Keira High School Parents and Citizen’s Association
Minutes – 1 May 2013

Meeting opened: 7.40pm

Attendance: Lauren Borst, Heather Rutty, Cristina Thompson, Robyn Tindall, Menita Parsons, Susan Engel, Rosemary Isedale

Staff present: David Robson (Relieving Principal), David Sharpe (Relieving Deputy), Michael Robson (Head Teacher Science), Carmel Pemberton (Head Teacher Mathematics), Sue Blackstock (Head Teacher English), Philippa Havilal (Rep for History Faculty)

Apologies: Nil

Acceptance of previous minutes: Cristina Thompson. Seconded: Heather Rutty

Matters Arising:

Year 10 Assessment Tasks – at the previous meeting a parent asked why Year 10 had 5 major assessment tasks due in Week 1 Term 2. David has been informed by teachers that the assessment tasks were assigned well before the school holidays

Presentation about the Australian Curriculum:

Head Teachers from Science, English, Maths and History described the Australian Curriculum NSW Syllabus. See notes at the end of the minutes.

Treasurer’s Report:

- No report this month.
- Lauren is the only signatory for the P&C account.
- P&C account currently at Commonwealth Bank. Option to transfer account and term investment to Teachers Mutual Bank.
- Actions:
  - Lauren to investigate Teachers Mutual Bank re: accessibility for deposits, term account rates, fees for cheque accounts compared to the Commonwealth Bank for discussion at next P&C Meeting
  - Lauren to organise a cheque for donation to Royal Far West School
  - Signatories for P&C Account need to be reviewed

Principal’s Report:

- KeiraBald Art Exhibition – Thursday 9 May at Wollongong Youth Centre. All welcome. Suggestions for future school Art Exhibitions include Koorona Gallery at Wollongong TAFE
- Folder for school reports has been redesigned
- The recent School Cross Country was a successful event. Keira commended for making Sports Carnivals compulsory (Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics)
- David plans to invite different teachers to P&C Meetings so they can discuss their program areas
- Letter received from NSW Premier Barry O’Farrell regarding NSW being the first state to sign the Gonski national education reforms. These will deliver an additional $5 billion for NSW
schools. David commended the P&C and Keira parent body for their engagement in the Gonski campaign. Funding will be tied to performance and teaching quality. It was suggested that a letter be written on behalf of the P&C to commend the NSW Government for their stand in this matter.

- Action: Robyn to draft a letter with the assistance of Cristina and Lauren

- David has applied for funding to repave the Main Quadrangle as uneven surfaces are unsafe
- The western windows that face onto the Main Quadrangle have rotted. David has applied for funding to replace these windows.
- Year 12 – Support for HSC students includes Senior Study program, ALARM Explicit Learning Program, targeting potential high achievers
- Year 12 Parent-Teacher Evening 2013 will be a stand-alone event. Reports will be handed out on the evening. A letter of invitation will be sent to all Year 12 parents. Year 12 students will meet to prepare for the evening. David asked the parents present to brainstorm answers to the question – What is a quality parent-teacher moment? Executive have already done this exercise. Results will be used to enhance the quality and effectiveness of Parent-Teacher Interviews.

General Business:

- Parent query: Was the recent UOW Year 10 Information Night publicised at Keira? Sue Wilcox – Careers Advisor sent information about this UOW event to students
- A Forum titled Just One World is being organised through the Indigo Foundation at UOW in partnership with World Vision and other organisations
  - Wollongong Forum – 12 June in evening
  - Keynote Speakers will discuss Child Rights
  - General public welcome
  - A day-time forum (1.30pm) for schools has been proposed. Keira is happy to support this.
  - Suggestions:
    - Keira High Public Speaking Team recently performed very well in competitions. Team members could be encouraged to attend the forum and use this experience to compete in the UN Public Speaking Event in June.
    - Keira High Debating Team members could speak at the Just One World Forum
  - Actions: Susan Engel to ring or email David Robson to organise details about a day-time Just One World Forum
- Next meeting: A teacher will be invited to discuss the school Sports Program. Keira High has some outstanding athletes and has an excellent regional reputation for sports, but the general school population is disengaged from sport and efforts are being made to reverse this.

