MT ST PATRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL  
PARENT FORUM MEETING  
21/02/11

PRESENT: NELL DARE, MICHELLE WAYERS, LEAH SHELDON, LEAH, EMMA BUTLER, ERICA WELLS, NAOMI SMITH, VICKI LACK, MEL RAINGER, DEANNE BUCH, SARAH GUINEA, NIKKI CLARK, KATHRYN LESLIGHT, BRIAN LAYBUTT, BRENDAN RYAN

APOLOGIES: MEGAN ONNIPER, SARA WILKINSON, JO KIRK, KELLY NORTHEAST, GILLIAN TAYLOR, JAN MAREE BROOKS

OPENING PRAYER – LEAD BY NIKKI CLARK.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HANDED OUT & READ BY ALL PRESENT – BRENDAN RYAN ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY ISSUES ARISING WITH THE LAST MEETING MINUTES THAT ANYBODY WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS, NO ONE PRESENT WANTING ANYTHING DISCUSSED. NIKKI CLARKE ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO THE MINUTES TAKEN. MINUTES ACCEPTED BY SARAH GUINEA. SECONDED BY NIKKI CLARK.

TREASURERS REPORT GIVEN BY NELL DARE.
NELL ADVISED WHERE FUNDS HAVE GONE FROM FUND RAISING LAST YEAR. BOOKS WITH EXACT FIGURES ARE STILL AT ACCOUNTANTS SO FIGURES PROVIDED THIS EVENING DID NOT PROVIDE DETAIL ‘TO THE DAY’. NELL ADVISED THAT THE MONEY RAISED LAST YEAR WENT TOWARD INTERACTIVE WHITE BOARDS, DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY ETC. LAPTOPS CONTRIBUTION OF = $12000, $300 TOWARD WORLD TEACHERS DAY. CURRENT BALANCE, AS AT JANUARY 25, 2011 = $1,622.48 ACCEPTED BY EMMA BUTLER. SECONDED BY DEANNE BUCH.

AGM – CONSTITUTION & EXECUTIVE POSITIONS.
NIKKI CLARK ADVISED THAT TONIGHT THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL HAND OVER THEIR POSITIONS & ANYBODY INTERESTED IN FILLING THOSE POSITIONS ARE WELCOME TO ‘COME FORWARD’ & TAKE OVER. NIKKI CLARK EXPLAINED THE ROLE AS CHAIRPERSON. NELL DARE EXPLAINED THE POSITION OF THE TREASURER. KATHRYN LESLIGHT EXPLAINED THE POSITION OF THE SECRETARY.

NELL EXPRESSED THAT SHE IS NOT INTERESTED IN BEING TREASURER AGAIN THIS YEAR, SHE IS WORKING & HER HUSBAND IS AWAY ALL YEAR SO SHE IS UNABLE TO COMMIT TO THE POSITION AGAIN. KATHRYN LESLIGHT EXPRESSED THAT SHE IS RELUCTANT TO COMMIT AT THIS STAGE, HAVING BEEN SECRETARY FOR 2 YEARS RUNNING AFTER THE VOTE WAS MADE THIS TIME LAST YEAR TO ALLOW A CANDIDATE TO HOLD THE POSITION OF SECRETARY FOR 2 YEARS RUNNING, LEADING KATHRYN TO FILL THE SECRETARY POSITION FOR A 2ND YEAR IN 2010. KATHRYN EXPRESSED INABILITY TO COMMIT TO TREASURERS POSITION DUE TO WORK AND FAMILY COMMITMENTS NOT ENABLING HER TO BE AVAILABLE DURING THE DAYS TO FILL THE TREASURERS ROLE. KATHRYN ADVISED SHE WAS HAPPY TO TAKE THE POSITION OF CHAIRPERSON, HAVING HELD THAT POSITION PREVIOUSLY, IF THERE WAS NOBODY ELSE INTERESTED IN TAKING ON THAT ROLE.

NIKKI ASKED IF ANYBODY PRESENT WAS INTERESTED IN FILLING THE POSITIONS.

