

**NEGS P&F AGM**  
**Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2015**  
**W H Lee Room**

**Meeting Opened:** 6.20 pm

**Attendance:** Heather McPhie, David Fenwicke, Jenny Swan, Tracey Whitehill, Joanne Campbell, Etoline Galbraith, Sally White, Cath Farrar, Libby Parry, Clive Logan and Graeme Hollis.

**Apologies:** Lisa Haines, Janet Carter, Susan Northey, Helen Byrnes.

**Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Moved as a true and accurate copy: Joanne Campbell Seconded: Etoline Galbraith. Carried.

**Reports:**

**Principal's Report - Mr Clive Logan:** Last term presented many distractions from teaching and learning which is the School's core business. TAS's move to co-education and five separate disciplinary incidents involving 22 girls are examples. Counselling about peer pressure has been provided to students. If current enrolment enquiries are an indication the School will have a challenge to accommodate boarders next year. Forty interviews of potential students were carried out in term 1. The feedback is that parents are seeking a girls only school with high academic results. Teaching and Learning is at the forefront as teachers can no longer be "sages on the stage". The Barker College connection will open up opportunities for Environmental Science, Physics and Design and Technology. Lessons can be captured on video and streamed into NEGS. In spite of all the distractions the School is in a good situation. Clive has met with the PLC Head, Nicola Taylor and they are on the same page as far as girls' education in spite of TAS's decision. You will have received the NEGS Chairman's reply to the TAS decision. Focus on girls' education is being maintained as well as improving the offerings and the school will increase to 370 if it secures all the enquiring enrolments. It is forecast that in Year 7 next year there will be 55 enrolments, predominately more boarders than day girls. Three classes each Year group may be a possibility if enrolments increase to 50 – 55 per year. There is a pattern in Narrabri, Inverell and Scone through discontent and the drought fee relief has helped a lot. School Places.com, of which NEGS is one of 38 schools participating, has also helped. NEGS is an example to other schools and its diverse offerings such as equestrian, high academic results and music program are attractive.

Negotiations with Barker College between the two Heads, the Bursars and the Chairs shows the degree of commitment to the connection. The benefits to name a few are Aboriginal education, outdoor activities, academic and co-curricular enhancements. Whether NEGS wants to continue with combined lines with TAS will be reviewed as there are options with Barker College and PLC Armidale. The Barker connection is not in retaliation to what TAS is doing. Looking at the statistics girls doing subjects out of NEGS have not done well so they may come back in house to improve academic results. Increased boarders may present an overflow into Dickens House and increased teaching staff will need to be managed with existing overheads. There may be 185 possible boarders next year. A total of 230 boarders will fill the school including Dickens House. NEGS has carried out research on the boarding experience and house mothers in order to improve its service.

The connection with Meriden was not able to offer NEGS any benefits, whereas the Head of Barker, Phillip Heath, is well known to Clive and the arrangements will be mutually beneficial. Outdoor education, exchange program, music camps, speech and drama teams, North West Horse Expo are examples. Barker has a good learning management system with on-line tutoring on offer. Professional development will be available to staff as Barker has 2,000 students. . The connection will be marketed and the schools are willing to be partners. Barker's boarding houses are full with only 50-60 boarders. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be developed.

**President's Report - Mr David Fenwicke:** – An Executive Meeting was held recently to distribute funds for different projects and resources as part of the Wishlist at a total of \$14,608.17 (see attached list).

A late request had been received from the Health Centre for an ice machine. They currently source ice from TAS. With the increased activity in the Equestrian Centre the School needs one which costs about \$1800. The P&F will investigate if it can source one on eBay.

Clive Logan thanked the Executive for the support by the P&F and advised that Belinda Stone ran the STEM program (funded by the P&F) for primary students over the holiday break which was successful and may attract additional students. Other requests were discussed and will be placed on the list for next year.

The P&F provided catering for the Junior and Senior Schools' Swimming Carnivals which ran smoothly. A big thanks was conveyed to the maintenance team to help the parents cater.