Meeting Closed: 9.10pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 5 June 7.30pm in the Staff Common Room

Agenda Items include: School Sports Program
Notes from Presentation – Australian Curriculum – NSW Syllabus

- Websites for more information:
  - [http://syllabus.bos.nsw.edu.au](http://syllabus.bos.nsw.edu.au) to access the NSW syllabuses for the Australian curriculum
  - [www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au) and follow links to the Australian curriculum
  - Websites contain syllabuses by stage or subject, support materials, assessment information
  - Parents Guides and fact sheets are available

- Australian Curriculum available for Years K – 10 in Mathematics, Science, English and History
- Mathematics, Science, English and History will be implemented in high schools in years 7 and 9 in 2014 and in years 8 and 10 in 2015.
- English will be implemented in K – 6 in 2014. Other subjects are optional.
- Maths, Science and History syllabuses will be implemented K – 6 in 2015 and 2016
- In addition to all subject-based content, all syllabuses address important contemporary themes. These will connect all subject areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table from Parents’ Guide to the NSW K-10 Syllabuses, page 4</th>
<th>Examples from English syllabus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cross-curriculum priorities</strong></td>
<td>Texts of cultural significance will be studied with more rigour</td>
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<td>● Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures</td>
<td>New area for all syllabuses</td>
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<td>● Asia and Australia’s engagement with Asia</td>
<td>Sustainability includes economic, social and environmental</td>
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<td>● Sustainability</td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>General capabilities</strong></td>
<td>Already do this at Keira, but new syllabus more specific</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Critical and creative thinking</td>
<td>Eg: the text ‘An Inconvenient Truth’ has graphs and data to interpret</td>
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<td>● Ethical understanding</td>
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<td>● Information and communication technology capability</td>
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<td>● Intercultural understanding</td>
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<td>● Literacy</td>
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<td>● Numeracy</td>
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<td>● Personal and social capability</td>
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<td><strong>Other learning across the curriculum areas</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>● Civics and citizenship</td>
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<td>● Difference and diversity</td>
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<td>● Work and enterprise</td>
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- New curriculum affirms what is already happening at Keira High School in terms of quality programs
Opportunity to review all programs and units of work

Staff enthusiastic about the new curriculum

Keira ensuring that all teachers are familiar with syllabus

Curriculum document well received

Potential to extend brighter students

Primary Schools have a more staggered implementation – may be a variety of implementation schedules at Keira’s feeder schools (and other primary schools for out-of-area students)

This poses challenges for transition to high school. Dialogue occurring between Keira and feeder schools about new curriculum

Keira collaborating with local high schools – Bulli, Corrimal and Woonona. Each taking a lead in one subject area. Trialling topics, assessment tasks, sharing results

Phase 2 - 2016 – new curriculum for other subjects introduced

Extra comments about subject areas:

- **English:**
  - Will be implemented in primary schools in 2014
  - New syllabus more explicit, will increase consistency between schools
  - Need to review books and texts used

- **History:**
  - Includes cultural differences, Asian history and culture
  - Flexible, provides opportunities for teachers
  - Years 9 and 10 will study ‘isms’ such as Capitalism, Imperialism, Marxism in Australia and with a world view
  - Australian and Aboriginal history included

- **Maths**
  - Re-introduction of some concepts such as Venn Diagrams
  - Content similar to previous syllabus, order rearranged
  - Includes the context of maths in the larger world
  - Some content moved from Stage 4 (Years 7, 8) to Stage 3 (Years 5, 6). As Maths syllabus not implemented in all primary schools until 2015, this may pose challenges for transition to high school syllabus

- **Science**
  - Four areas: Physical World, Chemical World, Living World and Earth and Space
  - Some content moved from Stage 4 (Years 7, 8) to Stage 3 (Years 5, 6) – as Science syllabus not implemented in all primary schools until 2015, this may pose challenges for transition to high school syllabus
  - Feeder schools may need contact, support from Keira