ST Augustine’s P&F Meeting – Minutes
Date: 1st May 2007

Meeting Opened : 7.00pm
Opening Prayer: Lynne Rohanna
Attendance as per book : 18
Apologies: Fr Kevin, Jane Marrison, Fran Janes

Minutes of Last Meeting:
Moved: Steve Eley
Seconded: Cara Mallory

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:
- School Disco’s to be trialled on school premises at Prep/Yr 1 undercover area
- Proposed date: Friday 15 June 2007 Two sessions: 5.00pm – 6.30pm Prep – Yr 3
- 6.45pm – 8.30pm Yr 4 – Yr 7.
- DJ to be booked by Greg.
- Temporary Fencing will be required to ensure security and no play on adventure playground.
- Mothers Day Raffle – great success, prize will be drawn on 11th May. Great job Jenny Johnson.
- Mothers Day gift vouchers – slow.
- Meeting proposed for Tuesday 15th May @3.00pm in the office for sub – committee and committee to meet. P&F need to set a plan of action for our merchandising requirements for Beachathon and forthcoming fund raising events.
- Pizza Day to be set for Term 3.
- Easter Hat parade raised $399.55 for P&F.
- St A’s online calendar is being updated often. Email Lynne or Greg your dates and they will be scheduled online.
- Virtual P&F will commence this week. Martin will post minutes in PDF format online. There will be a link for all parents/teachers to voice opinions in response to these minutes or other comments they would like to make.
- Bunning’s BBQ dates: Lynne to discuss with Jen and advise availability of dates.
- Enviro fund Grant – Lynne to follow up and put forward our need for more native trees at front of school.
- Lynne updated us on the Prep/Yr 1 Shade Structure progress. The dynamic group of Prep and Yr 1 mums/dads have donated 80 prizes which will be raffled over coming weeks. The school community will receive raffle tickets and parents of the Prep year will be selling to the wider the community these tickets at the Pines. They are hoping to raise $10,000 for these structures. P&F would like to support this initiative and contribute $1,000 to the project.
- Lynne updated us on the Dinner Dance. Tables are selling fast. Tickets will be offered to wider community by middle of May subject to availability. A few queries on what’s included for the $90.00. Lynne is negotiating with Currumbin RSL to see if we can include some alcohol. This will be a great night – please support your schools major fund raiser. Live music, Dinner, Great guest speakers, good company!
- Meeting next Wednesday 17th 2.00pm with Lynne to discuss more auction prizes for this night. Some idea’s : Footy coaching clinic for 1hr with Scotty Prince or Scott Sattler.

Correspondence:
- Letter from Yr 6 parent requesting assistance for State Title competition.
- Steve Eley to follow up, Melissa Hoy to type P&F policy for students in representative teams.
- It was agreed support of 25% of compulsory costs or up to $100 would be available for children representing only in State or National competition. (Regional or District did not comply)
- Mars Fundraising.
Treasurers Report:

For 2007 we have had 3 fund-raising events.

Cocktails Under the Stars - 16 March Net profit $1408.65
Pizza Day – 4 April Net profit $875.45
Easter Hat Parade - $399.95

Investment account balance as at 31/3/07 $3939.86
Total balance in cheque account as at 31/3/07 $6654.69

Pizza Day & Easter Hat Parade figures are not in this balance and will be shown in next financial quarter.

Presidents Report:

Steve thanked all those supporting the P&F and highlighted how the P&F is here to support the whole school community. There is no obligation to support everything, we are simply trying to raise funds to ensure school fees are not raised and services not compromised.

Steve thanked Domino’s Tugun (Nigel Finn), Curumbin Creek Tavern (Joanne Condon and the Froggatt Family). A big thank you to Bruce Simmonds for the wonderful gift voucher for the Phoenician Spa Package for Mothers Day. Thank you to Kellie McCluckie and Robyn Curran for assisting P&F with Pizza Day.

Future fund raising events include:

- State of Origin Night 13th June – Steve Eley to organise.
- Fathers Day gift raffle
- Fashion parade – Yr 4 mums (Susan Heck & Mandy Irvine)
- Beachathon – 21st September
- Christmas photos – Woodwork boys working on back drops.
- Pizza Day – Term 3
- Tea Towel project – Term 4
- Bottled water – Need to highlight this in the newsletter
- School signage – Greg to follow up with a sign writing family in the school.

Parish Report: None

Principals Report:

Greg opened by thanking the P&F and then devoted time discussing the schools two planned building projects and the issue of class sizes.

Library:

Plans for our library are being finalized. Our initial goal – to commence building the library by the end of the first semester are looking a little unlikely. Initial plans, which I produce for your information, need to be finalized – and while we have the necessary council approvals, drawings designed for the tender process are yet to be completed. Once these are finished and tenders are lodged, I will seek approval of Fr Kevin and the Parish Council for the scope and commencement of works.

We did suffer from an over-run in the prep project, which will limit our ability to extend the schools’ loans, hence the need to hasten carefully and work within affordable parameters. At this point in time, after accounting for various government grants, we have an initial budget of $500,000 for library loans … should the tender price be a friendly figure, progress should be relatively simple… if not, as they say… it’s back to the old drawing board!
Covered Area:
We have an application set down for Tuesday June 6, when representatives of the Block Grant Authority will visit the school to assess our plans and application for a Covered Area. This area would be built in the space between the prep building and the chapel. The BGA works with in process which prioritises applications throughout the state on the basis of need along with the ability to carry debt. As we should have debts in excess of $1.4 million once the library process is up and running – I hope that we will meet the criteria of a poor, needy school.

Staffing:
At our last meeting I outlined some of the issues behind our staffing schedule and who pays what in relation to staff salaries. At that meeting, I pointed out that we, at St A’s, currently budget for $148,000.00 in staffing for this year. This amount has been reserved primarily in response to parental requests for smaller classes. Just like parents, teachers love smaller classes – but they are aware of the cost that must be paid - $140,000 which can’t be spent somewhere else.

The construction of the new library – along with refurbishment of out current library space will deliver three new classrooms, taking the school’s GLA capacity to 21. The way in which we configure classrooms over the next few years poses a problem of financial balance and the desire to reduce classrooms. It is not simply a matter of making classes small – as I have indicated in a spreadsheet of calculations – “How Big is Small?".

Options we need to look at:
Cap the school size to 536 students.
P-Yr 3 – 22/23 students
Yr 4 – Yr 7 – 26/27 students.
Class Sizes are complex. Please tell your friends we need to put political pressure on our Federal Govt to increase it’s education funding.

Fund Raising:
A couple of enquiries have come my way (including one from an anonymous “irate parent” on the question of fundraising. The school relies very heavily on the social and financial support of the P&F Association and fundraising ventures not only provide “extras” for our children – they effectively keep school fees down. Most, if not all, fundraising ventures are organized by well intentioned and enthusiastic parents whose efforts are for all kids, not just their own. Many people here at this meeting are just those sorts of people and I deeply thank you on behalf of the community.

In setting a target or goal for this year’s fundraising, I see air conditioning of the new library as a very worthwhile and practical target. Our building budget does not allow for, what is seen by BGA authorities as a luxury, however I would view the library- resource area as the core of our school learning structure and its air conditioning as a virtual necessity.

With this suggested target in mind, we have sought a ball park quote from Joel Burns for the air-conditioning of the library and classrooms. Joel’s quote is for $36,950 plus GST – so that provides us with an idea of what we are looking at.

General Business:
- Next P&F meeting 24th July 2007

Meeting closed at approximately 9.00pm.