SARAH GUINEA NOMINATED THAT SHE WILL BE CHAIRPERSON. MOVED BY NIKKI CLARK. SECONDED BY EMMA BUTLER

NIKKI CLARK NOMINATED THAT SHE WILL BE SECRETARY. MOVED BY LEAH SHELDON. SECONDED BY MEL RAINGER

ERICA WELLS NOMINATED THAT SHE WILL BE TREASURER. EMMA BUTLER TO BE ASSISTANT TREASURER. MOVED BY NIKKI CLARK. SECONDED BY EMMA BUTLER

BRIAN LAYBUTT EXPLAINED THE STAFFING APPOINTMENT FOR THIS YEAR. DETAILING WHAT TEACHERS ARE APPOINTED TO WHICH CLASSES & POSITIONS/COORDINATORS. NAMES OF TEACHERS & THEIR RELEVANT POSITIONS PRESENTED ON THE POWER POINT PRESENTATION.
BRIAN EXPLAINED THAT PETER CAMPBELL TENDERED RESIGNATION ABOUT 2 WEEKS BEFORE SCHOOL RESUMED THIS YEAR. HIS POSITION HAS BEEN FILLED BY MRS JADE DIXON. OTHER NEW TEACHERS APPOINTED ARE MRS TANIA MORRISINI IN STAGE 2 (YEAR 3/4) & MS STACEY PRICHARD IN MIDDLE SCHOOL (WHO REPLACED MS HEIDI LE-BROCK)

AFTER ADVERTISING FOR EXEC RELEASE POSITION (3 ½ DAYS PER WEEK POSITION TO FILL FOR TEACHERS WHEN THEY ARE OUT OF THE CLASSROOM FORFILLING THEIR EXECUTIVE ROLES IN THE SCHOOL). THIS POSITION SHOULD BE FILLED IN COMING WEEKS.

BRIAN EXPLAINED THE NEW LIBRARY FACILITIES – CONFIRMED THAT BORROWING IS NOW FORTNIGHTLY, INSTEAD OF WEEKLY.
EMMA BUTLER HAS BEEN EMPLOYED AS BURSAR THIS YEAR..
AUSLAN AIDE POSITION (FOR LITTLE BOY WHO NEEDS TO COMMUNICATE BY SIGN) WILL BE FILLED SHORTLY.

LIBRARY
LEAH SHELDON EXPRESSED WHAT SHE DESCRIBED AS SHEER DISBELIEF THAT THE CHILDREN ARE NOT ABLE TO BORROW FROM THE LIBRARY WEEKLY. SHE IS SADDENED THAT THE CHILDREN ARE ‘MISSING OUT’. FEELS THAT THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO ENJOY READING, THAT THEY ARE BEING PUSHED TO TECHNOLOGY & NOT ENCOURAGED TO EMBRACE READING OF BOOKS. SHE EXPRESSED THAT AS A TEACHER, SHE IS CONCERNED THAT THE MOTIVATION SEEMS TO BE TOWARD TECHNOLOGY, NOT HAVING LIBRARY ON A WEEKLY BASIS. NELL DARE ADVISED THAT SHE DID NOT KNOW THAT THE LIBRARY WAS NOT FORTNIGHTLY & ADVISED SHE HAS ONLY JUST LEARNED THIS TONIGHT AT THE MEETING. BRIAN ADVISED THAT THIS CHANGE WAS ADVISED IN THE PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT A FEW WEEKS AGO.

LEAH EXPRESSED HER DISSATISFACTION WITH THE END RESULT OF THE LIBRARY, THAT IT DOESN’T FEEL AS BIG THAT IT DOESN’T HAVE THE WARM INVITING FEEL THAT IT USED TO HAVE WHEN THERE WERE BOOK SHELVES EVERYWHERE. BRIAN ASSURED THOSE PRESENT THAT THE CHILDREN GO TO THE LIBRARY WEEKLY HOWEVER ONE WEEK THEY HAVE BORROWING & ON THE OFF WEEK, THEY HAVE A LIBRARY LESSON SO THEY WERE STILL BROUGHT TO & UTILISING THE LIBRARY ONCE A WEEK.

