MINUTES OF THE MURWILLUMBAH PRIMARY SCHOOL P&C COMMITTEE
held on Wednesday 23rd May 2012

Meeting Opened 6:31pm

Acknowledgement
By Natalie Hall of the original custodians of the land being the Bundjalung nation and their Elders.

Attendance
Sonya Taylor, Natalie Hall, Sandra Paddock, Tracey Johnston, Amanda DeLyon, Megan Lindsay, Peter Stowe, Karen Kester, Kerri Turnbull, Robyn Daley, Vikki Armour

Apologies
Rebecca Coates, Neil Baker, Rebecca Inglis, Rodney Darby.

Current Membership Count 22

Minutes of Previous Meeting
Moved as being true and accurate by Tracey Johnston and seconded by Amanda De Lyon. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting to listen to our special guest speaker was made by Sonya Taylor. Seconded by Amanda De Lyon. Motion carried.

Mr Peter Stowe is the Murwillumbah Public School Representative for the N.S.W Teachers Federation. He is here to inform the members of the P&C on Local Schools Local Decisions (LSLD).

From comments received from the local community regarding Fridays stop work action it was all about teachers wanting more money. This is just not the case. In fact the LSLD is described by the teaching profession as the most profound change to occur since the 1980’s. The Federation asserts that LSLD is about saving money and shifting responsibility for public education onto principals.

What the N.S.W Government proposes is to give 70% of the budget over to the school. The principal will be in charge of 70% of funds and needs to budget for staffing and resources.

The first issue Peter mentions is salaries. Teachers were given a 2.5% increase to their salary. Any increase above 2.5% requires trade off for conditions, staffing and resources. The LSLD will affect not only the working environment but resources that will reflect on student learning conditions. This is an undesirable element that is not in the best interest of anyone.

In 2008 the NSW Auditor General predicted that half of the 50000 full time work force will reach retirement age in 2016. The LSLD will affect the recruitment plan of new teachers into the profession as it undermines working conditions, salaries and job security. Peter explained the staffing formula for NSW for transferring staff. With the
LSLD when numbers in a school decrease rather than being moved as a permanent employee teachers could be made redundant.
The incentive service transfer is where graduates can elect to work in remote areas to gain higher transfer points to get to a more favourably located school in the future. This will now jeopardize remote schools to attract qualified teachers which in turn will compromise the students learning and their surrounding communities.
Support staff will be the first to go. Principals will have to try to save money where ever they can which means executive staff is at risk as well. Peter sums it up saying that 7000 teacher positions and 1800 support staff are threatened by LSLD.

Kerri arrives at 6:50pm
Amanda asked what we could do about the situation. Natalie says as an individual to write letters to our local and state government. As a P&C we are still waiting on advice before we can comment.

Robyn arrives at 6:52pm
The LSLD does have some advantages however at the end of the day the principal will absorb the fall out.

Vikki arrives at 7:00pm
Natalie thanks Peter for his time and Peter departs at 7:05pm

**Business Arising From Minutes**
Natalie hasn’t yet heard from Felicia. She hopes to hear from her shortly.
Cathie Heffernan was unable to attend the school assembly to receive her glasses. Sandra will contact her to see when we can get them to her.
Vikki wanted to clarify a statement in the minutes regarding outstanding music money. Everything is up to standards it was the change over from the executive committee that had caused the problems.

**Correspondence**
- Annual conference notification to attend.
- Royal Far West wanting a donation for their school to purchase computers.
- A parent inquiring as to whether we could change the Advance Life Photography fundraising day to another day. This could not be arranged as everyone has already been advised of the date.
- P&C journals.
- Fundraising paraphernalia on father’s day ideas.

Kerri moved that her report being true and accurate be accepted. Seconded by Robyn, motion carried.
Natalie notices an error in the previous minutes and asks for the president’s report to be changed to the principal s report. Sandra will see to it.

**Principal’s Report**
As tabled by Karen Kester.
Les congratulated all the students who has represented our school in various sporting events this month and commended them for their effort and spirit. He wished the 9 students attending the District Cross Country this Friday good luck.
Les encourage all parents to complete and return the school welfare survey form by Friday. This is your opportunity to have input into the future direction of our school welfare policy.

Les thanked Mrs King for nominating our children in the Far North Coast Dance Festival. Les attended the first rehearsal at Kingscliff High School last week, a special thanks to the mums for their support with transport and preparation of costumes for the children.

On Monday we placed an information display in Sunnyside Mall. New Kindy Information leaflets carrying our new letterhead and colours are being handed out to parents as they visit our school. We will also be taking them around to a number of Pre Schools in the area. A letter box drop is also planned. We will also be trialing a new style of newsletter. The Magpie will still feature as a special reports section of our newsletter. Justine Elliott will officially open our new school hall on 12th June at 9:30am. Our school dancers and our band and choir will perform.

Les will be holding a meeting in the next two weeks with representatives from the council and bus company to discuss concerns around parking and drop off points that were raised at an earlier meeting in the year.

Congratulations to Multicultural Public Speaking winners: stage 2 Avalon and Garrett and stage 3: Jordan and Emilee who will now represent our school at Lennox Head in the North Coast Finals. These four children along with a number of other students spoke exceptionally well at the school finals held yesterday.

