HEATHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL P&C

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 26 FEBRUARY 2014

The meeting was declared open at 7.30 pm

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of Heathcote High School P&C held 27 November 2013 were read and confirmed as correct.

Treasurer’s Report

Balance Brought Forward: $8390.46
Receipts: $3803.00
Balance: $12193.46
Cheque Account: $311.95

Correspondence in:
NRMA Insurance Community Grants
Commonwealth Bank Community Grant

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Grade Sport

Heathcote High School will be participating in the Port Hacking Zone grade sport in Terms 2 and 3. There has been a meeting with Engadine, Gymea, Heathcote, Kirrawee and Lucas Heights Sports Organisers to discuss a commitment by end Term 1 to forming our own Zone Grade Sport.

It is anticipated that Grades 8,9,10 will participate in Term 1, Grades 7,8,9,10 in Terms 2 & 3, and Grades 7,8,9 in Term 4.
HSC Results

HSC results were discussed. Mr Noonan has analysed the results to determine the best result earning subject for each child. As a result of this analysis it was suggested that extension subjects did not necessarily give the students the academic advantage they had anticipated. HSC subject scaling was explained. It is a very complicated process and often the right advice is to go with what you are good at. It was mentioned that 30% of 2013 Year 12 students received early entry.

Resources into English

Research suggests that the number one benefit to children performance is feedback. The students will spend more time on HSC style questions. HSC marker Denise Lyall will have 4 periods per week to assist with this program. The assessment policy is looking to be revised so as assessment tasks will be constructed to suit all children. The policy of withdrawing children for remedial work was discussed with a view to using support teachers to team teach within the classroom with targeted students.

Deputy Principals’ Report

Uniform

Mr Coleman has advised moving forward that students out of uniform will need to see either himself or Mrs Pearse before school to get a uniform pass. Failing this the students will need to get a pass from their Roll Call teacher. Options after this time include the Year Advisor, Mrs Pearse or Mr Coleman. A lunch time detention will be issued to students after three unexplained uniform breaches.

In a bid to raise school presentation it has again been suggested that we consider phasing out sloppy joes. It was advised that there would be at least a 12 month lead time.

The introduction of a school tunic for the girls has been a great success. Due to the concern of Year 10 students of only having the remainder of the year before going into senior uniform it was agreed that for this group of students only they may continue to wear this uniform in Year 11. A new senior tunic for the girls was being investigated.

A letter has gone home to parents informing them of the Executive decision to allow students to wear their sports uniform on their designated sport day. If students do not have correct sports uniform they must wear full school uniform and then get a uniform pass for their sports uniform.
Beacon Program

We are very fortunate to have been accepted into the Beacon Program. This program generally is supported by the Beacon Foundation in a school for three years. The cost to be a part of this program is $1000. We are the only Shire school to have this program. It will give students within our school opportunities to work with organisations in our community. Leadership Programs, the Polish Program co-ordinated through the Intercontinental as well as access to both community and business leaders are some of the benefits. Below is the mission statement as found on the Foundation’s website.

“The Beacon Foundation (Beacon) has an established track record of helping inspire and motivate students to either stay in school and increase their educational engagement and attainment or choose a positive pathway that enables successful transition to employment, further education or training.

Beacon, a national non-profit organisation working in more than 115 secondary schools across all Australian states and territories in 2013, believes every young Australian can develop an independent will to achieve personal success for themselves and their community.

Beacon’s programs support young people to develop this focus through engaging and influencing the attitudes and behaviour of the broader community. By harnessing community involvement, it works within schools to ensure young people are either earning or learning at vulnerable transition points in their lives.”

Learning Support

Each Deputy will have a reduction of teaching periods from nine to six. Three periods will be dedicated to learning support and three will be dedicated to transition programs.

Sanitarium Breakfast Program

Sanitarium will sell through a vending machine Up and Go cereals. The cost will be $3 with 65c returning to the school. So as to not compromise arrangements in place with the School Canteen the financial benefit will be shared between the school and the canteen. As a second benefit breakfast cereals will also be supplied to the school. The school has decided to set up a self service kitchen for the senior students to be available from 7.30 am.

Clean Up Australia – March 5

Litter in the playground is a problem and a need to change students’ attitude was noted. The SRC will discuss and come up with some ideas for a long term program which will encourage students to take pride in their school environment.
Many Year 12 students are feeling stressed and need assistance in learning how to cope with the pressures of their final year of school. Talks have been arranged by the school counsellor and year advisor.

Musical will go ahead this year and will be open to all students.

E news subscription discussed and cost also noted. This would be enable parents to be advised of notes, newsletters etc

Year 7 BBQ has been arranged for the same night as the Open Night.

We are trialing a new Parent/Teacher interview timetable.

We will be holding interviews in both Term 1 and Term 3 with written reports being sent home in Term 2 and Term 4.

This year it has been decided to replace a formal subject selection evening for year 8 parents with a web based program.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

Open night is will be held on March 11 with every faculty on show.

It has been noted that some TAFE students have a timetabling clash and will have to miss some classes.

The suggestion of a coin counter for the office was discussed.

The possibility of paying for school sport on a term basis was tabled but due to inevitability of requests for refunds due to absences it was decided that this would not be a workable solution.

There was a suggestion for a Canteen List on the Heathcote High School Website.

Year 6 invites will be going out to all local primary schools.

Other discussions include the better promotion of P&C meetings and the electronic booking of appointments for Parent/Teacher meetings.

**Meeting closed at 9.05 pm. Next meeting 26 March 2014 at 7.30 pm**