

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION



Minutes For MEETING held 17th October 2023.

Held at the Marist Pavilion

MEETING OPENED: 6.31pm

ATTENDEES: Alan Buckley (Chair), Michelle Patane-Dillon (Vice Chair) Carmela Spinelli (Secretary), Megan Turpin (Treasurer), Deborah Garbutt (Principal),

APOLOGIES: Lisa Emerson

1. OPENING WELCOME & PRAYER: Deborah Garbutt

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Motion: Confirm minutes from meeting held 25 July 2023.

Moved: Michelle **Seconded:** Megan **Approved:** unanimous

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Email received from Annabel Kanakis and Amy Hunt seeking financial assistance to attend the 2024 National Youth Science Forum if selected.

Motion: BCC P&F will provide \$200 to each student attending the 2024 National Youth Science Forum (NYSF).

Moved: Megan **Seconded:** Deborah **Approved:** unanimous

4. CORRESPONDENCE IN:

Letter from Amy re National Youth Science Forum sponsorship

Email from Executive director Dr Debra Sayce – advising ACM to be conducted between 1 November 2023 and 28 February 2024.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT: Nil

5. TREASURER'S REPORT: Megan had requested the financial report however as Brent has been on leave, we were not been able to obtain them for this meeting.

6. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Deborah Garbutt

Catholic Identity

- The Year 9s enjoyed a very successful Retreat, with outside providers facilitating the day.
- Year 12 Students had their final year group Mass. Father Pierre provided the students with sound advice for their lives, going forward.
- The Year 12 Graduation will occur on 19 October 2023, in the Cathedral. It promises to be a fitting culmination to their time at the College.
- There will be an opportunity for our incoming CSL to attend a Marist Connect session later in October.
- Mr Darren McGregor and Andrea Grant from Marist Schools Australia visited the College on 11/10/2023 to discuss the Marist theme for 2023, as well as other Marist connection opportunities.

Education

- The Year 12 students have completed their Trial examinations.
- The WACE examinations will be held at the College from 30 October until 17 October 2023. The whole community extends their best wishes and prayers of encouragement to all students undertaking examinations.
- Best wishes are also extended to those students who will begin fulltime employment at the conclusion of Term 3.
- The College Registrar, Mrs Geraldine Bowman, is finalising numbers for 2024.

Our enrolments for 2024 currently stand at:

Year 7 210

Year 8 180

Year 9 185

Year 10 168

Year 11 126

Year 12 127

Total 996

Community

- Congratulations and sincere thanks go all committee members and volunteers for their monumental efforts in hosting the 2023 Art Extraordinaire. We are truly blessed to have parents and families who wholeheartedly support our College and the opportunities the P&F provides through their direct financial assistance. The work and commitment that goes into events such as this defy description.
- The 50th Anniversary Reunion was also an outstanding success; watching people reconnect on the day was very heartwarming.
- Save the dates – Social events:
 - 3/11/23 – ‘Thank You’ get together for committee members from Art extraordinaire and the organising committee for the 50th Reunion gathering, along with the BCC staff. A great opportunity for staff and volunteers to get to know each other.

- 10/11/23 - "A Beer with Brent" - An informal farewell to Brent after 38 years at the College. He was firm in the notion that he wanted the function to be on College grounds and also be informal, for those who would like to catch up with him. Please RSVP to Gill if you would like to attend.

- The new Council of Student Leaders was presented to the College on 14/09/2023. These students attended their Formation Day on 15/09/2023 and selected their portfolios. Our congratulations go all students on the Council and we wish them well in their endeavors in 2024.

The Counsellors are:

College Captains Amy Hunt & Euan Tuia	Academic Captains Natalia Dillon & Nathan Fulton
College Vice Captains Chelsea Hutchinson & Riley Stenhouse	Ministry Captains Brooklyn Adeyinka & Marcus Fornal
Sports Captains Emily Allen & Toby Blee	Arts Captains Ruby Milton & Pippa Bouteloup
Stewardship Captains Amelia Patane & Kade Lubcke	Media Captains Georgia Pelusey & Lila Hutton

- The College continues to consult and seek feedback on the Uniform refresh for 2024/2025, and beyond. Surveys have been sent to all parents, and all staff.
- The Student Leadership Coordinators will be organising student feedback sessions in Term 4.
- The College hosted a refresher course for staff to renew their Teen Mental Health First Aid qualifications. We also hosted staff from St Joseph’s Albany, St Mary Mackillop, Busselton, and Mandurah Catholic College. Once again, this reflects the focus on student wellbeing and mental health initiatives.

