Present: Paul, Joy Hendrie (as proxy for Marg), Bobbie, Yvonne, Fiona, Kier, Tracy, Craig

Apologies: Deborah

Chairperson: Keir    Secretary: Fiona

Keir welcomed members of the Council.

Previous Minutes (Meeting held 16/5/12)

Business Arising

- The School Council brochure is still being updated and will be available at the next meeting.
- The joint Grant Application listed in the minutes as $50,000 has been submitted for $23,000.
- Paul reported that the issue of a pathway for the entry point near the cricket nets has been raised with the school’s facilities manager. The following has been determined:
  - The cracked concrete slab in front of the sports shed will be removed and re-installed at a lower level (DoE Budget = $1,000).
  - A path from this slab to the gate is possible but would be at school expense. Paul will request a quote from the facilities manager and see if it could be done at the same time as the slab.
  - The facilities manager has advised that a path from the slab and running adjacent to the cricket nets would not be possible due to a lack of space and potential OSH issues.

Discussion ensued on the need for this access point to the school and the potential OSH issues following the construction of a new path between the opening and the sports shed slab (eg: cross country running track - trip hazard). It was suggested that this entry point could be closed off.

It was agreed that the decision on a new path would be held off until we had more information regarding the cost and possible extension along the cricket nets. Paul would seek further advice.

- Issues related to safety along Painter Crescent were still being discussed with Mundaring Shire Council.

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record. (M – Tracy; S – Bobbie; All in favour).

Agenda Items

1. 2011 School Report
   Paul presented the 2011 School Report and highlighted various areas including Student Performance in National & State Testing and the school’s response to issues raised by the data. A summary of the discussion points includes:
   - NAPLAN Testing demonstrated that the school had achieved improved results in most areas and year levels, with value adding of the stable cohort being better than similar schools. The provision for increased support for lower achieving students was seen as a positive step in addressing some of the issues with children achieving below the National Minimum Standard.
   - WAMSE Testing shows that while the school’s results in Science and S&E were not good, they were in line with state averages which indicated a lower standard of achievement across the state. Strategies to address this trend included the provision of a specialist science teacher in 2013 and an increased emphasis on Science in the new Australian Curriculum. The members supported the idea of Science being a specialist area utilising the art room as a specialist science area.
   - Teacher Judgement data (student reports) demonstrated that teacher judgements matched those expected in schools of a similar SEI. Issues were evident regarding the attitude and effort displayed in senior classes, with student’s ability to set goals seen as a concern by teachers.
• Attendance data for the year demonstrated that MPS matches state averages and has very good attendance (>90%) for most of the students.
• Details of the year’s highlights and finances were discussed.
• Paul reported that he would be creating a Parent summary of the 2011 School Report to go home later in the term.

Tracy moved that the 2011 School Report be accepted. Kier seconded the motion and all members supported the motion.

2. 2012 School Surveys

Paul presented data from the 2012 Parent Satisfaction Survey. The data from 26 parent responses shows that the school received approval ratings of between 93% and 98% across the 7 domains surveyed, which clearly indicates that the overwhelming majority of parents are satisfied with the way the school is operating. Main areas of concern within the domains included:
• Q10 – ‘Our school encourages students to find better ways to learn’ – 16% disagreed with this statement.
• Q23 – ‘Bullying is not a problem at our school’ - 13% disagreed with this statement.
• Q26 – ‘Our school is innovative and progressive’ – 14% disagreed with this statement.
• Q47 – ‘Our school enjoys a positive image in the eyes of the community’ – 11% disagreed with this statement.

It was pointed out that while these percentages may seem low, extrapolated across the entire population they represent between 22 and 32 families, which is a significant number. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that the identified concerns relate to the way the school is perceived and also partly reflected issues from previous years. It was also noted that comments provided by survey respondents showed that recent improvements to the school were seen as positive and going a long way to addressing these issues.

It was decided that as part of our annual review and planning processes, the staff and members of the School Council will review the school’s Strategic and Operational Plans for 2012-2015 in an effort to address these concerns further.

It was suggested that it was important to get the message out to parents regarding the innovative things happening around the school and that the new school website would help with this. It was also suggested that class teachers could send home a term outline at the beginning of each term to keep parents informed about what is happening in the class. This would be discussed at the next staff meeting.

3. School Planning

Paul tabled copies of the School’s draft Operational Plans for Literacy, Numeracy & ICT. Members were asked to review these plans in preparation for discussion and input at the next Council meeting.

4. School Website

Paul advised members that the launch date for the new website had been delayed to Friday 17th (originally 10th) August, due to slow response to website image permissions from parents. A member asked if we could use an ‘opt out’ model of permissions, where the default position was a ‘yes’. Paul responded that due to the sensitivity of placing student images onto websites, we must get specific written parent permission prior to using student images on the website and so the opt out system was not able to be used.

5. General Business

• Bobbie enquired about the Student Honour Board in the library and why it had not been updated since 2006. Paul could not answer but agreed to look into the issue and organise an update to the board ASAP.
• Yvonne asked if alternative meetings could be held after school to reduce the impact of these meetings on the class programs. All agreed that this was a good idea.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 19th September at 3:15pm