RIVERSIDE GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
P&C ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEETING –
WEDNESDAY 13th June 2012

The formal P&C meeting was opened by the President, Greg Tunnock, who introduced Ms Peggy O’Neill, Deputy Principal, and Ms Ann Vogelnest, Head Teacher, Teacher and Learning.

Ms Vogelnest thanked the P&C for the funding they provided to the school for a class set of iPods at the last meeting. She then went on to explain that as a result of a significant decrease in the price of iPads, and further investigations, the school had decided to use the money to buy a class set of iPads (13). These will be available for booking through the library. The iPads were chosen due to their additional capabilities as creative tools for the students. Ms Vogelnest demonstrated some of the potential uses of the iPads and explained how she thought they might be used for teaching and learning.

Ms O’Neill briefly discussed the future of technology at Riverside. The laptop program has been running for 3½ years and many think the federal funding may not continue past 2013 as initially it was only for 4 years. The school does not have sufficient funding to continue it without departmental support. Software and hardware alternatives are currently being investigated for 2014 onwards. Currently RGHS has excellent technology including the network. This is partly as a result of funding from the Korean Church which leases space from the school on the weekend. This arrangement is due to finish as the Church has built its own premises.

**Attendees**

12 parents as per the circulated Attendance Book.

**Apologies**

Karen Walker

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**Motion:** To accept the Minutes as read.

*Moved:* Zoe Thompson  
*Seconded:* Berny Barber  
*CARRIED*
Business Arising

- **Riverside school funding overview.** Mr Tunnock thanked all present for the positive and constructive funding discussion at the May meeting. At that meeting the projects requesting funding were far in excess of the P&C funds available and this could give the impression that our daughter’s education may suffer due to this shortfall. Greg was keen to explain that his was not the case as P&C funding is only one part of Riverside funding. Other funding comes from: grants; Sae Soong Church; Riverside markets. Ms Kelly is keen to establish a Riverside Finance Committee which contains 2 parent representatives. Anyone interested in being on the committee should forward their interest to the president. It was also agreed that it is time to review the P&C contributions and that this should occur at the August meeting.

- **Mathematics teacher selection panel.** Edward Pang, current temporary, was appointed.

- **Selection panel training for P&C members.** 5 additional parents were trained, making 8 parents now qualified. Mr Tunnock thanked those who have made themselves available for selection panel. Ruth Mc’Connell stated that she would be interested in taking part in the training next time.

- **Peta Pan P&C support.** Mr Tunnock thought it was an enjoyable production and congratulated all those involved, especially Meghan Cockburn – script writer and producer. It was great to see a full house on Friday night. The refreshments the P&C sold complemented the production and helped build community, raising approximately $510. Hospitality students ran the coffee machine. Special thanks to Rebecca Hastings, who organised the refreshments and made some very yummy cupcakes, and all those who helped her. Programs were available for those that were not able to attend.

- **Riverside sustainable gardens next phase.** Mr James contacted the P&C to say next phase of the project was going ahead. The P&C funded project in 2011 and the next stage involves pond, aquaponics growbed and vertical gardens. Mr James gave an invitation for parents to help in construction and learn about aquaponics and vertical gardens. Will be school time so students can be involved. Parents interested should let Greg know. The date and time will also be published by the Parent Portal once it is established. Mr Tunnock suggested a visit to the gardens at the start of the October meeting.

- **Assessment and Reporting workshop.** Mr Tunnock recapped on the discussion so far which included concerns raised by some parents late in 2011 – year 11 subject selections, end of year reports and sudden end of the year 10 School Certificate examinations. These issues were discussed at the February 2012 P&C meeting. Some parents felt that they are not well enough informed about the progress of their daughters education to help them make educational decisions, e.g subject selection while other parents felt their daughters are not getting enough formal examination experience to prepare them for the HSC. Other parents do not have these concerns and like things the way they are. In this area, Ms Kelly and the Riverside executive are very conscious that Riverside is a comprehensive, not selective, school, with a wide range of student abilities and engagement.

The year 10, term 4 program was outlined at the May P&C meeting by Katarina Nikoletich. Improved year 9 and year 11 subject selection process had also been discussed. Ms Kelly had proposed a workshop in term 3 after the midyear reports are out to address some of the remaining issues. Mr Tunnock canvassed whether
there was still interest in discussing this issue. It was agreed that we still do need to have a workshop and that the meeting should start with a rational for the current system, delivered by Ms Kelly.

**Correspondence In**
P&C Journals and letter from McDonalds

**Principal’s Report**
The Principal’s Report was presented by Peggy O’Neill, on behalf of Belinda Kelly, who was away at the NSW Principal’s conference.

- Ms O’Neill thanked the P&C for their support of Peta Pan which she thought had been a big success.
- Year 12 trial exams are in last two weeks of the term followed by year 11 exams in weeks 2&3 next term.
- Litter in the quad has been reduced by 90% - as a result of an SRC initiative. They tried really hard to address the problem of rubbish and have been successful. Created a lot of school spirit.
- Year 10 reports went out on Wednesday 12th with the rest out before the end of term.
- Year 9 laptop recall. 4 laptops have still not coming in. There is a problem with them melting and it is imperative that all are returned and checked.
- Changes to learning support funding. Previously had 0.4 STLA but have now been appointed 0.7 – this new person will work with teachers, not students as they had previously.
- Welfare conference was held and proposed a series of camps in 7,8,9,11 and study skills at the beginning of 12. They will not be all over night camps.
- All parents are invited to attend the first session (9-11) on the Professional Development Day on the first day of Term 3 (pupil free day) where Ann Volgenest will present a session on technology and collaborative learning.
- Major focus of term 3 is year 12 as it is their last term. Subject selection for 8 into 9 and 10 into 11 also occurs. Information evening for Year 10 parents is preceded by written information booklet provided to students.

**Treasurer’s Report**
The treasurer’s report was accepted as read. Opening balance at 2 May 2012 was $57,986.12 less cheques written for $53,550.00 as per funding decisions made at the last meeting. The closing balance at 1 June 2012 was $4463.44. This does not include the money made at Peta Pan.

**General Business**
- Fundraising ideas – Berny Barber, Robert King and Michael Warner had met following the last meeting to discuss fundraising ideas. Mr Barber outlined the vision they had for fundraising for the school which included tapping into activities that parents are already currently doing, that key activities had learning outcomes for the students and to involve parents in the life of the school/community building.
Suggestions included: annual mother daughter cultural holiday, club activities for girls, digital weekly news magazine, commemorative annual dvd, large scale events eg fancy dress ball, fetes.

Mr Barber asked the meeting to also brainstorm some fundraising ideas and requested that vetting these ideas be held off until the brainstorming phase was completed. This proved quite difficult and the meeting ran out of time before the process was completed.

It was suggested that a specific fundraising meeting be held and it be advertised through the parent portal, with Year 7 parents being a primary target.

Suggestions from the meeting included: market stall at Riverside Girls organic farmers market, take away food, hospitality girls cooking meals, fashion parade, utilising the new kitchens through a ‘masterchef’ night, selling first aid kits.

**Future Meetings**

- July - no meeting due to school holidays
- 8th August
- 12th September
- 10th October
- 14th November (AGM)