St Mary’s Community Council
Open Forum
Thursday 22nd August 2013


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<th>ATTENDANCES</th>
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<td>Martin Sullivan  P/C</td>
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<td>Catrina Niddrie  S</td>
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<td>Megan Moloney  P/C</td>
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<td>Peter Maher  P/C</td>
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<td>Louise Hall  P/C</td>
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<td>Teresa Waugh  P/C</td>
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<td>Helen Flannery  S</td>
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<td>Leonne Challen  S</td>
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<td>Dan O’Brian  S</td>
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<td>Emma Fisher  S</td>
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<td>Chelsea Fisher  S</td>
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<td>Kim Connelly  S</td>
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<td>Kirsten Thompson  P/C</td>
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<td>Richard Hewitt  P/C</td>
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<td>Andrew Bell  P</td>
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<td>Shaun Stuart  P</td>
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<td>Chloe Powderly  P/C</td>
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<td>Peita Payne  P</td>
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<td>Deena McGregor  P</td>
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<td>Rachel Devane-Thompson  P</td>
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<td>Leonie Dunn  P</td>
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<td>Melissa Banwell  P</td>
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<td>Sarah Stratford  P</td>
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<td>Sally Smith  P</td>
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<td>Jenny Newell  P</td>
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<td>Barb Johnson  P</td>
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<td>Megan Coddington  S</td>
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Chairman: Martin Sullivan  
Acting Principal: Catrina Niddrie  
Secretary: Megan Moloney  

Meeting Opened: 6:00 pm  

1. Prayer: All  
2. Attendance/Apologies - Attached  

3. Chairman Martin Sullivan Address to Forum:  
A brief outline from the Constitution of what an Open Forum is and how it works. Martin Sullivan introduces the Community Council Members. Forum Minutes will be posted on the St Mary’s website, any items for discussion are to be emailed in advance, any questions raised on the night will be addressed.  

4. **AGENDA ITEMS:**  

   - **Board of Studies - Syllabus and Staffing**  
     **Issue raised by Sally Smith and Sarah Stratford.** Sports Co-ordinator was a drawing card 3 years ago, Why was it taken away? Is it a funding issue?  
     Catrina Niddrie - To retain a Sports Co-ordinator and a Curriculum Co-ordinator 16 classes are required, as numbers have dropped the Curriculum Co-ordinator has been retained and the Sports co-ordinator ceased.
Due to current funding issues restricted positions and executive release roles lost.

Classroom teachers are currently team teaching with classes 1 on 1 with co-ordinator. 3 Kindergarten teachers work together, 1 teacher is unable to take 3 classes in a row.

If this is a funding issue what can Parents do to help?

The only way would be to increase school fees. The School is funded by the CEO. The CEO designates teachers on the number of classes, 14 - 15 classes means that a co-ordinator is lost, to retain a co-ordinator numbers need to increase. Late October early November is when final numbers and staffing delegated.

All staff is fully trained in teaching sport, even if 16 classes were reached it may be that a Maths Co-ordinator is required. 16 classes is the magic number for more staff to be contracted out.

The question was raised, could we pay more fees say $50 more a year to bus people to Tennis. The concern around increasing fees is that not all families can be expected to pay extra, you can't exclude children from activities.

**Physical Education Syllabus - Leonne Challen addresses the forum:**

There are 4 Strands:

- Active Lifestyle
- Games and Sports
- Gymnastics and
- Dance

**Active Lifestyles components:**

- Fundamental Movement Skills
- Ways to be active (stretching, circuits, runs, aerobics, obstacle courses, relays, partner activities)
- Effects of physical activities on the body
**Games and Sport components:**
- Non-locomotor skills (stretching, pivoting, feinting, swinging, balancing)
- Locomotor skills (running/sprinting, dodging, jumping, landing)
- Manipulative (rolling, stopping, throwing, catching, bouncing, striking, kicking etc)
- Games - minor, modified, major
- Athletics (track and field)
- Playing the game (teamwork, fair play, rules and tactics)

**Gymnastics components:**
- Non-locomotor skills (bending, twisting, curling, rocking, static)
- Locomotor skills (running, walking, hopping, skipping, climbing, hanging, swinging)
- Movement (spatial awareness, position, floor, air)
- Composition (simple combinations)

**Dance components:**
- Non-locomotor skills (swaying, swinging, twisting)
- Locomotor skills (walking, sliding, skipping, marching, step patterns, leaping, jumping)
- Dynamics (firm/light movements)
- Time, Rhythm and Space
- Structure (sequence, simple compositions and techniques)
- Dance Styles (folk, bush, social, modern, contemporary, cultural)

Depending on the age and ability of the group teachers will choose the activities that may cover some or all of these components. They may also adapt the components depending on the age and skill level
of the students. These components are covered over 2 years from years 1 - 6.