BRIAN ADVISED THE LIBRARY IS A FUNDING ISSUE – ITS IN PART ABOUT GETTING THE BOOKS BACK ON THE SHELVES – WITH 300 CHILDREN, THAT IS POTENTIALLY 600 PLUS BOOKS TO RESHELVE & HAVING BOTH THE STAFF & THE TIME TO DO THAT. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE SCHOOL HAS EMPLOYED A TEACHERS AID TO DO THIS. BRIAN ADVISED THE CHILDREN HAVE A 40 MINUTE BORROWING TIME (10 MINS LONGER THAN LAST YEAR), THEY CAN BORROW 4 BOOKS (RATHER THAN THE LIMIT OF 2 BOOKS LAST YEAR) & IF CHILDREN WANT TO GET MORE BOOKS THROUGH THE FORTNIGHT, THE CHILDREN ARE ABLE & ENCOURAGED TO GO TO THE LIBRARY WITH ANOTHER CLASS TO DO SO.

BRIAN ADVISED THAT THERE HAS BEEN $5000 FURNITURE PURCHASE APPROVED FOR THE LIBRARY. THE NUMBER OF BOOKS AVAILABLE HAS BEEN CULLED ‘MARGINALLY’ BUT THAT CULL HAS BEEN LONG OVERDUE. THE LIBRARY IS NOW CALLED ‘RESOURCE CENTRE’ SO IT IS BEING USED TO ACCESS LITERATURE BUT ALSO BE INFORMED ABOUT TECHNOLOGY (THE CHILDREN OBTAIN INFORMATION THROUGH LIBRARY BOOKS & OTHER COURSES). BRIAN ADVISED THAT MOST LIBRARIES THESE DAYS ARE HEADING DOWN THIS ROAD OF TECHNOLOGY & LIKE IT OR NOT, THAT IS THE WAY OF THE WORLD THESE DAYS. BRIAN CONFIRMED THAT MOST CHILDREN THESE DAYS SOURCE INFORMATION NOT FROM BOOKS BUT THROUGH GOOGLE.

BRENDAN ADVISED THE DECISION WAS LINKED TO STAFF HAVING FACE TO FACE RELEASE. THIS IS AN ENTITLEMENT THAT STAFF HAVE THAT HAS BEEN INCREASED BY 15 MINUTES. STAFF VOTED THAT THEIR STAFF RELEASE WOULD BE DURING THE LIBRARY, MUSIC OR ART CLASSES. EACH TERM THE CHILDREN HAVE ART FOR 5 WEEKS & THEN MUSIC FOR 5 WEEKS (OR THE OTHER WAY ROUND DEPENDING ON THE CLASS THE CHILDREN ARE IN), THE LIBRARY IS ON THE ALTERNATE WEEK. VOTE TAKEN BY STAFF WAS FOR LIBRARY EVERY WEEK & MUSIC/ART ON ALTERNATE WEEKS OR VICE VERSA – THE STAFF ARE WHO HAS VOTED FOR THE LIBRARY ARRANGEMENT TO BE AS IT IS.

THE PARENTS PRESENT EXPRESSED THAT THE LIBRARY PROBABLY APPEARS SMALLER BECAUSE THERE IS NO FURNITURE IN THE ROOM, NO TABLES & CHAIRS LIKE THERE WAS PREVIOUSLY, NO PICTURES ON THE WALLS ETC. THE CONSATINA DOORS OPEN UP TO THE ART & MUSIC ROOM. BRIAN EXPLAINED THAT WE COULD HAVE LIBRARY EVERY WEEK BUT THAT WOULD BE AT THE COST OF MUSIC OR ART – AT PRESENT THE CHILDREN HAVE A BIT OF EVERYTHING.
SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTS 2011
BRIAN ADVISED WE ARE ABOUT 90% COMPLETE WITH A BOUT 10% REMAINING TO BE DONE. THE FIT OUTS WITH FURNITURES & INTERNAL PAINTING IS STUFF THE SCHOOL OPTED TO TAKE ON OUTSIDE OF THAT WHICH THE GOVERNMENT GRANT COVERED. BRIAN EXPRESSED THAT THEY ARE YET TO GO THROUGH & CHECK OFF DEFECTS.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW BUILDING WILL BE MARCH 17, 2011 AT 10:30AM – THE COLLEGE WILL BE OPENING THEIR NEW BUILDINGS ON THE SAME DAY. ATTENDED BY MEMBER FOR RICHMOND – JUSTINE ELLIOT – THERE WILL BE A SCHOOL MASS – SPACE WILL BE TIGHT AS THERE WILL BE 1000 STUDENTS.

