

Meeting Minutes Wednesday 2nd May 2018

Present:

BPS: Maria Lambos, Belinda Mikhail-Gogos, Sean Baumann

P+C: Lyndal Rutgers, Rob Taubman, Richard Banks, Melissa Slavin, Josie Simpson, Anne Irvine, Jason Ockerby, Van Allen, Sophie Knox, Michael Pruscino, Nyree Morrison, Joanna Nicholas, Victoria Lush, Arabella Fatcher, Lauren Nahkies, Doug Talbot, Barnaby Jenkins

Minutes recorded by: Van Allen and Lyndal Rutgers

1. Welcome

Meeting opened at 7:03 pm with welcome from Rob Taubman and acknowledgement of country from Van Allen.

2. Apologies

Liam Reid, Alma Dayawon, Sarah Linhart, Joanna Nicholas, Mark Chambers, Jo Edwards, Lynda Lovett, Ariana Davis, David Finlay

3. Previous Minutes

April 2018 – Minutes accepted (Proposed: Sophie Knox; Seconded: Barnaby Jenkins).

4. Actions Arising

- Determine the possibility of periodic payments and/or direct debit to the school office
⇒ **Maria Lambos, complete**
- Communication re: sensible use of school bathrooms
⇒ **Sophie Knox, complete; BPS teaching staff, complete**
- Determine the required DOE provision of toilet facilities / student, possibility of funding
⇒ **Maria Lambos, complete**
- Enquire with other peninsula schools re: use of library / building funds
⇒ **Maria Lambos, complete**
- P+C Voluntary Contribution poster updated for 2018
⇒ **Sophie Knox, complete**
- IT Plan updated for 2018
⇒ **BPS IT Subcommittee, complete**

5. Correspondence

5.1 Positive feedback from a parent regarding bathroom behaviour discussions and discipline

5.2 Positive feedback from a parent regarding computer usage discussions and discipline

6. Principal's Report

6.1 Vote of thanks to Murat Dizdar, Deputy Secretary, DOE

In term 1, the Stage 3 OC classes undertook a mathematics PBL task investigating furniture design and use of space within the classroom environment. In response to the findings, and on his own initiative, one of our Year 6 OC students, Paul Braoudakis, wrote to the Deputy Secretary, Mr Murat Dizdar, to request funding for flexible learning space furniture for the Stage 3 classroom/s. Mr Dizdar was impressed with Paul's submission and agreed to co-fund \$5K, as matched by the P+C. A huge thank you to Paul, for his impressive initiative, and for obtaining this very valuable funding for our school!

6.2 The Balmain Way launch

The new BPS Positive Behaviour 4 Life initiative, The Balmain Way, and its mascot Pete the Pigeon were launched at morning lines on Tuesday. As previously discussed, this approach emphasises members of the BPS community being Safe, Respectful and Responsible in all areas of the school and at all times. There will be signage appearing around the school in conjunction with the initiative. Teachers will be awarding 'Positive Pete' tickets to students for behaviour which exemplifies The Balmain Way, with the pool of tickets being used to draw a name for a canteen prize at Wednesday morning lines each week. Yellow and red warning tickets will also be used for behaviour which breaks the code of behaviour.

6.3 'Rock and Water' program – Sean Baumann

Mr Baumann introduced the 'Rock and Water' behavioural program, which will be launched among Stages 2 & 3 this term, for its benefits as an anti-bullying resource. The program began as a young men's program in the Netherlands, and is based on some elements of martial arts philosophy, teaching body awareness and stress / conflict resolution strategies. The original program has since been expanded to be all-inclusive. Through targeted games, follow-up discussion and reflective journals, the children develop strategies to physically respond to bullying – 'rock' elements include knowing how to stand firm and speak confidently in the face of bullying behaviour; 'water' elements include knowing when and how to step back and 'go with the flow' to avoid escalation of aggression. These skills can then be applied to many areas – not merely physical, but also emotional. The initial implementation involves 40 minute sessions over ten weeks – these will be conducted on Friday afternoons as an adjunct to sport. The staff have already completed a training session, and will continue to be trained as Sean conducts the sessions. Once the language and activities are familiar, the program can then continue to be used in the classroom on an ongoing basis, for example as a refocus activity, or for ten minutes to start each day etc. Mr Baumann requested financial support from the P+C to purchase the journals for each child (\$7 each / \$1500 for Stages 2 & 3) – approved. (NB: While some of the principles and activities can be employed with the younger students, the journals are not applicable and are specifically designed for the older children.)

