

Meeting Minutes Wednesday 4th April 2018

Present:

BPS: Maria Lambos, Lynda Lovett

P+C: Lyndal Rutgers, Rob Taubman, Cliff Philipiah, Doug Talbot, Sarah Linhart, Richard Banks, Melissa Slavin, Josie Simpson, Anne Irvine, Alma Dayawon, Jason Ockerby, Lauren Nahkies, Van Allen, Vish Chopra, Vanessa James, Mark Chambers, Nyree Morrison, Barnaby Jenkins, Michael Pruscino, Joanna Nicholas, Victoria Lush, David Finlay, Matt Wilkinson, Sophie Knox, Clare Rumboll, Arabella Futcher

Minutes recorded by: Lyndal Rutgers

1. Welcome

Meeting opened at 7:41 pm following the conclusion of the AGM.

2. Apologies

Sam Yetzes, Liam Reid, Neil Lawrie, Emma Weir, Mel Daniels, Natasha Foster, Jo Edwards, Ariana Davis, Belinda Mikhail-Gogos, Andrea Smith.

3. Previous Minutes

March 2018 – Minutes accepted (Proposed: Van Allen; Seconded: Victoria Lush). NB: Minutes amended to reflect attendance by Michael Pruscino.

4. Actions Arising

- Shade options and pricing to be investigated for new bench seating area of the playground
⇒ **Van Allen, complete**

5. Correspondence

5.1 Suggestion to hold the welcome drinks later in term 1 – however the timing is chosen so as not to clash with Easter, the school holidays or the start of winter sport.

5.2 Second Chance Stall – a donation of \$1000. What a great start to the year! Great work Mel and Josie! Thank you very much!

5.3 Request for funding for year 5/6 class assistance. The P+C has always been collegiate in approach – whatever resourcing is provided is supplied for the benefit of the whole school.

5.4 Sport Selection re: PSSA. This is a school issue, not a P+C issue.

5.5 Payment option – is it possible for school payments (eg resource fees) to be paid in instalments across the year? This will be further discussed at the May meeting.

⇒ **Maria Lambos to clarify the possibility of instalment payments**

6. Principal's Report

6.1 Vote of thanks to the outgoing 2017 P+C Exec, and welcome to the 2018 P+C Exec

6.2 NAPLAN online

The practice tests have been completed by Years 3 & 5, in preparation for NAPLAN. All went smoothly. It is anticipated that all schools will participate in NAPLAN through the online system within the next couple of years.

6.3 EdAlive Central – Typing Tournament software

As discussed at the March meeting, the school has subscribed to EdAlive Central, to access Typing Tournament – an online touch typing application. This was paid for by the P+C. 1/2M experimented with the program in class today, and the teachers all received training in the

application this afternoon. Login details will be sent home with students tomorrow, and access to the program will be provided in class time also.

6.4 Discos

As in previous years, Footsteps, the company that runs dance lessons for the students during fitness classes, has offered us two free school discos in 2018. The Halloween disco remains popular with the students and will be run again. Given the organisational and volunteering load of the Art Show and the BFR, there may not be capacity to run a second disco in 2018.

6.5 Toilets

At some point in 2017, two of the cubicle doors to the boys' toilets were intentionally damaged. It is unknown whether this occurred during or out of school hours. The terrazzo wall between the two cubicles was broken, meaning that the missing doors cannot currently be rehung. As the damage was intentional the cost of repair is not covered by insurance or maintenance by DOE Assets. A quote for \$2150 has been received for repair of the terrazzo and rehung of the doors. It was moved to repair the toilets, with an approach to ESC for contribution to the cost. It was also noted that one of the cubicle doors in the girls' toilets sticks and cannot be opened from the inside. It was requested that this be looked at concurrently with the repairs to the boys' toilets. It was further suggested that a strategy for safe future use of the toilets is needed, beginning with education of the children on the costs of repairing these facilities when they are damaged, both by parents and teachers.

⇒ **Sophie Knox to draft a communication for all parents**

⇒ **BPS teachers to discuss with their students in class time**

It was noted that the toilet blocks are generally looking tired. Given the growth in student numbers at the school, it is worth investigating how many toilets DOE are required to provide, as the school may need an upgrade.

⇒ **Maria Lambos to establish DOE toilet provision / student ratio**

6.6 Drains

In a similar vein, both the outdoor drain near the office building and the bubblers have been blocked in recent days due to students putting dirt and toys down them. This follows on from the flooding of the boys' toilets in March due to toy cars in the drain. Once again a strategy for safe future use is needed. It was also noted that the pigeons enjoy 'bathing' in the bubbler troughs. Some possible approaches to mitigate the problem in the bubbler area include removing the timber palings across the front, to open the area up; and closing of the bubbler troughs and installation of robust standalone bubblers with bottle refill taps. These should eliminate the attraction for the pigeons. Birchgrove has recently installed three of these (circa \$3K each), and found them successful. It was noted that the floor of the bubbler area is uneven, and it may not be safe to remove all of the palings as there may be a trip hazard. Further investigation / discussion is needed.

7. Finance Report

- Further to the annual financial report presented at the AGM, it was highlighted that so far in 2018 \$3K has been received through the voluntary P+C levy, \$6K has been raised by the canteen, and the Welcome drinks night raised approximately \$14K, while the P+C has contributed over \$32K in donations to the school.
- A new canteen cheque was approved, as well as payment for a school wreath to be laid at Loyalty Square during the upcoming Anzac Day service.
- A huge vote of thanks was extended to Dave Finlay, our retiring treasurer, for his careful stewardship over the past 3.5 years, and the time that this has entailed – including the annual audit of the Rozelle P+C accounts. Thank you, Dave!