SCHOOL BURSAR – BRIAN EXTENDED AN OFFICIAL WELCOME TO EMMA BUTLER (PRESENT) WHO IS OUR NEW SCHOOL BURSAR.

SCHOOL POPULATION = 328 STUDENTS.
13 CLASSES. GENERALLY THE CLASS SIZES ARE 26 OR 27.
2 KINDY = 22 & 23 CHILDREN
YEAR 1 = 27
YEAR 1/2 = 25
YEAR 2 = 26
STAGE 2 = 21 & 22 IN EACH CLASS (4 CLASSES)
MIDDLE SCHOOL = 27 & 28 IN EACH CLASS (4 CLASSES)

BRIAN ADVISED THAT YEAR 6 IS AT MAXIMUM NUMBERS. YEAR 4 & 5 POSSIBLY HAVE A FEW VACANCIES BUT THE SCHOOL IS NOT NECESSARILY CONSIDERED FULL CAPACITY

BRIAN ADVISED THAT THEY ARE REFUSING ENROLMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN YEAR 5 OR 6 IF THEY HAVE A SIBBLING AT THE SAME SCHOOL WHICH THE YR 5-6 STUDENT IS BEING PULLED FROM – MICHELLE WATERS EXPRESSED SADNESS THAT THE SCHOOL HAS THAT POLICY AS IT MIGHT BE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ONE CHILD MAY NEED TO CHANGE SCHOOLS & THEIR OTHER SIBLINGS MAY NOT. DISCUSSIONS OPENED UP THEN ABOUT OTHER PARENTS OPINIONS ON THIS – IT WAS EXPRESSED THAT SOME HAD HEARD THAT FAMILIES WERE TRYING TO MOVE THEIR CHILDREN ACROSS TO THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN THEIR LATER PRIMARY SCHOOL YEARS JUST TO GET THEM INTO THE HIGH SCHOOL.

DEE BUCH ASKED WHAT THE SCHOOLS POSITION IS FOR PARENTS WHO DO NOT WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO LEARN RELIGION, BRENDAN ADVISED THAT WE ARE A CATHOLIC SCHOOL & RELIGION IS PART OF OUR CURRICULUM & IF THEY DID NOT WANT THEIR CHILD TO LEARN RELIGION, THEY WOULD NEED TO GO ELSEWHERE.

IT WAS EXPRESSED THAT NUMBERS VARY WITH LOSING YEAR 6 & GAINING KINDY. EG, LOST 60 YR 6 & GAINED 45 KINDY – IT IS VITAL THAT WE DON’T CHANGE THE CULTURE WITHIN THE SCHOOL SO WHEN TALKING ABOUT FAMILIES COMING IN, ITS NOT JUST SINGULAR CHILDREN BEING ACCEPTED AT THIS STAGE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR– FAMILIES NEED TO ADOPT THE POLICIES OF OUR SCHOOL – POLICIES AS SIMPLE AS UNIFORM POLICY – IF YOU DON’T LIKE IT, DON’T COME BECAUSE IF YOU ARE NOT PREPARED TO SUPPORT OUR POLICIES THERE WILL BE A PROBLEM CREATED THAT DOESN’T NEED TO BE THERE & THAT PROBLEM AFFECTS THE CULTURE OF OUR SCHOOL. IT IS EXPRESSED THAT IF CERTAIN POLICIES ARE AN OBSTACLE FOR SOME PEOPLE, THEY NEED TO MAKE THE DECISION AS TO WHAT THEIR INTENTIONS ARE, WHAT THEY CAN OR CAN’T SUPPORT – WE ARE A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FIRST & FOREMOST.

ON AVERAGE, THE SCHOOL HAS INCREASED BY 20 STUDENTS PER YEAR.
1 IN EVERY 4 STUDENTS IN THIS SCHOOL ARE NEW STUDENTS.
WE CURRENTLY HAVE 13 FULL CLASSES – IDEALLY WE WILL HAVE 14 CLASSES –BEING 2 CLASSES IN EVERY GRADE. THE ONLY YEAR THAT IS NOT A 2 CLASS IS YEAR 2.