6.4 Toilets

According to DOE requirements, BPS has enough toilets per student. In 2017, there were 14 call outs for repairs (including \$800 in urgent fees); so far in 2018 there have been 8 call outs (including \$1200 in urgent fees). In many cases the pipes and sinks have been blocked with toys, food, toilet paper and sand. Behaviour in the toilet blocks was discussed at morning lines on Tuesday, in conjunction with the new 'Balmain Way' behaviour initiative. The financial cost of damage to these fixtures was emphasised. Due to the ongoing nature of these problems and the age of the sewerage, DOE Assets have allocated \$13K to the school for maintenance work to the pipes. An eel investigation has already been undertaken, and further work will be continuing in Week 2. The broken terrazzo section in the boys' toilets (discussed at the April meeting) has been repaired, and the doors reattached, and the final stage of repainting is expected to occur this week. P+C has agreed to pay half the terrazzo repairs, if matched by ESC – whose committee is meeting concurrently. It was proposed for P+C to investigate whether there are any minor upgrades that could be made to further improve the toilets (locks? dryers? toilet seats? etc), with a limited budget.

- ⇒ **Sophie Knox and Joanna Nicholas to investigate minor improvements to the toilets**
- ⇒ **Maria Lambos to contact ESC regarding co-payment for terrazzo repair**

6.5 Further maintenance

The repainting works are underway, with the hall nearing completion. It was confirmed that all DOE maintenance contractors have WWC clearance. An issue was raised regarding inadequate

barriers / supervision around heavy equipment during the school holidays – this was referred to ESC.

6.6 IT Plan

The updated IT Plan was presented and discussed. To date approximately \$18K has been raised from the IT levy, which represents payment from two thirds of the students. The main goals for 2018 include:

1. Increasing the number of iPads, with a view to achieving 10 per classroom (currently there are 5 per classroom), and lockable charging units to support these. The school would also like to outsource the iPad software support to Zulu Desk, at a cost of \$9 / iPad / year and a one-off purchase of a mini Mac to support the system (although this would need to be maintained). It was noted that the annual cost would increase with additional iPads, and it was suggested that this cost would need to be factored into future IT levy amounts.
2. Resources to support the new science syllabus, including LEGO robotics software and kits, and a 3D printer

An email reminder regarding outstanding levy payments will be sent. Queries were raised regarding the status of the laptops, given that NAPLAN is now moving online and these will be needed for years 3 & 5 each year, and whether the WAP/s will need to be upgraded to support any additional iPads. It was noted that the current levy does not cover planned replacement of our existing IT inventory, but rather provision of additional resources needed for our growing student base and the increasing technical requirements of modern education. This will need to be considered for future IT levy amounts, as the current model is unsustainable. Anecdotally it was noted that BPS fees are low compared to similar schools in the East and Inner West.

6.7 Sound System

Investigations have been undertaken of the functioning of the sound system (also our emergency / evacuation communication system), and \$2327 is needed for repairs. Proposed: Rob Taubman, Seconded: Sophie Knox

6.8 Playground Equipment

The new stages of the playground are looking great, but the staff have noted that some play equipment is needed for the children who prefer to stay within the school playground, and are not interested in ball games. This would provide a play alternative, and also distract from potentially destructive behaviours. Jo Edwards sent some information she had sourced regarding possible solutions – including Lego wall panels, and a mud kitchen – potentially for the frog pond area. There was support for consideration of appropriate equipment, however concerns were raised regarding the viability of these options. Further details / options were sought, for discussion at the June meeting.

⇒ **Jo Edwards to provide further details / options for suitable playground equipment**

6.9 BPS Payments

It was confirmed that the BPS payment system is unable to accept structured direct deposits or advance payments, as each payment must be personally authorised and identified against an invoice at the time of deduction.

6.10 Tax Deductible Building or Library Fund

Documents received from DOE confirm that these funds have specific requirements regarding the use of the funds received, and further investigation will be needed to determine their suitability for our community.

