KWS President’s report 2009/2010

Firstly may I pass on my apologies for not being with you this evening, I have work commitments in Sydney that could not be altered.

I have been a member of the KWS community and President of the P and F for the past year, a year which has literally flown by. My first meeting with the P and F was on the 8th of April last year, where I was questioned on my self nomination for this role (see extract from these minutes below).

Richard was then asked questions from the floor, particularly relating to the fact that he was a new parent, knew little about the senior school (he has a child in the Prep) and would it perhaps be preferable for him to take on another position in the team rather than President.

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However – I have been keen to take on the challenges of the role and have been overwhelmed by the support, the friendships and enthusiasm of the staff and parents of the entire school community. I realise that the formality of P and F meetings are not for everyone – however the voluntary hours that are committed by many to P and F activities is immense.

The KWS P and F Association has met a total of 7 times since I have taken on this role and attendance and enthusiasm has grown over that time, (see table). The main theme throughout all of these meetings remains one of ‘the need to enhance communication regarding the P and F and our activities’ throughout the school community.

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Some demonstrable examples of how we are improving:
- We have actively been improving our profile in the weekly Family Bulletins and on the school web page (minutes, agendas and reports available on line).
- We are now providing more explicit information regarding P and F money and how it is being spent (wish list items listed in term one, 2010, week 3’s bulletin).
- We have recently further improved advertising signage for P and F functions, e.g. the 2010 FAIR, with notices on the ‘gateway sign’, Bathurst Road and Cox’s Avenue. This will continue with 2010 P and F events.
- We have actively canvassed day student opinions regarding the School canteen, with results available on the school website and resultant changes being planned.

The outgoing P and F committee have been constantly reflective on what we do, on how well we have achieved our aims and how we can further improve.
- Our treasurer has continued to provide us with a high level service and has made improvements to financial reporting and systems, the way money is handled at P and F events (such as the 2010 Fair as an example) and how financial data can be reported in a timely fashion.
- The second hand textbook fair, which was successfully run by the P and F in 2009, will undergo significant improvements for 2010 with planning already underway.
- The P and F ‘wish list’ process experienced problems with tracking of purchases, communicating with parents and staff as to what has been bought and finalising the purchase of items. 2010 commenced with the P and F advising of Senior Management Team prioritised wish list items for the information of all staff and parents. We intend to regularly follow up this information when items have been purchased.
The P and F has identified school canteen equipment needs and have provided $1000.00 to meet these, as mentioned above, we have surveyed day students regarding their opinions on how the canteen can be further improved – we are now engaging in a process of developing strategies to further develop this already tremendous school resource.

The school careers evening received outstandingly positive feedback in 2009. Already parents have indicated improvements to the structure of this evening – ways to add expertise from professionals not previously represented, how to engage younger, more recent graduates etc…. all to further improve this event 2010.

Our 2009 Art Fair was a wonderful school event and is currently being reviewed to seek new ways of delivering a high quality and more innovative event to the school and community of Orange District, with sculpture (garden, glass and ceramic), master classes, and a week long ‘ArtFest’ all being considered.

These are just a few examples to indicate that the KWS P and F does not want to simply repeat previous years events, but wants to constantly review, and improve upon them.

One event though that we are immensely proud of is the P and F School Fair – this year with a Pacific Island theme. Not only was the overall feel of the Fair extraordinarily positive, it engaged many parents and staff in a focused celebration of our school. This year we followed through a past resolution to develop a broader social focus to our Fair fundraising – with George Brown High School receiving money from the ‘Hawaiian shirt day’ and the presence of the Uniting World Development office stall reinforcing the work of this organisation amongst our students and families.

This report contains just a few of the highlights of the 2009 /2010 P and F year. None of this work is possible though without significant support from each and everyone on the P and F executive and its membership. My sincere thanks to each of you for your immense contributions over this past year – I know that you give significant amounts of personal time to the P and F and it is very much appreciated. I wish to also formally acknowledge the commitment to the KWS P and F by our Principal, Head of Preparatory and Head of Boarding – thank you to each of you for your reports, encouragement and support of our endeavours.

I have been appreciative that the P and F provided me with the opportunity to take on the role of president in 2009, as a new parent and an ‘unknown’ quantity. I know that the P and F is in a position to achieve great things through 2010 and I wish the incoming executive team well in their endeavours.

Richard Cheney
KWS President 2009 / 2010

Recommendations:
1. That the existing executive roles of Publicity Officer and Parent Council Representative, with the addition of a new component for web management be all combined into the one executive position.
2. That there be only one Vice President position
3. That the existing executive roles of Visiting Speaker coordinator and Social organiser also be combined into one position.