BRENDAN OVERVIEWED TERM 1 EVENTS – WITH THOSE ITEMS ON THE POWER POINT DISPLAY.
IN SUMMARY:
THERE WILL BE A WORKING BEE ON THE WEEK BEFORE SCHOOL OPENING DAY
WEEKS 7-8 WILL BE 1 ON 1 INTERVIEWS WITH ALL CLASS TEACHERS
BUSH DANCE WILL BE 18TH OF MARCH.
ANZAC DAY IS BEGINNING OF TERM 2 – STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR TERM 2 ON WEDNESDAY 27TH OF APRIL.

BRENDAN BRUSHED OVER TERM 2 & 3 UPCOMING EVENTS (DETAILS OF SAME ON POWER POINT PRESENTATION).

ROLE OF PARENT REPS
EXPLAINED BY BRENDAN RYAN.
ON RECENT INFORMATION NIGHTS, PARENTS WERE ASKED TO TICK IF THEY WERE INTERESTED IN BEING A PARENT REP. THE ROLES OF PARENT REPS ARE STILL DEVELOPING.
ONE KEY COMPONENT OF HOW IT ALL CAME ABOUT HAVING PARENT REPS IS THAT ALL FUNCTIONS USED TO BE RUN PURELY BY THE OFFICE & STAFF AT THE SCHOOL FROM ORGANISING THINGS, COOKING THE SAUSAGES TO COUNTING THE MONEY ETC ETC ETC.
PARENT REPS ARE THE LIASON PERSON FOR CLASSES & THE CONTACT PERSON FOR THE CLASS. PARENT REPS ARE ASKED TO SUPPORT THE CLASS ROOM TEACHERS. PARENT REPS ARE ASKED TO COORDINATE 1 SCHOOL EVENT ON THE SCHOOL CALENDAR. AS PARENT REP YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT EVENT WHICH YOUR CLASS IS ORGANISING (AS ALLOCATED AT THE FIRST FORUM MEETING OF THE YEAR).

BRENDAN ADVISED THAT THE SCHOOL REALLY WANTS TO PUSH FOR PARENT REPS TO ORGANISATE SOMETHING SOCIAL FOR THEIR CLASS/STAGE BY PROMOTING SOME KIND OF SOCIAL EVENT FOR THEIR CLASS– ONE IN THE 1ST HALF OF THE YEAR & THEN ANOTHER IN THE 2ND HALF.

BRIAN EXPRESSED THAT IN LIGHT OF HOW MANY NEW STUDENTS WE HAVE IN OUR SCHOOL, IT IS VITAL THAT THERE BE SOME KIND OF SOCIAL WELCOMING TO NEW FAMILIES BY PARENT REPS OF THEIR CLASS. SARAH GUINEA ADVISED THAT SHE SPOKE TO 3 FAMILIES YESTERDAY AT THE KINDER BEACH DAY WHO SAID THEY WERE REALLY HAPPY WITH THE SOCIAL WORKINGS OF THE SCHOOL.

BRIAN ASKED FOR ANY PARENTS PRESENT TO MAKE COMMENT ABOUT THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE WHEN THEY FIRST STARTED AT THE SCHOOL, POINTING OUT THAT OF THE 15 (OR SO) PRESENT AT THE MEETING, THAT PERHAPS HALF OF THOSE PARENTS DIDN’T HAVE CHILDREN WHO STARTED SCHOOLING IN KINDY AT MT ST PATRICK. ERICA WELLS EXPRESSED THAT WHEN SHE STARTED KINDY, SHE WAS REALLY UNSURE OF EVERYTHING – SHE SUGGESTED IT WOULD HAVE HELPED HER IF SHE HAD ANOTHER PARENT, LIKE A BUDDY SYSTEM, AS THE CHILDREN HAVE A PARENT FROM SAY YR 1) TO RING HER & OFFER SUPPORT, ADVICE OR ASSISTANCE. SHE SAID SHE WAS CONSTANTLY JUDY IN THE OFFICE FOR DIRECTIONS AS SHE ‘DIDN’T HAVE A CLUE’

LEAH SHELDON EXPRESSED THAT SHE FOUND THE PHONE CALL FROM A PARENT REP IN THE EARLY TIMES MOST COMFORTING.

