Keira High School P&C Meeting

Wednesday 10 April 2013

Meeting Opened: 7.35pm

Attendance: Lauren Borst, Cristina Thompson, Robyn Tindall, Lorraine Wilson, Heather Rutty, Kerrie Faulkner
Barney Ellevsen (Deputy Principal), David Robson (Relieving Principal)

Apologies: Nil

Introductions and Welcome

Acceptance of previous minutes

- Accepted by Cristina Thompson. Seconded by Lauren Borst

Matters Arising for Previous Minutes:

- WotOpera - going ahead. Status of fundraising unknown.
- Election of Treasurer: Position was not filled at the AGM in March
  - Heather Rutty – nominated by Lauren, seconded by Cristina
  - Heather accepted the nomination
  - Elected unopposed

Correspondence:

- Fundraising information from a variety of companies
- Request from Royal Far West School for donation to support Solve It Outreach Literacy Program
  - Motion proposed by Cristina: ‘That Keira High P&C donate $50 to Royal Far West School for the Solve It Literacy Program’
  - Seconded by Lauren
  - Accepted unanimously
  - Robyn to organise cheque from new Treasurer and post donation

Guest Speaker: Barney Ellevsen, Deputy Principal

- Barney described the ALARM Program – notes are at the end of the minutes
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Treasurer’s Report:

- No Report

Principal’s Report:

- Start of Term 2 has two Staff Development Days to workshop the rollout of the National Curriculum. Local high schools are collaborating on the rollout.
- First day for students is Wednesday 1 May
- Tour of refurbished gym and science labs

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 1 May 2013 at 7.30pm
Staff Common Room

Notes from presentation about ALARM Program
Barney Ellevsen – Deputy Principal

- A Learning and Responding Matrix (ALARM)
- A method of explicit (or directed) teaching to enhance writing skills
- Program provides a scaffold for learning and improves quality teaching
- Commenced at Keira in Term 4 2012
- Part of School Plan to introduce explicit teaching of writing skills and ability to respond to assessment and examination questions with a deeper understanding
- School aims to improve academic performance, particularly HSC results. Data from 2011 and 2012 HSC results indicates that 2-3 extra marks per subject would have resulted in a significant increase in Band 5 and 6 results. Bands 5 and 6 indicate a deeper level of understanding of subject matter.
- ALARM developed at Freshwater Senior College by Max Woods
- Data from Freshwater Senior College demonstrates improvements in academic performance (as shown by number of Band 6 results obtained) each year since the
introduction of ALARM. Lower achieving students showed the most benefit initially, then mid-range achieving students, then higher achieving students.

- Three years after introduction of ALARM, all students obtained HSC results significantly higher than state average

- The ALARM system enhances writing and learning skills and includes 9 steps – 4 steps about subject content and 5 steps about applying that content knowledge, by using critical analysis and evaluation skills. Templates are developed for each subject.

**LEARNING** AND **RESPONDING**

- Name and Define
- Describe
- Explain
- Analyse
- Critically Analyse
- Evaluate
- Critically Evaluate
- Conceptualise Topic
- Appreciate

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Rollout of ALARM at Keira High:

- Barney has the role of teaching and mentoring Keira teaching staff in ALARM technique. Barney is team teaching with Class Teachers and supporting each Faculty ALARM Mentor

- A 0.6 increase in staffing levels has been used to allow time for each faculty to have an ALARM Mentor who has 2 periods per week to mentor other staff within their faculty

- Resources developed include:
  - Guidelines for Assessment Tasks
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- ALARM templates
- Concept Maps – similar to mind maps – allow students to see bigger picture of a topic or subject

- Sustainability of ALARM Program will be ensured by:
  - Rollout throughout whole school
    - Term 4 2012 - Trialed with English faculty and all Year 11 trained in ALARM concept
    - 2013 – ALARM introduced into each faculty
  - Professional Learning Funding used to give teachers time to adapt and develop resources, create scaffolds and templates
  - Creation of an ALARM Mentor for each faculty
  - Professional updates at Staff Development Days
  - Partnerships with local schools (Woonona and Corrimal High Schools) – sharing resources developed
  - Additional training for Year 12 will include sessions during Senior Study Sessions
  - Four teachers will be trained in Term 2 to work with potential Band 5 and 6 Year 12 students

- Benefits include increased teacher collaboration
- Templates, matrix/scaffold material is available in the library and will be available on the school website
- Students are encouraged to use the templates for developing study notes
- What parents can do:
  - Promote and encourage students to change to new way of learning
  - Encourage students to accept change in learning culture
  - Year 12 Parent Interviews - teachers will discuss the use of ALARM with students and their parents