Sheffield School Association Inc.

Minutes – Thursday 16th February 2012

Venue: VET Room at Sheffield School
Time: 7:00pm
Meeting organiser: Kate Haberle
Meeting recorder: Kate Haberle

Present: Hayley Davies, Michael Dunn, Anna Maddick, Phillip Turner, Angela Craze, Gillian Pratt, Sharon Allen, Jacqui McCarthy, Kevin Rogers (7.40pm), Amanda Grey, Malcolm Moore, Kate Haberle, Mac Jago, Tim Dyer, Sophia Dyer, Kathy Young

Apologies: Samantha McCarthy, Bob Ashby, Trina Hole, Petra Wilden

Moved: Michael Dunn seconded: Gillian Pratt “that apologies be accepted.” CARRIED

Tim welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year. Members were asked to give one sentence about their holidays.

1. Minutes of previous meeting: (Wednesday 7th December 2011)

   Kathy Young’s name was omitted from the list of people who were present at the December meeting.

   Moved: Phillip Turner seconded: Jacqui McCarthy “that minutes of the previous meeting be accepted with amendment”. CARRIED

3. Correspondence:

3.1 In –

1. **Terry Polglase, Branch President, AEU** : Explanation of Federal Funding Review Campaign. The task now is to convince our Federal politicians that funding public education is an important investment in the future and important for individual students’ opportunities. It was resolved to send round the email address to council members to give them an opportunity to send a message to the Federal Government. Tim encouraged members to respond as this is a social justice issue and education funding should not be cut.

2. **Bob Ashby** : Letter of resignation from the School Association. It was resolved to accept Bob’s resignation regretfully and write him a letter thanking him for his support of the school and the School Association.

3. **Hit Nitz 4 6** : Requesting us to purchase their certified organic and natural product. It was resolved to decline the offer to purchase their product.

Out – Nil

4. Special Committees Reports

4.1 **Growing Sheffield’s Future** – The first meeting for the year was held today (16 Feb). Katharine Bransden and Esther Wass, school chaplain, have joined the committee. The focus will be the sports forum which was postponed last year. It will now be held in National Youth Week. Sporting identities will be invited to speak to the whole school and parents will also be invited to attend. An email has been received advertising a free half day media forum which will hear voices of concerned parents regarding healthy eating and health campaigns. This will be held on Thursday 22nd March in Hobart and is sponsored by Parents Jury. If anyone is interested in attending, talk to Anna. This year the main focus will be on Mental Health and Wellbeing. The Leadership and Citizenship class and the SRC will attend a Mind Matters training day on the 9th March here at the school.

5. Standing Reports

Student

- Students look very neat and tidy in their uniforms. It has been a good start to the year and everyone has settled in well.
- Two SRC members, Mac Jago and Clodagh Simms, welcomed new students to the school at the front office and took them to their respective classroom.
- The swimming carnival will be held next week on the 24th February.
- Grade 9 & 10 students will be getting tablets (computers) in a few weeks. They are all very excited about this addition to their learning.
School – K-6

- The students at the ECE have settled down very well. Kindergarten students will begin next Thursday. They will attend three full days this year.
- Two third year prac students are working with Sharon Allen and Greg Hinrichsen.
- Primary classes have been well setup and ready for the students to begin the year very positively. Hats will be issued on Monday.

Secondary

- The swimming carnival will be held next week.
- There is great excitement and anticipation with the Grade 9 &10 students getting tablets (computers)
- **Staff**: Vivien Tawse – Music and Drama, Angela Craze - Grade 9, Samantha McCarthy - Grade 3, Vicki Nowell - Grade 7, Shannon Radford - Grade 8, Karie Van Der Velde - Kindergarten, Greg Hinrichsen - Grade 1/2.
- **Students**: The numbers are 10 down in the Secondary area of the school. There are larger classes in Kindergarten but our overall numbers need to be higher to maintain our population. At this stage 440 are enrolled.
- Tablets will be distributed by the end of next week hopefully. Students need to be trained and negotiation with Hobart needs to take place. There will be an annual $50 hire fee for students to take their computers home. If any problems with the computers there should not be any cost to the school. Students can access school work at home even if they do not have the internet. Students will be taken through the responsibilities on how to look after them.
- **School Priorities for 2012**: There are three main focus points for this year. Literacy and numeracy will be the main focus where testing data will be looked at to determine the correct pathway to follow. Quality teaching will be examined to identify how we can improve teaching in the classroom. The Australian Curriculum will be implemented this year in English and Mathematics with some areas of the History Curriculum being integrated with the Tasmanian Curriculum for this year.
- **Don College Awards**: Several of our past students received awards at the Celebration of Excellence held last week. It was resolved to write to these students in recognition of their achievement.
- **Burglary**: Over $1000 worth of equipment has been stolen from the school. The perpetrators have been caught and equipment returned. It was a credit to Tyrone Myers and the Devonport Police for their excellent detective work.
- **New Uniform**: The jackets for primary students have proven to be very popular and are flying out of the office. Purchase of jackets for secondary students is slower but as the weather cools this should increase.
6. Sub-committee Reports

6.1 Chaplaincy

- The first meeting for the year was held today. The plan for funding the chaplaincy work was looked at with the same source of funding being available this year. It was agreed to offer Esther 4 days a week. Fundraising will continue during the year. The next meeting will be on the 8th March. As CSO, Pam will be Esther’s supervisor.

6.2 Show Committee – No report

6.3 Farm Committee –

- Things are going well at the farm. Cows are producing plenty of milk. The weather has been good with enough rain to keep the grass growing. No meeting as yet this year.

6.4 On Line Access Centre – No report

6.5 Junior Cattle Handlers Committee -

- The committee provided breakfast at the Australia Day celebrations in the park. The committee is in recess till May/June

7. General Business

1. Council will need to focus on policies this year.
2. Road Safety – A bicycle park will be developed in the grounds of the old little school. This will assist in the promotion of road safety in the school.
3. Celebration of Excellence – Some members who attended the Don College awards function were disappointed at the venue as there was standing room only and they felt students were not given the recognition they deserved when they received their certificate.
4. Mac Jago and Hayley Davies were thanked for their commitment to the council as students over the past two years. Their input and student report were outstanding.
5. At this stage we do not know who will be the new staff members.
6. Tim spoke to the meeting on the main purpose of this association. We are not here to manage the school but to operate as an advisory group which concentrates on policy direction, vision and values and the way things happen in the school. We look at the parent, community, staff and student perspectives in policy making. Participation in discussions is encouraged.

Meeting closed at: 8:20pm

Next meeting will be held on THURSDAY 15th MARCH 2012 at 7.00pm in the VET Room. The AGM will be held at 7.00pm followed by the general meeting.