INABURRA PARENTS & FRIENDS

Minutes of Meeting held on Friday, 10 June 2016
at 9.30am at Café Y, Menai

Attendees and apologies: See Parents & Friends Attendance Book. Quorum for meeting was reached.

Chair: Barbara Curtis, President (BC), Parents & Friends
Secretary: Chris Yee

1. The minutes of the previous meeting on 16 May 2016, were accepted as a true record of that meeting.
   Motion: put forward by Debbie Alvarez, seconded by Melissa Frost.

General business

2. Principal’s Q&A: Mr Bowden gave the following updates

   2a. Inaburra Building Project: Mr Bowden was pleased to report the build was on schedule; starting the second (of three) concrete pours and planned to occupy the building prior to start of the 2017 school year. The larger impact would be the Junior playground; it would still be under construction at the beginning of next year.

   2b. 3 Year Strategy: for the past 6 months the school has had a team discussing what “quality teaching” means in practice and the strategies to roll this out within the school. He noted this did not have fundamental changes to his recruitment policies; more on how to grow and shape the teachers employed at Inaburra.

   2c. Street parking: Mr Bowden was asked if there was a possibility to add car space lines on the street to stop neighbours (and parents) from parking over 2 car spaces. His response was that it would be very difficult as the council, in the past, has been reluctant to make street changes, let alone enforce it (however there is always the possibility of change especially with current council turnover and re-elections).

Mr Bowden had noted that congestion has been eased by access to the Billa Oval park and also by the fact teachers have not being allowed to park on street; most are currently parking in Bangor shopping centre and walking to school. Once the onsite carpark is finished this will also see a massive improvement in parking.
3. **Head of School reports:** Mr Coote responded to the following discussions:

3a. **Sports:** there was a query about the requirement by the Junior students to attend the PDHPE “Bounce” program. Mr Coote noted that students were required to have a minimum number of hours of PDHPE and used the “Bounce” program because it focused on the gymnastics/motor skills necessary for young children and the “Bounce” staff had specific qualifications that the school teachers may not necessarily have.

Some parents made comments around school sports; specifically why sports teams did not organise more group practices, and why there was no real guidance to being trained in individual sports (for example javelin or shotput). Mr Coote noted that Mr Tolhurst was happy to take feedback from parents but also recognised that there were many logistical issues around physical education (such as finding a time that all students were available to train) and ultimately the core business of the school is the students education.

3b. **New learning space:** information on the *new learning space* would be provided to parent in Term 3. Mr Coote mentioned he had visited several Catholic schools in the Paramatta region (renowned for their open area/co-teaching learning spaces) and didn’t find anything that Inaburra wasn’t already attempting to implement.

Some key areas which need to be examined while using the *new learning spaces*:

- Acoustics of the area
- Providing space for students that preferred learning in quiet spaces/isolation.
- Working around the fact that teachers won’t have set home spaces.
- That there will be adequate pastoral care for the students (in terms of home groups/home teacher)
- While the new space would encourage innovative learning processes to be implemented (e.g. Flipped classrooms) Mr Coote noted it was important to remember that explicit teaching was non-negotiable and relationships were the heart of learning.

A question was raised about whether Year 5 and Year 6 students would remain divided by years or simply be known as “Stage 3” (i.e. a mixed group). Mr Coote responded that they would be referred as “Stage 3” but students would take a while to get used to this (for instance syllabus material would still refer to years 5 and 6) so this would be introduced slowly.

Mr Coote also noted the classes would not be streamed but there would be natural “movement” between groups depending on the students abilities/interests. Each student will retain their home teacher, who will be the key person for students and parents to contact regarding any issues. Letters will be sent out end of the year informing students who their home teacher is.

3c. **Junior School Reports**

Mr Coote noted that the Junior School mid-year reports were currently being finalised.
4. **Inaburra Fete and Open Day**

   The Fete was discussed extensively at the previous meeting (see: minutes from the P&F meeting 16 May 2016). Some further feedback given:

   Mr Bowden praised the Fete & Open Day; a combination of excellent weather, good will from the community, and efforts from staff and parents made the Fete the best one during in his time at the school.

   Mr Bowden noted that 70 students were on hand to conduct school tours and the feedback he was given of the tours were unanimously positive.

