Rose Bay Secondary College School Council

Minutes 8 February 2010

Present: Jim Linton, David Abulafia, Steven Hayes, Bronwyn Kelly, Gaby Munro, Irene Ulman, Louise Hawkins, Lucy Andre, Ayse Kiziltekin, Rodney Plashchik

Meeting commenced: 7.35pm

Last meeting’s Minutes: adopted

1) Re-election of parent reps and directions for the Council in 2011

Two positions need to filled and two back-up reps, as agreed in earlier council meetings. Vote to be held at the next P&C AGM.

Jim reiterated the role of the School Council. It’s an advisory body to the Principal, also there to lobby on behalf of the school.

Steven to write a paragraph on the SC for the website, P&C to suggest parents look it up and consider long-term issues they would like considered by the Council.

One suggestion, use of college facilities, to be put on the SC agenda for the forthcoming meetings.

2) School anti-smoking policy

Jim’s summary: It’s the policy of the school that there should be no smoking on school premises, but teachers smoke in front of the school and so do students. Some students develop a habit for a number of reasons, eg. their parents smoke, they think it’s a rebellion against authority and is cool, they believe everyone is doing it. Smoking is not necessarily the school’s fault even though people think it is. Students leave school grounds to smoke, which is not safe. RBSC smoking policy response should not be punitive but rather be based on welfare considerations. Emphasis should be on a conversation with a student smoker, pointing him/her to the Quit program followed with a referral to counselling. A list of actions is required.

A number of responses followed:

- Is it possible to have an after school program they could attend for an hour or two instead of detention?
- PDHPE would have information about anti-smoking programmes that could be investigated
- Scare tactics (as in the drink driving campaigns or the TV cancer ads) may work better than anything else. Could we look into possible hospital or Community Health based programs (we have had programs involving police, why not try to organise something with the help of Community Health)
- Majority of kids who don’t smoke should be exposed to smoke
- Reflects badly on the school image (but being seen to actively pursue a policy will rectify some of the image issue)
- Smoking requires harsher punishment - after school detention combined with talking about smoking
- It’s a health and welfare issue
- Teachers need to adhere to the policy too.

Decision: Jim will look at PDHPE resources. Gaby will ask Quit for recommendations.

3) Uniform choices for girls

A letter has gone out to parents about girls wearing the school skirt inappropriately. It outlines some solutions but it needs to be made clearer to the community that shorts are also acceptable as part of the girls’ uniform.

Discussion about what shorts and shoes girls would wear. Suggestion that white sandshoes be allowed – many students would prefer them to the black school shoes.

A letter to be sent out clarifying that girls are allowed to wear shorts as part of the school uniform. There is a uniform committee which can publicise what is the correct school uniform.

Business arising:

School website: A template has been written and will be distributed to help teachers provide information for the website’s Staff Directory. Website now on the agenda of the Executive meeting. Jim has no problem putting it on the faculty meetings’ agenda as well.

School Council parent rep involvement: It helps if parents (School Council and P&C) wishing to understand and lobby for the school’s gifted programme, have more information about the running of the programme.

Louise suggested:

- Another information session for all interested parents about the selective and gifted programme.
- Designated parent(s) may attend the GAT meetings as previously agreed with GAT. Meetings take place once a week on Monday afternoon.
- School Council will receive a copy of the GAT minutes.

SRC: Rodney talked about the Radio broadcasts. They are back on and there are plans to expand broadcasting and training. Jim’s vision: regular radio content.

Meeting ended at 8.45pm