School of Special Education, Devonport
Minutes of the School Association General Meeting
28th June at 10.30am

Present: Cherry Thomas, Liz Jetson, Grace Brown, Leeanne Howe, Lindy Gross (rep. from Devonfield)
Apologies: Genevieve Andrews, Kate French, Audrey Campbell

Previous Minutes from April Meeting: Members read through minutes.
Moved and Accepted: Liz Jetson Seconded: Grace Brown

Correspondence Received:
- Malcolm Wells, LSNW General Manager’s letter to President regarding Annual Reporting and other matters e.g. consideration of all School Associations becoming incorporated bodies read out for further comment.

No outward correspondence

Reports:
Principal Grace Brown read out the attached report, adding further comments to any queries from School Association members

School Improvement Plan 2009/2010 was tabled and separate copies to School Association members are available on request.

Business Arising from Minutes:
- Liberty Swing – Several phone calls have been made to Peter Davey at PlayTAS to discuss a likely date for installation of the swing. PlayTAS is undertaking further playground installations on the North West coast and will have all appropriate equipment in the vicinity to install the Liberty Swing over a 3 to 4 day period. The current wet weather has delayed the work, however Grace has made it clear to Peter that the swing must be installed by October in order for the Zonta Club of Devonport to comply with the funding schedule as set out by the Tasmania Community Fund.
- Car Boot Sale – More potato sales are continuing until supply runs out. 5kg bag for $4. Leeanne suggested that it would be beneficial for several senior students to assist with bagging, however Grace explained that it would be difficult as the potatoes are in a cool store in very large bins and access on the farm for SOSE students would be fairly hazardous.
- BER defects – Lyle Catlin, DoE Project Manager has visited SOSE D’port and has requested the defects to be addressed i.e. additional shelving in the library, the phone line to library to be restored and a new hub cupboard to house the IT to be rebuilt as ventilation and size were ongoing issues.
- AEU ongoing response – addressing resourcing inequities for special schools continues. Mr Scott Robson, President of the Northern Support School has written a letter to Lin Thorp, requesting a response from her regarding the teacher aide allocation for students on the SDR who are enrolled in Special
Schools. A copy of Mr Robson’s letter was forwarded to Mrs Sandra French, President of the SOSE Burnie School Association. Grace will organise a copy of this letter to be personally sent to Cherry, SOSE D’port SA President. As the School Association members are aware, 11 hrs per student of TA support per week is totally inadequate for students with high support needs with regard to their healthcare requirements, transition to work experience, day centre and inclusion into specific programs offered at other alternative educational settings e.g. Devonport High, Polytechnic.

**General Business:**

- **Vinyl Flooring in Yellow Rm** - The school was fortunate in gaining further BER funding to replace the tiled floor due to water penetration causing a large section of tiles to lift. The new vinyl flooring was installed during the June holidays however large bubbles appeared underneath the surface and upon careful inspection by Floorworld reps. a decision has been made to re-install new vinyl as.a.p. It has been suggested that the glue used on the initial laying of the new vinyl may have been faulty.

- **Leave** - Mrs Felicity Lovatt, SOSE NW’s Speech & Language Pathologist will be taking maternity leave at the end of Term 2 and is hoping to return at the end of Easter 2011. The facilitation of PODD at both campuses will be undertaken by Mrs Michelle Cooney who will undertake the role of a Communication Facilitator and also Mrs Pauline Mawer will continue as a valued PODD resource TA, supporting students in classrooms and preparing PODD resources.

- **Initial school visit by Manager LSNW** - Mr Malcolm Wells visited on 23rd June. He met students in the playground at recess and spoke to individual staff members who were on duty. A short meeting with the Principal concluded his visit.

**Other Business:**

- **$500 pledge from Devonfield towards Liberty Swing** - Grace reminded Lindy Gross that this amount is still outstanding and as the swing will be installed in the coming weeks it would be appreciated if the pledge could be honoured.

- **Refurbishment of Playground** - As we are all well aware, the D’port Campus playground requires a revamp. Some items of play equipment are obsolete and old and do not meet the needs of our students. We are hoping to install a new swing set with provision for more swings (on the present site) with softfall at the base. There are funds in the school’s SRP to cover this purchase. It is hoped that the new swings would be installed simultaneously along with the Liberty Swing.

**Meeting Closed: 11.35am**

**Next meeting: Monday, 30th August at 10.30am**