   Due to the construction of the Junior School playground the next Fete & Open Day has been tentatively scheduled around October 2017.

   Mr Bowden was entering in negotiations with the nearby schools so as not to conflict with their Fete & Open Days

   **Action:** Chris Yee (CY) to pass request to Rides coordinator for rides appealing to older students (for example 10-12 year olds)

5. **Inaburra Trivia Night Event update**

   Jen Bosilkovski (JB) gave an update on the Inaburra Trivia Night; she was aiming to make the Trivia Night an event that people wanted to go to instead of out of obligation to the school. JB and Ruth Wernick (RW) decided on a 1920’s theme as it was easy to dress and yet still look glamorous.

   JB was pleased to note that the Trivia Night sold out in 6 hours.

   JB noted that she had reviewed feedback from previous Trivia Nights. Some of the things she would address:

   - Preparing an information page which would provide ticket holders of details of the night, including a menu.
   - Organising a cheese/grazing station.

   JB would be sending out a letter to the school body requesting more prize donations; she was hoping to get a total of 170 items.

   JB was happy for people to help with the Trivia night (and future school events); would need volunteers to assist on the night.

   Barbara Curtis (BC) **officially thanked** Jen Bosilkovski and Ruth Wernick for the effort they have put into this years Trivia Night.

   BC and JB also noted they were going to visit the Como Hotel on Thursday 23 June at 7:30pm, to observe the MC/Trivia company they were planning to hire. All are welcome to join them.
6. **End of Term Coffee/Cake**
   The P&F have arranged to have free coffee & cake available for school parents on the last day of Terms 1, 2 and 3. The next *end-of-term coffee & cake day* would be Friday 1 July at 2pm, outside the PAC. All parents and friends of the school are welcome to attend.

7. **Any Other Matters**

7a. **2nd hand uniform exchange**
Melissa Frost raised the idea of the P&F running a clothing pool, similar to one she had seen at Dane Bank School. The basic concept would be:
- A volunteer comes once per week to catalog the clothing; to either sell or donate.
- The P&F would get 50% of the proceeds, the parent would get the other 50%.
- Any clothes not sold after 1 year would be considered a donation.
- The volunteer would spend 3 hours a month writing checks for parents

Mr Bowden commented that he would prefer Peer-2-Peer consumer model as that would put extra burden on the P&F to find volunteers. He also noted the clothes shop also does something similar and provides second-hand uniforms.

There is a website already in place, run by private citizens which promotes the exchange of uniforms.

**Action:** Chris Yee (CY) to find details of current *second hand clothes exchange website* and pass information to Domenic Valastro (DV) to promote via school communication mediums.

7b. **Uniform design change**
There was a request raised as to whether the school uniform could be changed, particularly the Junior School yellow uniforms.

Mr Bowden agreed that certain parts of the uniform were due for an overhaul (for instance allowing shorts under skirts) but there are major factors to consider when changing uniforms, such as cost (most parents are reluctant to pay for new uniforms when they have already invested in the old uniforms) and the time taken to find a preferred design (as uniform changes traditionally have a divisive effect on the school body).

Mr Bowden also noted that a lot of change does happen behind the scenes (such as slowly transitioning items to improve fabric quality); it is a testament to the uniform shop assistant that most of it has gone unnoticed.
7c. Extending the number of year 7 classes in 2017
Mr Bowden explained that the Year 7 enrolment for 2017 would be extended from 112 students to 140, to cover the larger number of applications.

It was requested that this information was communicated more clearly to the school body (especially to parents of Year 6 students) as it appeared some parents did not know anything about it, or were only hearing about it from second-hand sources.

7d. Fathers Day breakfast
The Father’s Day breakfast (in September) is usually run by the P&F. It was noted that Daniyelle Tardent organised it last year but is unable to do so this year; a request was made for someone willing to organise it this year.

The Father’s Day breakfast has traditionally only been open to Junior school parents; there was a query as to whether it should be open to Senior school parents.

Resolved: the Fathers Day breakfast would be open to both Junior and Senior school parents.

Action: Chris Yee (CY) to put the Fathers Day breakfast in the next P&F agenda.

The meeting closed at [10:40am]

Next meeting: Tuesday 2 August, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start at the PAC. Topic: Meet the Staff, Trivia Night update

Signed as a true record of the meeting.

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President