Questions raised:
What do you do when it rains?
Alternative areas are used such as the bus area which is under cover, and hall (depending on timetable). PE and Sport lessons can also be made up during the week.

How much time is spent on PE?
Each Syllabus sets out the amount of time which is to be spent on each area of learning per week:
- English 7 - 8 hours
- Maths 4 hours
- PE 1 1/2 hours in total

Currently 1/2 to 45 mins is spent each sport day twice weekly. As the children progress to upper primary years 5 - 6, 1 hour is designated.

Dance in classroom as part of sport was discussed. Some children do not believe they have participated in sport if they are running outside.

Leonne Challen - The Sport and PE component is set out as Sport - physical activities outside e.g. athletics and apply skills learnt in PE. Some children do not see current syllabus as sport if they are not playing cricket or football.
WELFARE POLICY

Issue raised by Sarah Stratford:

In regards to school policy: the gap between - what is enforced in the classroom and at home? and breaking boundaries at school the need to be backed up at home.

Dan O'Brian Addresses Forum - Behaviour Guidelines handout.

The behaviour displayed falls into a category and the possible response. The behaviour is categorised from LOW LEVEL through to HIGH LEVEL, these categories are followed in the school. Some parents in the forum had not see the Behaviour Guidelines, so this was able to help any questions raised and will be posted on net.

Melissa Banwell - Are councillors involved?

Each case is looked at individually and the severity, parents are involved in this process.

Peter Maher - general implementation How long does it take?

This depends on the child it could take weeks or months depending on the child. A contract is used Catrina and Dan are responsible for this. The children are aware of this and is used to form early learning, the reward system is working well.

Martin Sullivan stated that we need to reinforce this to children and a starting pack needs to be sent to families at the commencement of the year.

YEAR 6 FAREWELL

In 2006 the year 6 farewell was at the club, parents, teachers and children came together to mark the special occasion. Since this time the farewell has been at the end of the school mass in the school hall, no food provided.

Jo Maloney would like something to make it a special time for parents and children.
Some small country schools are going out to a restaurant with the children being able to dress up along with teachers to mark this special time. Some feel the celebration is lost going from end of year school mass.

Catrina Niddrie - The end of year mass involves the whole Catholic Community, after the mass celebration year 6 move onto the school hall for their farewell, this avoids increased expense elsewhere.

This marks the end of year 6, not high school, some families were finding the expense to much and children were missing school to get hair/make-up etc done.

By having the celebration after school mass Grandparents are able to be involved, Year 6 teachers are present to listen to ideas.

A sit down event with finger food was a suggestion put forward. Concerns around a sit down event were no facilities available, very tiring for children and having the celebration on a different night would not work as the Parish Priest would need to be present. The question was also raised What would happen with younger siblings?.

A survey to the School Community was suggested to formulate ideas.

Martin Sullivan suggested a Year 6 parents information night to formulate ideas. A Year 6 Farewell Committee involving teachers and parents, teachers can mediate between all parents. A stand alone committee would not be encouraged as this does not include all parents.

The survey should go out to all Year 6 students, Chelsea Fisher year 6 Teacher to address Survey to parents and students to formulate and collaborate ideas.

End of year Mass was discussed as a concern was raised due to minimal awards given out.

Catrina Niddrie - Over the years comments were made about the length of the mass, to many awards were given out. Each Term a special assembly is held to give out special awards. Dan O'Brian felt it was hard to find middle ground as some children worked really hard all year and not rewarded. The current reward System throughout the year ensures all children are rewarded for hard work, traditional awards are maintained at end of year school mass:
- Catholic Value Award
- School medal
- Academic awards.

It is hard for teaching staff to just give 1 award, the current award system ensures children are rewarded all year. Teaching staff will discuss pro's and con's on reward system, how many to give out etc.

**Nominations for Canteen Committee:**

Peita Payne  
Shaun Stuart  
Rachel Devane-Thomson  
Gabby Coupland

**Nominations for Uniform Committee:**

Melissa Banwell  
Jo Maloney  
Sarah Stratford  
Jenny Newell

No Term 4 Forum. Nominations will be advertised in the school newsletter for Community Council Members for 2014. Paddy from the CEO would like the committee by the end of the year. A forum late November would be too late to implement new ideas.
A request for summary of Community Council Minutes to be put on Web, Catrina will discuss with Paddy CEO in regards to confidentiality. Community Council funds spent are decisions made by the Community council. The funds for the structure at the pick-up area have been put on hold until the RTA have made a decision on how to manage the traffic congestion. If the decision is going to take more than 12 months, ideas can be formulated by Committee and parents on how to redistribute funds that will benefit sooner, parents can email ideas.

Funds from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory are being used to pay for audio and lighting.

Year 6 to demonstrate web site to parents on the ipad as homework, this would encourage knowledge of school site for children and parents.

Meeting Closed at 7:20 pm