

**Shalom College**  
**Parents and Friends Association**

**General Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

- Attendance:** As per attendance book
- Apologies:** Drew Speight, Geoff Ebert, Brad Harvey, Gaelene Penny
- Previous Minutes:** The minutes of meeting 13<sup>th</sup> October were read.  
Heather Ford moved that the minutes be adopted.  
Seconded by Janice Harvey
- Business Arising:** Nil
- Correspondence**
- In:** NIB  
ACSSO Australian Education Digest  
Minutes of July Diocesan Cluster Meeting  
Market entertainers – The Twine  
Request to nominate as host school for 2010 Diocesan P&F  
Acceptance of nomination as Diocesan host school  
Letter from Heather Ford  
RSL Kokoda youth program – fundraising request
- Out:** Host school nomination for Diocesan P&F Meeting 20.03.10
- Treasurer's Report:** John Elphinstone tabled the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Statement for October (appended to the minutes) and moved they be adopted. Seconded by Janice Harvey
- Board Report:** Changes to fee structure were discussed.
- Diocesan Report:** No report was available
- Principal's Report:** Mr Dan McMahon reported on the following –  
Regarding recent developments concerning newsletter reflection it was clarified that the intended message was to focus on child protection and to remind parents to take this opportunity to talk to children about staying safe. It was hoped that the message would generate discussion on vigilance and we were reminded that forgiveness was a virtue of Jesus and that we need to defend this view as a Catholic school. Mr McMahon was sorry if people misunderstood the message he was trying to convey and while parents had every right to voice their concerns he encouraged parents

to make contact with him regarding those concerns. Mr McMahon noted that he was unhappy with the role the media played in approaching and interviewing students in the school grounds. Time would be taken to talk to the students to discuss the intended message and listen to their responses.

Mr McMahon also reminded us of the positive effort being undertaken to help the people of East Timor which could be supported by purchasing coffee and handmade cards.

### **Agenda Items:**

- *School Fee Changes* – Presently school fee accounts list the base school fee as set by the Diocese and then levies are added on for a number of different things. Would like to look at amalgamating levies thereby providing families with a set figure being the cost of educating their child. Parents would know up front what their term fees would be and there wouldn't be any hidden extras. There would be a junior and senior split reflecting the higher cost of education in years 11 and 12. There would also be a deductible administration levy for accounts paid on time. The building fund levy would also stay as a separate item and diocesan discounts for families would still apply on tuition fees only. The set levy would not include non curriculum travel costs, ski trips, music tuition etc. If going on an excursion is part of a course this would be included. Catering trips in senior are optional and therefore would be additional. This would have to be made very clear in advance if an additional cost would arise from an optional activity. The cost of the year 12 camp would be spread over years 11 and 12. If a child is away for compulsory excursions there would not be a deduction in the levy as this was part of the cost of the child's education. There was a query from parents regarding the claiming of expenses for tax purposes and it was discussed that items which are tax deductible such as workbooks could be itemised on the account. Will investigate further regarding taxable items. Fees and levies would still be adjusted annually in keeping with CPI and increases for the following year could possibly be sent out at the end of the current year to assist with family budgeting. Parents present were in favour of the changes upon clarification of the itemisation of claimable items for tax purposes.
- *Electronic Sign for College Entrance* – Would like to look at upgrading the current manually adjustable school sign to an electronic version. The new sign would be vandal proof and around 4m high x 2.1m wide with 2 lines of scrolling digital display. This would enable current up to date information being on display and details could be changed quickly and easily if information changes. The digital display would be operated by computer. The one off cost would be around \$16,000.00.  
Mr McMahon moved that the purchase of the sign be accepted.  
ALL IN FAVOUR
- *Installation of Security Cameras* – Looking at the possibility of installing motion activated security cameras near bag racks and possibly over walkways and eating areas. There have been some recent thefts of items from students' bags and the cameras would hopefully act as a deterrent to students taking other peoples property. Many schools are using them successfully and they have reduced the

incidence of theft and bullying in certain schools. The question arose of it possibly being seen as a negative reflection on the school. It was mentioned however that we could also be seen as being proactive and they would certainly protect the school after hours when the markets and other events are being held on the premises. Footage would be held for two weeks. The current quote of \$90,000.00 (23 cameras) was seen as possibly excessive and alternative quotes would be investigated.

- *Car Draw Sub-committee* – John Elphinstone reported the following: 574 tickets out of 600 were sold with a net profit of \$10 112. The BBQ had a net loss of around \$2 000 with not all figures in yet. The low cost of the ticket was seen as a big drawcard with a good attendance at the BBQ.

**General Business:** RSL Kokoda Youth Program would be discussed at the first meeting next year.

**Next Meeting:** **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 at 7.00pm**  
Meeting night will change next year to the **first** Tuesday of the month

**Meeting Closed:** 8.07pm