BRIAN CONFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENT REPS CONTACTING THE NEW FAMILIES IN THEIR CLASSES TO OFFER SUPPORT OR ASSISTANCE & WELCOME THOSE NEW FAMILIES. KATHRYN LESLIGHT EXPRESSED THAT THE CONTACT LIST WITH ALL OF THE NAMES OF THE CLASS FAMILIES DOES NOT COME OUT EARLY ENOUGH FOR THE PARENT REPS TO CONTACT THE NEW FAMILIES IN A TIMELY FASHION – LAST YEAR IT WAS WEEK 4 OR 5 BEFORE THOSE LISTS CAME OUT SO HALF THE TERM WAS OVER. BRIAN CONFIRMED THAT DUE TO THE PRIVACY ACT, THEY ARE UNABLE TO HAND OUT PHONE NUMBERS WITHOUT THE PERSONS PERMISSION TO DO SO, SO IT TAKES TIME TO GET THE APPROPRIATE PERMISSION FROM PARENTS TO GIVE THOSE NUMBERS OUT WHICH IS WHY IT TAKES SO LONG & IS NOT INFORMATION THAT CAN BE HANDED OUT IN THE FIRST WEEK OR 2, OFTEN, IT ISN’T UNTIL CHASE UP & REMINDERS IN THE NEWSLETTERS SEEKING PARENTS CONTACT DETAILS TO BE ADDED TO THIS LIST, THAT THEY HAVE EVERYBODY ANYWAY & THE SCHOOL IS MINDFUL OF THEIR LIMITATIONS IN THIS RESPECT.

EMMA BUTLER SUGGESTED, TO AVOID THE PRIVACY PROBLEMS WITH GIVING OUT NUMBERS THAT IF THERE ARE PARENT REPS IN A CLASS WHO ARE HAPPY TO HAVE THEIR NUMBERS GIVEN OUT (& THIS PERMISSION IS ESTABLISHED VERY EARLY IN THE SCHOOL YEAR), THAT THOSE PARENT REP NUMBERS CAN BE PROVIDED TO THE NEW FAMILIES & THOSE NEW FAMILIES CAN BE ENCOURAGED TO CALL THE PARENTS WHOSE NUMBER THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN IF THEY HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS. BRIAN AGREED THIS WAS A VERY GOOD IDEA & PERHAPS SOMETHING THEY CAN IMPLIMENT THROUGH THE SCHOOL SYSTEM WITH NEW ENROLMENTS.

EMMA BUTLER SUGGESTED THAT A PARENT REP BUDDY BE INTRODUCED FOR PARENTS WHO ARE NEW USING THE SAME PRINCIPAL AS ABOVE.
ERICA WELLS TOGETHER WITH DEANNE BUCH EXPRESSED THAT THE NUMBER OF PARENTS THAT COME TO THE PARENT FORUM MEETINGS HAS SIGNIFICANTLY DECLINED SINCE THEIR INITIAL INVOLVEMENT WITH THE SCHOOL—ERICA WELLS ADVISED IN HER FIRST MEETING EVER, THE LIBRARY WAS PACKED BUT THE NUMBERS JUST KEEP DECLINING. DISCUSSIONS OPENED UP WITHIN THE GROUP ABOUT THIS & ALL PRESENT WERE AWARE & SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT FOR A SCHOOL THE SIZE OF OUR SCHOOL, THE SUPPORT SHOWN BY PARENTS WHEN IT CAME TO SCHOOL MEETINGS WAS APPALLING.

IT WAS RAISED WITHIN THE DISCUSSIONS THAT THERE ARE MORE ENROLMENTS AT THE SCHOOL NOW BUT THE NUMBERS OF PARENTS AT MEETINGS HAD NOT INCREASED. THERE WAS CONCERN ACROSS THE BOARD THAT THERE IS SEVERE LACK OF COMMITMENT SHOWN FROM PARENTS BY NOT ATTENDING THE FORUM MEETINGS. NELL DARE EXPRESSED THAT SHE HAS FOUND THE SAME AT THE HIGH SCHOOL – BRENDAN ADVISED THAT IT APPEARS TO BE THE SAME TREND EVERY WHERE YOU GO. DESPITE ‘ROUND TABLE’ DISCUSSIONS THERE WAS NO RESOLVE AS TO HOW TO INCREASE NUMBERS.

THE START TIME OF THE PARENT FORUM MEETINGS IS 7PM – NAOMI SMITH SUGGESTED THAT WE BRING THE MEETING TIME EARLY IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THESE MEETINGS USUALLY GO FOR AN HOUR OR SO & PERHAPS IT WAS THE TIME THAT TURNED PEOPLE OFF FURTHER EXPRESSING THAT THE PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS WHICH COMMENCED AT 6:30PM HAD HEAPS OF PARENTS PRESENT.

