

Xavier College Parents & Friends
General Meeting – Draft Minutes
(Subject to acceptance at next general meeting)
4th August 2015

Meeting opened: 7.05pm

Attendance and Apologies: See attendance book

Opening prayer: Read by Patrick Finnerty

Previous Minutes: Accepted: David Rose

2nd Laura Mueller

Business arising from previous minutes:

Council meeting update is that a road will go along the back fence. Discussions with Lend Lease are that they may assist with adequate landscaping.

Parent asked to clarify if the school had given the ok for students to bring one folder with individual subject dividers as opposed to needing a book for each subject to assist with reducing the weight of the school bags (particularly for junior students). This was confirmed as being acceptable with the book requirements each year issued only as a guideline, not as mandatory.

Correspondence in/out: Nil

Principal Report – presented by Patrick Finnerty

- Michael has returned from his recent pilgrimage however he is not well at the moment so was unable to attend the meeting tonight. In his absence he had made arrangements for a guest speaker to present some information to the parents about internet safety.

Presentation made by Leif Rask, Director jajoza Connected Solutions Pty Ltd:

- Resources for parents are available via their website ☺ www.jajoza.com. Contact with Leif is also possible by email at help@jajoza.com
- another recommended resource is <http://www.vodafone.com/content/parents/digital-parenting/magazines.html#>

Presidents Report – Laura Mueller

- Thanks for all the assistance with the recent Bunnings Fundraiser BBQ. The day ran smoothly and had a good community feeling about it. Successful results were achieved and will be covered in the treasurer's report.

Treasurers Report – Lorrae Green

- Reconciled statement presented to the meeting.
- Bunnings BBQ net result = \$1475.70
- Closing balance @ 31st July = \$5730.12
- Discussed experience with a number of Hoyts movie vouchers that had expired. Hoyts response was not very helpful and they seemed to reluctantly agree to replace a number of tickets as a sign of good faith.

General business –

- Questions asked with regard to the Stage 5 elective changes that have been introduced for Year 9 students next year. Concerns were expressed as follows:

- Previous 400 hours for elective subjects being reduced to 300 hours. Parents needed to understand how the 100 hours difference was being applied as it was understood these were going back into additional religious education (RE)
- Potential that the reduced electives place students at a disadvantage when other schools are still enabling a choice of two electives to be studied across 24 months.
- Students look forward to their elective classes and for some students these are the subjects that ‘get them out of bed’ and keen to go to school. With students not able to study a particular elective for more than 12 months parents were concerned about the impact this may have regarding student engagement.
- While parents can understand aspects of the changes being made it was expressed that they would like the school to reconsider the decision to not allow subjects to be extended into Year 10 to enable a student undertake 200 hours of study if that is their preference.

Reasoning behind Executive decision explained:

- School took on feedback from earlier in the year about the reduction in sport being available and in committing to introduce 2 hrs per week for sport from next year the timetable needed to be reviewed to accommodate.
- Move to students being able to select 3 elective subjects over the 2 years will enable them to sample a broader range of subjects in readiness for Stage 6 studies.
- Historically, a high number of students approach the Director of Learning and Pedagogy in Year 9 and Year 10 to request changes to elective subjects due to students recognising that their choice was not what they anticipated. More elective choices can assist students not feel they are locked into an unsuitable or unenjoyable subject across 2 years.
- RE is an elective subject already which is why it may seem that more time has been allocated however this is not the case. The Catholic Education Office requirement is that all years study a mandatory 100 hours of RE per year (7-10). Based on the changes for Stage 5, this has not increased.
- There will be an increase in the hours for Maths and English during Year 9 as well as time being allocated to enable a range of meetings (Year meetings, House meetings, Assemblies) to occur at a set time within the timetable. Currently students lose a portion of a period to enable these to occur. Feedback from staff has been that this approach has been disruptive to student education so the school have committed to finding a better approach. The below table reflects the current Stage 5 patterns and the changes being introduced to clearly reflect where the 100 hours has been allocated.

2015	RE 5	ENG 7	SCI 7	MATH 8	HSIE 6	PDHPE 4	ASSEMB 1	SPORT 2	ELE1 5	ELE2 5
2016	RE 5	ENG 8	SCI 8	MATH 8	HSIE 6	PDHPE 4	ASSEMB 2	SPORT 4	ELE1 5	ELE2 0

- Feedback given around Stage 6 changes which are minimising subject selection (including non ATAR options) for students. Process to develop timetable choice lines discussed – school has ensured that non ATAR subjects are available across the entire timetable.
- General feedback was given to the school about the level of visibility and communication of decisions being made by the executive to the parents/community. Parents can appreciate that changes may be appropriate, however if they don’t understand the reasoning then it is likely to create some negativity and confusion. This is especially true if the first they are hearing about changes is based on messages the students are passing

back to them (if that is at all). Patrick acknowledged that he has heard these concerns and that the school will work on improving their communication with the parents.

- Date of the walkathon was discussed as it always clashes with the District Sport each year which means that students are not able to be involved in both these activities. This will change from next year as there will no longer be the need to schedule the walkathon into the timetable as per current requirements.
- Calendar on Skoolbag app had incorrect dates about pupil free days when compared to the school website. School asked to check these to make sure they were consistent.
- Question asked about the decision the school has made in regard to the operations of the Canteen. Parents are aware that there is talk about the service being outsourced and would like further information given the discussions that occurred earlier in the year around the Healthy Canteen audit. Patrick confirmed that the school are investigating options including potentially tendering out the service. Once a decision has been made further information will be provided via the Companion newsletter.
- Concern raised about the uniform dress standard - parents had noticed that it appeared to have slipped when they have been either dropping or collecting students.

Meeting closed @ 9.35pm

Next meeting 1st September, 2015