Minutes of School Association Meeting 1st July 2010

Present: Sandra French, Sandra Cock, Grace Brown, Michelle Cooney, Meg Collidge, Wendy Cumming, Pam Rodwell, Shirley Bischoff,

Apologies: Cathy Bester, Ruth Harris

Meeting commenced at 3.25 p.m.

Minutes from previous meeting of 22nd April 2010 accepted Moved/2nd by Sandra F & Grace resp.

Correspondence:
• Sandra F tabled a letter from the General Manager, Malcolm Wells who thanked the Association for our invaluable support of our school community. After a sample auditing process our School Association has complied with both the presentation of an annual report as well as being an incorporated body.
• Sandra F informed us that she recently attended a meeting in Penguin for School Association members to disseminate a review of school resourcing (Sandra noted the other attendees were School Principals and Staff!) The review, which had been commissioned by the Department, involved the University of Melbourne who assisted with the consultation material. Briefly, Sandra informed us that the Association is going to have more “hands on” with regards to future budgets. She mentioned at the Penguin meeting that, in the past, the school Cluster Groups worked well!
Members thanked Sandra for attending.
• Sandra F read out a letter from all the Special Schools in the State to Lyn Thorp, congratulating her on her recent appointment as Minister. In the letter it asked her to respond to concerns about inequity in funding for TA’s, as compared to the mainstream, and specifically in regards to the allocation of support hours. The letter was dated 26th May. Pam suggested that Sandra F send Lyn an email to get some kind of response.
• School Improvement Plan was tabled and copies given to all those present.
• Meg showed us pamphlets from the State P7F Association — on education/Fundraising/problems and Procedures at Parent meeting. Grace and Sandra agreed that it would be beneficial to attach a copy with the school newsletters.

Principal’s Report:
• Grace discussed her recent conference visit to Darwin during which Special Education Principals and teachers were able to participate in school visits, attend workshops and do informal networking.
• Sandra French told the meeting that our school is still being called...Arthur Support School...at the ANZAC Day ceremony in Burnie. She has informed the RSL.
Thanks, Sandra

Grace moved that her report be accepted /2nd by Sandra F
Business arising:

- June holiday Program was run with funding and assistance from ABILITY. Cheryl Ransom and John Wiltshire organised the program which was considered very successful. The students involved had a three-day program with an “overnighter” at the Launceston Villas, where they were able to go swimming, bowling and went out for dinner. Wendy was asked to talk to Ability about the summer holidays.

- Change of Signatures for banking was addressed.

| Motion that we, the School Association, formally move that Wendy Cuming and Meg Collidge will be our two new signatories. Moved by Sandra French, Chairperson/2nd by Grace Brown, Principal |

General Business:

- Sandra Cock tabled the School of Special Education budget for 2010. Grace formally thanked Sandra for her professionalism and frugality in managing our resources. Sandra informed us that the budget was in a “healthy” position and funding is available which will benefit our students. Sandra has also queried the leasing of the buses and the Department agreed to cover the excess. The bus leases will also be indexed.

  Sandra moved that the budget be accepted /2nd by Shirley

- Ian Walker, will be driver of new wheelchair access bus which Grace has ordered to lease. It has been verified by the Department and school will be awaiting delivery sometime in 3rd Term!

- Sandra F has been unable to contact Caroline Dunn but will try again with regards to our school’s involvement in the Multicap production.

- Sandra and Grace presented their ideas for the library colour scheme. All thought the choices were good. Thanks, ladies

- Felicity Lovatt will be starting her accouchement leave on the last day of Term 2 and hopes to return in May 2011. Grace propose that Michelle Cooney, whose skills she greatly admires, take on the role of Communication facilitator during this period. She will be off-class and will be working over two campuses. Any ongoing assessment that needs to be done can be given to any available Speech and Language Consultant. It will be necessary for Michelle’s role at school to be taken over by two TA’s. Pam observed that Michelle’s salary should be increased, exponentially as she gains experience as a Facilitator! Pauline Mawer will continue assisting Michelle in Devonport. We all thought this was a good outcome.

- Malcolm Wells visited Grace to discuss the increased enrolments in the “Doll’s House”! Grace thought that we should not continue to have the LINKS program at our campus as it is extremely disruptive. Meg told the meeting that her son is very stressed on Tuesday nights. Grace has requested the use of three vacant classrooms for next year, for ECI’s, at the nearby Acton School which is now called Family and Childcare Centre.

- Bev Chell is doing 4-6 week on Bowen Therapy research in our school. Pippa McArthur came and monitored her and confirmed her therapy sessions could go ahead. Teachers have been impressed with the results, especially with those students whose muscles are tight. Grace has asked her if she would be available to continue with the therapy one day per week. Michelle thought that those students who miss out on the regular Phys Ed sessions could benefit. Bev’s sessions will be reviewed and she will present a copy of her research.
Parents and Friends Report:

Wendy told the meeting that she has begun preparations for the Cocktail Party which will be held at Bayside (The Old Townhouse), on Saturday, 23rd October. She is hoping to have Rob Simpson’s Army band which also has a Quartet and a Rock band. She will require helpers for the food preparation. Wendy also suggested the venue would be good for any of the student’s social events. Meg’s husband could put a band together, if necessary.

Mtg closed at 5.30pm          Next mtg 19th August at 3:15pm