The school recently received a grant of $2000 for the Live Well project we nominated for. Miss Rawson will be using some of this money to assist with a number of projects that children will be involved in throughout the school.

Parent/teacher interview request forms went home yesterday. These meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th June. This is a terrific opportunity for parents to meet with teachers and discuss your child’s progress.

Tomorrow, Lyn Lack will travel to Sydney with Lachlan and Shaquel for the opening of the Art Gallery Exhibition. Both students will be presented with their certificates and see their work framed and on display.

Our annual Schoolastic Book Fair is on again on Wednesday 30th May. We will start the day with a big breakfast under the shelter (a gold coin donation, please to support Cancer Council). The Book Fair, which will be held in the Library, will follow the breakfast.

Les’s final message is of exceptional importance—GO THE BLUES!

Cooper S disagreed with Mr Daley regarding his Blue comment.

**Treasures Report**

No report

**Instrumental Report**

As tabled.

All lessons running smoothly. Whopping big band has a number of engagements this term. The Festival of Performing Arts will be held in the 2nd last week of term.

Neil Baker now has the paper work pertaining to overdue fees from 2010 and will take up the collection of these fees. Hopefully this will all be resolved satisfactorily in due course. Bunyip Band is cancelled on Wednesday due to the Big Breakfast, a note will be
sent home. Vikki moved that her report being true and accurate be accepted. Seconded by Kerri.

**Canteen Report**
No Report
Sonya indicated that the canteen is running at a net loss of around $4000 due to expenses such as a new fridge and freezer. As there is no documentation of what is sold and what is being thrown out it is hard to a thorough report. Sonya says that documentation is now in place to track this.

We need one person to be responsible for purchasing supplies to avoid wastage with expired stock. As the canteen is only opened 2 days a week a lot of items could be purchased from local supermarkets to avoid having to buy minimum quantities and delivery fees. Sonya is happy to do back ground work to get the canteen up and running.

A canteen meeting is needed to be organized as soon as possible to address these issues.

**Fundraising**
The Vicar of Dibley has 13 tickets sold. We need to sell the last 7.

The dance-a-thon is set for the 8th June to be held during sport time. We need a DJ for this event. Mrs Taylor will be approached to organize the music. A note needs to go out in the next news letter to promote this event. The students will have a few weeks till the end of term to collect the promised donations.

A fundraising committee meeting needs to be held to discuss further ideas.

The Advanced Life Photography to be held on Sunday 17th June. We need at least 30 families before this event can go ahead. At present we have only 7 families responding to fliers. Chris Percy has requested that the P&C nominate someone to correlate the times and let the families know what time slot they have for their photo. Tracey has volunteered to do this. Sandra asks if we could send leaflets out to the pre schools to promote it in the wider community.

**100 Years MPS Report**
As tabled by Vikki
Treasurer for this event has not been decided as Vikki wanted to know if our currant P&C treasure wanted this role. After discussion with Robyn, Robyn declined this role and Vikki will take it back to the sub committee to find someone to take on this role.

Vikki did mention that the committee will need some money to run this event. The last time they ran a similar event they needed around $1000. However with many people having electronic means now this amount will need to be reviewed. The committee is still in the planning mode with the hope to start promoting this event by the end of term 3.

Kerri departs at 8:10pm

**Uniform Report**
Sonya has had 5 verbal responses to her committee.

Neil via text message would like to move that a yes/no survey be handed out to the parents. Vikki suggests that we may need to start again as thee has been a number of new parents to the school they may want to voice their opinion. Sandra says that the uniform
has been an on going saga since she has been at the school nearly 6 years. A number of
times a change of uniform have been suggested and nothing has been done about it. Even
at an AGM a few years ago it was on the agenda and still nothing has changed except for
another note asking you the same question. People have become disillusioned by the
whole concept of uniform changes. Natalie suggests that maybe a committee of parents
outside the P&C banner come up with ideas to present to the committee. Vikki says under
the rules of the P&C this would not be allowed. Natalie then suggests maybe a ballot box
at the Big Breakfast with a simple yes/no change of uniform could solve the issue of the
uniform being changed. Discussions took place on the wording to be used from ‘Do you
want to review the school uniform’ to ‘Do you like the current uniform’ as many people
had issues with just the white sports shirt to others wanting a complete change. We need
to know if it is a yes/no to a review or a change. Sandra says if we did the ballot at the
breakfast the whole school community would not be represented as not every family is
able to attend. A note will need to be sent home to make it a fair survey.
Amanda motions that a note to be sent home in the next school newsletter regarding the
review of the current school uniform. This note would ask ‘Would you like to see a
review of the current MPS school uniform’ Yes/No. Sonya seconded the motion. The
note is to go out in the 30th May newsletter and be returned by the 8th June. To be
presented at the next P&C meeting.

**General Business**
No general business discussed.

**Agenda**
Uniform review
Science enrichment day (postponed from this meeting)

**Next Meeting**

There being no further business, **meeting closed** at 8:40pm.

Signed: President…………………………