

DARWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

6 pm Wednesday 8 Sept 2010
DMS Staff Room



DRAFT MINUTES

1. WELCOME & ATTENDANCE:

- **Present:** Monica van den Nieuwenhof (Chair), Marcus Dixon (Principal), Janice Warren (Secretary), Mick Purcell (Co-Treasurer), Tony Vanderwey, Maxine Parker, John Elferink, Michael Gunner, Bernie Davies. (Michael and John had to leave mid-way through the meeting.)
- **Apologies:** Ray Dixon, Sue Neal, Elizabeth Ganter, Sally Hodgson, Stephanie Cvirn, and Jane Perkin

2. **Bullocky Point Performing Arts and Community Cultural Centre.** Marcus gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Bullocky Point Performing Arts and Community Cultural Centre, which he had previously shown to the Minister for Education (Dr Chris Burns). Marcus is engage the well-known musical educator and Head of the NT School of Music, Nora Lewis, to assist with DMS' efforts to get funding for the Centre, and Monica will write letters to community leaders to get their support behind the proposal. There are about 300 people involved in the local arts scene, who need a 'home' for their training, rehearsals and performances. The initial priority will to get seed funding to do a fully-costed proposal, which would be needed to get a budget item approved by the Governement. Marcus has bound hard copies of the proposal to support our efforts.

3. **Minutes from previous meeting and Treasurer's Report:** 11 Aug 2010.

Moved to accept both: Maxine. **Seconded:** Tony. Both reports were accepted.

4. Business arising from previous minutes

- **Recognition for Erynne Fildes' contributions to DMS.** A thank you notice was published in the NT News Public Notice Section, and a certificate and flowers will be presented at the end-of-year Awards Assembly
- **Update on "Smart Schools Award" submission (for DMS' Good Standing Program).** Deferred until next meeting, as Ray was not at the meeting; however, Marcus presented some statistics demonstrating the success of the program, including a 41% reduction in poor behaviour; only 1.8% of the student population has received suspensions, many Good Standing Citations, 123 Bronze, 7 Silver and 2 Gold Awards
- **Orientation for DHS for 2011.** The Year 9's attended an orientation at DHS.
- **Smart Schools Awards Night.** Marcus indicated that if DMS' submission gets short-listed, that DMS should have at least one table at the 9 October Awards Evening at the Convention Centre. (\$121 pp; \$1100 per table) . He indicated that the school would subsidise teachers and Council members wishing to attend. Monica, Tony and Janice indicated their interest in attending, and Marcus asked others to email their desire to attend to him.

5. Correspondence

- **In:** Smart Schools Award; and 2 students requesting sponsorship from the Council to support their attendance at the 12 & Under Boys (Tyrone Anderson) and 15 & Under Girls (Madison Glass-Jones) Touch Championships to be held in Canberra, from 24 – 29 October. The letters indicated that a donation or approval to hold a fund-raising activity would be most welcome. **Action: Marcus to confirm DMS Policy on such requests, and expects that a small donation (e.g. \$50 toward NT-based events or \$100 toward interstate events) might be provided by Council. If Policy does not support this, then a proposal for a fund-raising activity would be put to the Fund-Raising Committee for approval.**
- **Out:** The DMS' submission for a Smart Schools Award

6. Reports:

6.1 Principal's report [Marcus Dixon]

- **Bullocky Point Performing Arts and Community Cultural Centre.** (See summary above). Marcus acknowledged the substantial effort put in by Monica to take a day off work to get the proposal together on time for the Minister's visit to DMS on Monday 23 August, at which Marcus explained the proposal and ran the PowerPoint presentation that was shown earlier this evening.
- **Advertising Campaign Promoting DMS.** The brochure stands are at the feeder schools with the first set of brochures. The second tier promotional materials will be ready soon.
- **Assessment and testing.** Marcus indicated that DMS will trial new assessment and testing instruments designed by the Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER), across all year levels. Entry and exit testing would help determine student progress and competencies, and Marcus is preparing a budget for the trials.
- **Good Standing Policy.** Report was provided earlier. (Summary above).
- **Orientation for Parents of Students Coming to DMS for Yr 7 in 2011.** Marcus indicated that an orientation night will be held on Wednesday 10 September.
- **Student Acti (Lifestyle) Survey.** Results from the survey are fascinating and provide an interesting picture of the student body. Council will be given a summary (when complete); however, early results show a huge difference between the year-classes of students in terms of hours of sleep, how they get to school, how much money they get, etc. An interesting result is that Yr 7's are quite optimistic about the future; Yr 9's more cynical. Few think bullying is a problem. The Yr 7's enjoy school much more than the Yr 9's,
- **Roll-out of new program to provide each Yr 9 student with their own laptop computer.** **Action: Marcus asked Council members to review notes from a course that he recently attended, "1-to-1 Principal's Practicum Workshop Booklet,"** which deals with the roll-out of a program to provide each Yr 9 student with their own laptop computer. There are complex issues (maintenance of computers, insurance, proper use, etc. **Janice will email a copy of the document to Council members.** Marcus would like the next meeting to get through regular business in about 15 minutes so that the remaining 45 minutes can be spent discussing the roll-out.

6.2 Chairperson's report [Monica van den Nieuwenhof]

- Monica indicated that she will be away for a fortnight, from 17 September and will therefore miss the next meeting (13 October); however, Maxine (as Deputy Chair) will act in Monica's place.

6.3 Treasurers' report

- Already presented and endorsed (above). **Net effective cash position at 31.7.10: \$247,800.00**

6.4 Staff Report

- Tony presented the Staff report. The Canberra trip was a success, despite a rocky start that saw cancellation of their original flight and having to get students to Canberra on five different flights. Students are preparing for the week 10 extravaganza: "DMS Has Talent." DMS sporting prowess was demonstrated in a Yr 9 student (Brad) doing the (Imperial) Mile in 5 minutes and 40 seconds. Yr 9's went to a "Transition to DHS" orientation. Yr 7-9 students are involved in this year's The Beat performances (Fri 10th and Sat 11th Sept). Yr 8 students will have a Student Industry luncheon next week (for parents).
- Teachers would like Council to approve a Professional Development day on Friday 5 November, on curriculum (including roll-out of the new national curriculum). **Council unanimously endorsed this.**

6.5 Sub committee reports:

- **Fund-raising Committee** [Tony Vanderwey]. Bran Nue Dae is the fund-raising event at the Deckchair (movie and sausage sizzle). No one knows what the turnout will be. It has been difficult to organise, as Stephanie can't be available on the night. It has been advertised on the electronic notice board
- **Darwin High School Report** [Janice Warren]. None... DHS Council doesn't meet until next week.
- **Finance and Capital Works Committee.** Nothing to report
- **Café Committee.** Nothing to report
- **Uniform Committee.** Nothing to report
- **Education Committee.** None of the Committee members were at the meeting, so report deferred until next meeting. **Draft Terms of Reference were emailed to Council members and provided at the meeting, and members are asked to review and forward comments to Sue Neal. (sue.neal@ntschoools.net)**

7. General (New) Business

- **Review current format of Parent-Teacher Interview evenings:** room for improvement. Elizabeth Ganter will address this at the next meeting.

8. DMS Policies. Nothing to report

9. Close of business: 6:55 pm. John's apoll

10. Next Meeting: Wed 13 October 2010, 6 pm.

(Legislative Assembly will be sitting, so John Elferink and Michael Gunner provided their apologies.)