ERICA WELLS ASKED ABOUT IF THERE IS ANY PLANS TO INTRODUCE A MOTHER/DAUGHTER ACTIVITY LIKE THERE IS A FATHER/SON CAMP – BRIAN EXPLAINED THE FATHER/SON CAMP WAS ORIGINALLY ORGANISED BECAUSE OF STUDIES SHOWING THAT FATHERS DON'T SPEND ENOUGH TIME WITH THEIR SONS SO THE SCHOOL WAS SUPPORTING THAT BONDING BETWEEN FATHERS & SONS. IT WAS SUGGESTED THROUGH OPEN DISCUSSION THAT WHEN THE FATHERS HAVE THEIR CAMP, THAT THE MOTHERS USE THAT TIME WITH THEIR DAUGHTERS TO MAKE THEIR OWN PLANS & DO SOMETHING SPECIAL. BRIAN EMPHASISED THAT IT IS NOT A PROBLEM IF THE MOTHERS WOULD LIKE TO LOOK INTO ORGANISING AN EVENT FOR THE MOTHER/DAUGHTERS BUT IT WAS STUDY BASED THAT THE FATHER/SON CAMP WAS BORN.

MICHELLE WATERS ASKED IF THE PARENT FORUM COULD ORGANISE A DISCO FOR THE YEAR 6 STUDENTS, MAKING REFERENCE TO A DISCO THAT HAD BEEN ORGANISED FOR YEAR 6 LAST YEAR. BRIAN ADVISED THAT THE DISCO WHICH WAS ORGANISED LAST YEAR WAS ORGANISED BY PARENTS ONLY & WAS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE SCHOOL AT ALL, THE SCHOOL HAD NO PART IN THAT DISCO. BRENDAN ADVISED THAT AS A SCHOOL, THEY DON'T BECOME INVOLVED IN THAT SORT OF THING. WHEN ASKED WHY (DEE BUCH), BRENDAN ADVISED THAT THEY HAVE A TREAT DAY FOR YEAR 6 & THE SCHOOL DOESN'T WISH TO HYPE UP THE CHILDREN LEAVING YEAR 6 & MAKE IT BIGGER THAN IT ACTUALLY IS. HE ADVISED THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOME FORM OF CELEBRATION (DISCO ETC) ARE MADE BY PARENTS ONLY – IT IS SEPARATE FROM THE SCHOOL & NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SCHOOL – THERE ARE ISSUES ARE WITH INSURANCE, LIABILITY ETC ETC ETC IF ANYTHING IS ORGANISED UNDER THE ‘SCHOOL BANNER’.

IF YOU DECIDE SOMETHING AS A YEAR 6 PARENT TO DO SOMETHING FOR THE YEAR 6 STUDENTS, IT IS UP TO THE PARENTS TO ORGANISE IT THEMSELVES AS COMPLETELY SEPARATE TO THE SCHOOL & THAT MUST BE EXPRESSED AT THE TIME OF ORGANISING IT.

DEE BUCH ASKED IF WE HAVE TO HAVE A SKILL A THON – ERCIA WELLS FOLLOWED BY ADVISING THAT PEOPLE WANT SOMETHING FOR THEIR MONEY. BRIAN POINTED OUT THAT THE SKILL A THON LAST YEAR RAISED $7000 – THE OUTLAY IS NEXT TO NOTHING & HE BELIEVES PEOPLE WHO DONATE MONEY TO THE SCHOOL, WANT THEIR DONATION TO GO 100% TO THE SCHOOL, NOT HALF TO THE SCHOOL & HALF TO A BAKERY (OR THE LIKE) DEE EXPRESSED THAT MAYBE WE COULD DO THE SKILL A THON BUT INCORPORATE SOMETHING DIFFERENT TOO.