Stewardship

- The College bid farewell to Mr Craig Rodgers, who was seconded to Bunbury as a leave replacement Deputy Principal of Pastoral Care.
- Mr Michael Pepper has commenced his LSL and I am privileged to be the Acting Principal over the next 2 terms.
- Mrs Cecily McCarthy will be the Acting Deputy Principal Pastoral Care during this time.
- We also farewelled Ms Asha Commisso and Mr Steve Flavel at the end of Term 3.
- All classes are filled for Term 4 2023.
- End of Term 3 staff interviews have been conducted for positions in 2024, with most positions being filled.
- Positions at the College were also advertised on 07/10/2023, for any remaining vacancies. There was been very little interest in applying for these positions.
- The College congratulates Mr Murray Hegney on his appointment as Head of Secondary School at St Mary Mackillop, Busselton from 2024. He has been an outstanding colleague and leader at our College and he will be sorely missed.

- Interviews for the vacant Deputy Principal: Teaching and Learning position will be conducted on 18/10/2023

7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Alan

Art Ex

Congratulations to the Art Ex committee on another hugely successful event. This year was always going to be a challenge with the loss of some key committee members, but the team delivered an outstanding exhibition with over \$300,000 worth of superb art on display. Special thanks to Teena Manning and Marieke Blower for their drive, passion and leadership. Thanks also to the College staff who helped in some many key areas and to Michael and Deb for their hard work and support.

CSPWA (Catholic School Parents Western Australia)

No meetings since our last P&F meeting.

Next year will be a conference year, I strongly recommend attendance if possible and funding is available to support regional attendees, please let me know if this is something you are interested in.

RREAC (Rural and Regional Education Advisory Council)

2023 Focus Area: Training and Transitions

Albany Visit:

- Site visits to WA College of Agriculture, Mount Barker Community College, North Albany Senior High School, South Regional TAFE and Albany Residential College
- Met with Staff and Students, toured facilities and conducted Q&A sessions in all venues.
- Pathways to Post Secondary Success Review - Environmental Scan
- Community Forum
- RREAC meeting to outline the scope of the report

Draft Report:

3 Focus Areas

Mental Health and Student Wellbeing:

- In the majority of consultations Mental Health was identified as a significant challenge
- Schools reported that there is an increase in students requiring mental health support and an increase in students commencing secondary school who are already engaging with mental health support services.
- Schools reported that it is a challenge to provide and fund adequate support services
- There is an increasing emphasis on the need for preventative and proactive approaches such as school based mental health programs

- There is a growing concern about the lack of continued support once students have finisher year 12, the drop off in support occurring when new challenges create additional anxiety and stress.
- Year 13

Partnerships are key to success:

- Over the course of the visit the council identified that successful programs were underpinned by partnerships.
- These partnerships include schools with parents, schools working with other schools, schools with training providers, schools with local industry, training providers with local industry, training providers with universities.
- Students have an ever expanding range of options available to them which in turn has created an increased amount of complexity in the composition of subjects to access certain pathways.
- Parents reported that career information sessions are being help too late and that the timing of these sessions appears to be one of tradition rather than being due to any specific barriers.
- Students in key areas such as nursing and teaching are facing financial difficulty due to long periods of unpaid practicum work that is often conducted away from home and requires accommodation. It was noted that there is potential for students assessing their future options to avoid courses as a result of financial obstacles they may perceive as insurmountable.

Regional Barriers:

- Course choice/options can be limited for students in regional areas
- Online options can be limited and can often be unavailable due to scheduling clashes
- Lack of transport from regional towns to education hubs

8. BOARD REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT: Alan has not attended a board meeting.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. 2024 Executive committee – All positions for 2024 are rolling over
2. Michael has put in a verbal request for fans to be purchased and installed in the Gym & Hall & a TV Screen for the gym. The TV would be used to deliver presentations etc as not able to use a projector due to the lighting in the gym.
The P&F have requested Michael provide a proposal and quotes that can be discussed at the community meeting on 20/11/2023 or the first meeting in term 1 of 2024.

CLOSING PRAYER: Deb

Community Meeting: Monday 20th November 2023

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday 20th February 2024.

MEETING CLOSED: 7.34pm