8. P&C Goals and Issues

- 2018 Art Show
There are many aspects to organising the art show, including the parents only evening – assisting the classes with their collaborative artworks, framing the individual and class artworks, hanging the art in the hall, food and drinks for the parent evening etc. If any parents would like to be involved, please speak to the P+C Exec.
- Year 6 Area Upgrade
In order to progress the project, industrial strength outdoor furniture has been ordered, including 3 x table stations and 3 x serpentine benches, at a cost of approximately \$8K. P+C had approved a contribution of \$10K to the project. ESC is no longer in a position to contribute, as they will be investing in an upgrade to the canteen kitchen, which is likely to be a large project. Theoretically the furniture could be installed into the existing asphalt to maintain the original budget, however this area is in serious disrepair and the asphalt is unsafe. It was moved to contribute an extra \$10K to the project.
- Band – update from Vanessa James
 - In 2018 the school has outsourced provision of the band administration and musical education to Directions In Music, an external company which provides band programs to a number of schools. This has meant that we are able to retain Naomi Robinson as our wonderful and enthusiastic band director, who has built the band program over the past three years and established great working relationships with the band students. DIM commenced in Term 1 with one band (Bach band), and will be commencing a strings group (Strauss Strings) and a training band (Beethoven Band) for less experienced students in Term 2.
 - Penny Biggins is the school liaison for the band/s, and has voluntarily maintained the strings ensemble during Term 1 to enable these students to participate in the annual Festival of Instrumental Music at the Opera House early next term. A huge thank you to Penny!
 - A recruitment drive was run in Week 8 for the benefit of new and younger students. The band will also be playing at morning lines on Wednesday in Week 11 to further showcase the music program, for the benefit of any interested students.
 - This year the Bach band is entering BandFest – a school band festival where they can hear other peer groups perform and receive feedback from a professional adjudicator.
 - There is a residual amount of band funds which will be transferred to the P+C account for administration; to be spent over the next few years on things like sheet music, new music stands, and instrument repair. A portion will be held in a term deposit until it is required.
- Main Playground Upgrade / Shade for Stage 4
Stage 4 is complete, and the final paperwork is being acquitted. This enables us to request a quote from ULP for the final stage of the upgrade, which comprises the area immediately in front of the toilet block, and which joins the previously completed sections. P+C have previously allocated \$30K to this stage. Van presented the options she has found for shading to the stage 4 area – various sizes of cantilevered permanent canvas umbrellas to be secured into the garden section surrounding the concrete slab (eg 4x4m Revolvashade umbrella - \$5K plus installation). Given the shade provided by the adjacent large tree, one umbrella at the southern end of the area would be the most prudent option. To be further discussed at a future meeting.
- Tax deductibility – Mark Chambers
Further investigations were made into the possibility of establishing a fund which would enable the school to accept tax deductible donations. Around 250 public schools in NSW already have such a fund, which is set up either by the school itself (library fund), or by the P+C (building fund). It involves establishing a charitable fund, which needs to be registered with the ATO and the ACNC (charities commission), the funds in which can only be used for acquiring, building or maintaining buildings (or the library, in the case of a library fund) at the school. DOE is able to facilitate

through EdConnect in the case of the library fund. Establishing such a fund would be time consuming, and it is not clear how effective it would be as a means to raise funds. A number of local schools already have them, including Rozelle, Forest Lodge, Orange Grove and Birchgrove. Enquiries to be made regarding the use and value of such accounts.

⇒ **Maria Lambos to enquire with Rozelle PS**

- **P+C Contribution**

The voluntary levy will be launched early Term 2, following a reminder from the school regarding outstanding resource fees.

⇒ **Sophie Knox to update the 2017 poster from Van Allen**

⇒ **Maria and staff to provide an updated IT Plan at the May meeting**

10. Events Calendar

- Welcome Drinks 2018 (complete) – thank you certificates were circulated, to be handed out to participating businesses.
- Mother's Day Breakfast – Friday 11 May (Week 2, Term 2), and Cross Country. The Mother's Day chocolates will be sold again, with Cliff coordinating.
- BFR – Sunday 18th November

11. OOSH Report

- ESC AGM – May 23rd
- The Treasurer role has been filled.

12. Canteen report

- A new canteen coordinator/coordinating team is required, to replace Van, ideally transitioning in Term 4 2018. Two responses have been received so far, which Van is following up. One would require canteen day to change to Monday – this will depend on the availability of parent volunteers.
- Canteen upgrade – to be discussed at a future meeting.

13. Any Other Business

- It was pointed out that not every school family has access to a computer at home, in order to use programs like EdAlive, MathSpace and Mathletics. There is not a simple solution to this situation, however it was noted that students are provided access to these programs during class time. There are also computers available for public access at the town library if needed.
- Rob Taubman has been our wonderful licensee for Parent events for the past few years, however with his eldest child moving to high school in 2019, a new parent licensee will be needed. If anyone is interested, please contact Rob.
- Reading Recovery – replacement program in 2019, and level of access provided. The details are as yet unknown, but this will be kept on the agenda for future discussion in the event that further support is required from the P+C to maintain this vital support for students who need it.
- Positive feedback was received from the parent body regarding the Stage-based information evenings provided by the teachers early in the term, and the more recent parent-only goal setting meetings. Parents have appreciated the opportunity to hear from and meet with their child's teacher, without their child present.

Meeting closed 9:15 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 2nd May at 7.00pm in the staffroom. All welcome!