \$52.

Question – Long sleeved shirts for boys? Ms Das Neves to look into it.

Lowes have changed their stocking policy, hopefully it will be better this year.

SRC Report

Disco was cancelled despite advertising and directly approaching students. General discussion on reasons why, including age of students, time of day and week.

SRC charities – SRC do a good job of supporting many different charities. Parents suggested that maybe there are too many. Ms Das Neves suggested that next year, each house might adopt a charity.

Role of SRC – discussed. General consensus that the SRC should be the representatives of students to teachers. They should liaise with and be ambassadors. In future they might organise focus groups for specific issues.

All present congratulated the SRC for getting the girl's pants issue resolved.

Correspondence in:

Letter from Nathan Rees.

Letter from Morris Iemma (to Nathan Rees) copy received.

Correspondence out:

Nil

Treasurer's report:

Tabled and moved for acceptance by Conie Lau.

Balance per Cheque Account statement June 1, 2007,	\$51, 778.23
Income: Includes Canteen sales, Interest, Tax Refund	\$ 16, 944.66
Expenditure: Includes Wages and Salaries, Superannuation contributions, Suppliers, Fans for School H,	\$ 15, 042.74
Balance per bank statement March 31, 2007	\$53, 680.15
Less reserved Amount: Long Service Leave, Equipment replacement, Contribution for refurbishing of gym, monthly payment to suppliers.	\$ 24, 877.20
Amount reserved in term deposit	\$18, 404.08
Total Funds	
Available Funds (not including term deposit)	\$47, 207.03
Tabled, copy kept with secretary	

That the treasurer's report be accepted seconded by Ram Matta.

Presidents report:

Road Safety: Raised crossing funds verbally approved, awaiting written confirmation. Council will then vote at their fortnightly meeting. Construction expected to take 12 weeks from approval. Flashing lights on 40km/h zone to be installed by February 2008. They are waiting for new technology to assist identification of malfunctioning lights.

Building fund: Girraween needs to have access to significant funds for building upgrades and maintenance. As this money is unlikely to come from government, we need to consider starting a building fund. We need to decide; what projects need to be undertaken, the cost of these projects, the level of contribution we should ask from parents.

Landscaping : Padstow and Ryde TAFE both have landscaping courses but the demand for their services is high. They may be able to assist but not for at least 3 months (Padstow) or 12 months (Ryde).

Comment – Silverwater goal weekend detention program could provide labour for landscaping.

SRC could contribute suggestions as to what the students want around school. P&C envisages shelter, shade and seating.

English classroom area brickwork in dire need of attention. Assembly area steps work to commence after trials(wk 6) and finish before HSC.

Trees can be sourced from council.

General Business

Question: what procedures are in place for students that drive to school?

Mr Murty handles applications for parking. Students not allowed to drive other students without written permission from the passenger's parents.

Driver's education programs? Not in syllabus at the moment, welfare team to discuss.

Question: Girraween high's HSC performance appears to be dropping. What are staff doing about this?

2003 was a very good year, mostly due to the high calibre of students in that cohort. Our performance since then has been good, but not as good as that year. Teachers look at HSC results every year to see what improvements they can make. School is very conscious of outcomes but prides itself on its balanced approach to education. Most students receive first round university offers and most students can follow their chosen paths from there.

Comment: University scholarships don't just ask for academic results but seem to rate extra-curricular experiences very highly too.

Question: will we be reviving inter-school sport?

No, not in the short term. House sport is competitive.

Canteen – needs new fridge and an egg cooker. New fridge available from a primary school for highest offer.

MOTION: that \$420 be offered for the fridge. Moved

MOTION: that an egg cooker to the value of \$33 be purchased. Chris Hockley, 2nd Karen Capizzi. Carried Majority.

SUGGESTION: As new members might not understand about the 'pay your contribution and attend a meeting before you vote rule" it would be a good idea to have a highlighted box on the minutes alerting people to this fact.

In addition, copies of the constitution should be available to new members and it should be posted on the website.

QUESTION: Is it possible for students to heat up their lunches?

Not at present. Liz in the canteen no longer heats up lunches and there are safety issues associated with student access to microwaves.

Meeting ended:

Peter Rose closed the meeting at 9 pm

Next meeting:	Wednesday, August 22, 2007
Time:	7.30 pm
Place:	Staff Room