**Treasurer's Report – Mrs Tracey Whitehill:** See attached:

Opening Balance	\$55,683.87
Closing Balance	\$36,972.48

The Wishlist was the P&F's greatest expenditure which went over the raisings from the Spring Fair. Name badges have been provided to all new parents and all Year 7 parents. The next P&F raffle will come from Spring Fair. Outstanding income remains to be received from the Equestrian Centre.

**Boarding Parent and St John's Reports:** Nil to report.

**Business Arising from Previous Meeting:** P&F Patron – P&F still has not received a written reply from the Board. A written response will be prepared for the Board Meeting to be held in a couple of weeks.

**New England Netball Carnival:** – the School made a call at the end of last year that it could not run the Carnival in autumn this year. It may be run in the first weekend of September school holidays. Discussion ensued about the suitability of running the Carnival this year. Resolved that the Netball Carnival Committee will do some research and make a decision.

**Laptop Program:** – the Government has withdrawn all its funding. NEGS has adopted a policy of Bring Your Own Device as the laptops come off lease. Information on the change of policy and associated information was distributed to those students and parents impacted this year (in 2015, around 50

current students and most new students). Please find attached the information sent at the beginning of the year.

Further information will be supplied shortly to ALL parents advising of the imminent changes for 2016 as well as other information about either handing back machines or the option to purchase machines held (for last 2 years).

**Name Tags:** Heather McPhie undertook to continue to obtain new parents' names so they receive name tags.

**NEGS P&F Scholarship:** The Marketing Committee advised on suitable recipients and the P&F has allocated the scholarship to a family that have twin girls in the Junior School.

**Fundraising:** Ian Brown has volunteered to be involved with Mary White about organizing a ball in Sydney.

**Parents' Room:** The common room upstairs in Dickens is available for parents to use as well as space in Akaroa.

**New Business:**

**Chaplaincy:** NEGS receives a grant of \$20,000 from the Federal Government which is now the States' responsibility. The School is required to consult the parent body on how the Chaplaincy Grant is used. Motion: The P&F endorse the Chaplaincy program and support the Grant's use for wages and resources at NEGS. Moved: Heather McPhie. Seconded: Dave Fenwicke. Carried.

Closed at 7.35pm

**Election of Office Bearers:**

Graeme Hollis assumed the Chair and officially declared the AGM open at 7.35 pm. All positions were declared vacant.

Co-President: David Fenwicke nominated by Heather McPhie. Seconded: Cath Farrar. Accepted. No other nominations for Co-President forthcoming David was unanimously elected. The other position of Co-President to be filled later in the year should anyone express an interest.

Co-Vice-President: Jenny Swan nominated by Heather McPhie. Seconded: Libby Parry. Accepted. No further nominations for Co-President forthcoming Jenny was unanimously elected. The other position of Co-Vice-President to be filled later in the year should anyone express an interest.

Treasurer: Tracey Whitehill nominated by Heather McPhie. Seconded: David Fenwicke. Accepted. Carried.

Co-Secretary: Sally White nominated by Jo Campbell. Seconded: Cath Farrar. Accepted. Carried.

Co-Secretary: Jo Campbell nominated by Jenny Swan. Seconded: David Fenwicke. Accepted. Carried.

Boarding Parents' Representative: Marguerite Wyatt

St John's Junior School Representative: Amy Layton.

Liaison Parents' Co-ordinator: Libby Parry

Dave Fenwicke thanked Heather for all her hard work as Co-President, Helen Byrnes as Co-Vice-President and Sophie Carter as Co-Secretary. It is hoped that the P&F will find another President and Vice-President to share the responsibility throughout the year.

**Further Business:**

**The Glen Avon Bull Sale – 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2015:** Dave undertook to staff the Stall and that the P&F will need to source more home-made cakes and biscuits this year. A barbecue cook and three helpers are required.

**The Spring Fair Committee:** a Committee needs to be formed and leaders appointed. This will be advertised in the Newsletter. A meeting will be called and Liaison Parents will be invited to suggest stall ideas and involve their cohort. Suggested that social media is used to advertise the Spring Fair and associated meetings.

**Correspondence In:** Thank you note to the P&F from Laura Cambridge and Helen Smith for assistance at the Swimming Carnival.

Meeting Closed: 7.57 pm.