⇒ **Mark Chambers to further investigate tax deductible fund for BPS**

6.11 Reading Recovery

Under the current DOE reading support program model, BPS receives funding for one trained staff member to provide the reading recovery program to 3 year 1 students for 30 minutes each day. Anecdotal information from the staff suggests that potentially five times this number of students

in Stage 1 alone could benefit from additional literacy support. It is unknown yet which program DOE will implement in 2018, or what level of support BPS will receive.

It was noted that there are other literacy programs available and currently in use at other schools (eg mini-lit and multi-lit). If BPS were to implement such a program, there is a \$2K cost, a staff member would need to be trained to deliver the program, and the hourly rate of pay for a staff member to deliver the program is \$81.60. These details are provided for future consideration.

7. Finance Report

- The current cash balance stands at \$141506.23 at 30 April, but is adjusted to \$25158.39 accounting for funds already allocated, including the remaining stages of the playground upgrade and prefunding of the art show. The balance includes \$3220 from canteen.
- Account signatories are in the process of being changed over, with members of the current executive being added.

8. P&C Goals and Issues

- **Online payments P+C account**
Steps are underway to enable online payments to be made from the P+C account, which will streamline processes.
- **Garden Club**
In order for the Year Six area to be refurbished, the Garden Club is being relocated – for the third time. Each move results in the loss of some plants, and the large planter boxes are becoming unstable. P+C will contribute \$250 to the Garden Club. Proposed: Rob Taubman, Seconded: Sophie Knox
- **Year Six Area Upgrade**
Work has not yet commenced due to the scaffolding in place for the painting work, but is expected to commence shortly. The area will then be cordoned off.
- **Philanthropic Support**
There was discussion of the need for, and interest in providing, philanthropic support to families within the BPS community. P+C would like to assist, via the staff as needed, without any disclosure of the families receiving the support. Maria will provide details of funds needed as they arise. There was further discussion of the possibility of providing secondhand laptops with prepaid wireless internet access (a 'reverse BYOD' system), to families who do not currently have the means to access the internet at home, to enable BPS students to do online aspects of their homework. A number of issues arising from such a scheme were discussed (eg How to ensure homework is being done? How to prevent the device from being used to access inappropriate material, and what liability would we hold? How to ensure the donated hardware remains operational? etc). The topic was deferred for a future meeting.
- **Art Show**
The 2018 Art Show has been confirmed, and will be held on the weekend of September 14/15, with a parents only event and class art auction on the Friday night, and a family day on the Saturday. Josie Simpson has volunteered to coordinate the event, and has many enquiries underway. Thanks, Josie!
- **Year Six Valedictory Dinner**
The question was raised whether a committee has been arranged to organise this event. Further enquiries to be made.
- **Fans / Temperature Monitoring**
There will be an update at the June meeting.

10. Events Calendar

- Mother's Day Breakfast – 8am Friday 11 May (Week 2, Term 2), and Cross Country. Mother's Day chocolates – there have only been 36 orders so far, this will be advertised via Skoolbag, orders close Friday 4 May. Plans for the breakfast are underway, with some supplies being donated by Bourke St Bakery and Woolworths. The Bach band will also be performing.
- Disco – Friday 29th June, Week 9 Term 2. Theme to be announced soon, raffle and best dressed prizes will be awarded.
- Art Show – Friday 14 and Saturday 15 September, Week 8 Term 3
- Halloween Disco – Friday 26 October, Week 2 Term 4
- BFR – Sunday 18th November, Week 7 Term 4

11. OOSH Report

- ESC AGM – May 23rd

12. Canteen report

- No new coordinator has been forthcoming
- The main options are: P+C pay a coordinator one day a week to maintain the current model but have minimal funds raised, or fully outsource the canteen which will provide greater flexibility and remove the need for volunteers, but lose the current community model and all funds raised.
- Van proposed sending out a monkey survey to all parents regarding their preferred option.

13. Any Other Business

- Working bee – there are a number of tasks that could be undertaken by a working bee, including finishing off the painting of the bubbler area. As the school does not currently have a GA, some other general maintenance tasks may also be able to be completed. This will likely not occur before the Year Six Area upgrade is complete.

Meeting closed 9:29 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 6th June at 7.00pm in the staffroom. All welcome!