BRENDAN ADVISED THAT WE ARE ENTITLED TO HAVE 2 MAJOR FUND RAISERS FOR THE YEAR AS WE NEED TO WORK IN WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL & WE ARE LARGELY DICTATED BY THE PARISH AS TO WHAT WE CAN HAVE & WHEN WE CAN HAVE IT (CAN'T HAVE IT TERM 4 DUE TO TABLEU ETC)

ERICA ASKED IF AT THE BUSH DANCE OR CHRISTMAS PICNIC CAN WE HAVE EXTRA STUFF THERE TO RAISE MONEY – LIKE A SLUSHIE MACHINE. BRIAN ADVISED THAT THE SOCIAL EVENTS ARE MORE FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION & NOT FOR RAISING MONEY. OF THE LIST OF SCHOOL EVENTS, ONLY 2 ARE FUNDRAISING, OTHERS ARE FOR SOCIAL – THIS HAS BEEN A DELIBERATE ARRANGEMENT PREVIOUSLY AS THEY DON’T WANT PARENTS FEELING LIKE THEY ARE CONSTANTLY PUTTING THEIR HAND IN THEIR POCKET TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE SCHOOL.
IN SAYING THAT THOUGH BRIAN CONFIRMED THERE IS NO PROBLEM IN HAVING OTHER THINGS AT THE SCHOOL FUNCTIONS FOR PEOPLE TO BUY & THE MONEY IN TURN ADDS TO FUND RAISING.

BRENDAN BRIEFLY DESCRIBED WORLD TEACHERS DAY LUNCH WHICH THEY HAD LUNCH THROUGH THE BALCONY RESTAURANT LAST YEAR. HE DESCRIBED IT AS LOVELY – BALCONY PROVIDED THE LUNCH MEALS & THE STAFF HAD LUNCH IN THE HALL WITH THE CLASS WHO WAS ALLOCATED TO ‘MANNING’ WORLD TEACHERS DAY SERVING MEALS.

### IMPORTANT SCHOOL EVENTS THIS YEAR

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PARENT ASSEMBLY

TWEED PARENT ASSEMBLY REPS ARE MEL RAINGER & CLAIRE DEALE – BRENDAN ADVISED THAT IT IS A 2 YEAR CONTRACT – THE GIRLS HAVE SERVED 1 YEAR.

GENERAL LOOSE DISCUSSION ENTERED ABOUT THE PARENT ASSEMBLY – MEL CONFIRMED THAT IT IS REALLY LOVELY, IS A NICE GROUP OF PEOPLE & BECAUSE THERE ARE 3 SCHOOLS HERE, THE MEETINGS ARE CENTRAL.

MEL RAINGER ADVISED THAT WE HAVE $1000 TO SPEND THROUGH THE PARENT ASSEMBLY TO USE TOWARDS RESOURCES THIS YEAR. THIS, SHE ADVISED CAN BE PUT TOWARD A SPEAKER/PRESENTATION, BOOKS, DVD’S ETC – MEL ASKED IF ANYBODY HAS ANY IDEAS ON HOW WE CAN SPEND THIS MONEY, PLEASE GET SOME IDEAS TOGETHER & LET MEL KNOW – AS OUR SCHOOL REP (WITH CLAIRE DEALE) SHE WILL PASS ON SUGGESTIONS & REQUESTS TO THE PARENT ASSEMBLY SUPERVISOR. MEL ADVISED THAT WE CAN POOL WITH OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE AREA TO MAKE OUR MONEY GO FURTHER, IF SCHOOLS HAVE A SIMILAR IDEA/CONCEPT.

THE GROUP SUGGESTED THAT A TALK ON ANXIETY WOULD BE GOOD FOR FIRST TERM SUBJECT FOR A TALK/PRESENTATION DUE TO THE NUMBER OF NEW STUDENTS WHO ARE LIKELY TO BE EXPERIENCING ANXIETY AT THIS TIME OF YEAR.

CYBER KNOWLEDGE (BULLYING ETC) WAS ALSO EXPRESSED BY PARENTS PRESENT AS BEING OF INTEREST ALSO. MEL ADVISED THAT TEHRE WERE CYBER DVDS, (PARENT DVD, TEACHER DVD, PARENT STUDENT TEACH DVD) – THESE WERE PURCHASED LAST YEAR & ADDED TO THE PARENT LIBRARY & AVAILABLE FOR ANYBODY TO USE.

THANK YOU FROM BRIAN TO ALL OF THE PARENTS WHO FILLED THE COMMITTEE ROLES LAST YEAR.

NIKKI CLARKE CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8:55PM