

Meeting Minutes Wednesday 5th September 2018

Present:

BPS: Maria Lambos, Lynda Lovett

P+C: Lyndal Rutgers, Rob Taubman, Josie Simpson, Anne Irvine, Jason Ockerby, Van Allen, Sophie Knox, Clare Young, Nyree Morrison, Victoria Lush, Neil Lawrie

Minutes recorded by: Lyndal Rutgers

1. Welcome

Meeting opened at 7:07 pm with welcome and acknowledgement of country from Rob Taubman.

2. Apologies

Liam Reid, Sarah Linhart, Joanna Nicholas, Lauren Nahkies, Melissa Slavin, Mel Daniels, Jo Edwards, Ariana Davis, Sarah Weston, Belinda Mikhail-Gogos, Les Schmalzbach, Richard Banks

3. Previous Minutes

August 2018 – Minutes accepted (Proposed: Sophie Knox, Seconded: Van Allen).

4. Actions Arising

- Replacement of toilet seats
⇒ **Maria Lambos, ongoing (see 6.1)**

5. Correspondence

5.1 Many emails are being received regarding fundraising initiatives, which would seemingly benefit the external facilitator more than the P+C...

5.2 P+C Membership and insurance have been paid, as well as insurance for the external artworks for the Art Show.

6. Principal's Report

6.1 Repairs / improvements to toilet blocks

Due to the age of the existing toilets, replacement toilet seats are no longer compatible and can't easily be replaced. Also, given the height of the cistern, smaller children can't reach the flush button and have to climb onto the toilets. The situation is currently being considered by Assets; P+C is happy to go ahead with replacement of the adult toilet seats in the meantime.

6.2 Thank you for the Father's Day BBQ

It was wonderful to see so many families at school, the morning was very popular – thank you to all who organised and ran the event. The BBQ queue was very long – for the next breakfast we may need to consider using a second bbq (borrowed from ESC), and purchasing some large metal trays to hold pre-cooked food if we can get started early enough.

6.3 ESC 2019

The audit required to finalise numbers for the licence agreement hasn't taken place yet.

6.4 Canteen 2019

The tender has been advertised in the Inner West Courier, and will remain for three more weeks. Maria has also notified the Iron Cove Network Schools, for the information of their canteen suppliers. A selection panel will meet early in Term 4 – a P+C representative will be needed.

6.5 Staff

Our latest permanent position has been filled by central appointment, and fortunately for us the successful candidate is Ms Cara-Lee Weaver, who is already teaching 5/6C! The next permanent position has been advertised, and interviews will take place before the end of term. Thank you to Jason Ockerby, who is the P+C / Parent representative on the panel.

6.6 2019 Student Numbers

Additional students have been arriving at the school each week this term, and at the Kindy information evening an additional 12 students enrolled. There is potential for a 16th class, the current art room being the likely next classroom. There is also the current ESC office, which is undersized but can become a specific-purpose room (eg music / drama), and the room next to the canteen, which is currently used by ESC.

7. Finance Report

- There is around \$108K cash at bank, which is reduced to \$80K given provisioned spending: playground upgrades, laptops, pre-funding of year books, and toilet block improvements.
- Art show ticket and artwork sales are continuing to come in, along with IT levy payments.
- Allowing \$50K to begin 2019, there is \$34K to spend – a large proportion of this may be needed for uniform inventory if the uniform stall is brought back in-house (see below).

8. P&C Goals and Issues

- Reading program
The P+C led additional support program is underway – feedback from staff will be requested at its conclusion in Term 4.
- Playground upgrade and umbrella cover
The shade umbrella is currently on hold; the next stage of the playground upgrade is also on hold as ULP are fully committed until 2019.
- Art Show Update
The class artworks are looking wonderful. 103 individual works have been sold, and 70 tickets for the parent event. A number of external artworks will be displayed in the library. There are many volunteers signed up. Invitations will go out on Friday through the class reps.
- Tax Deductible Building Fund
Investigations are ongoing, a detailed plan will be presented to the P+C Exec, then Ms Lambos and the rest of the P+C. More details to follow.
- Year Six Graduation
Planning is going well, with the dinner to be held on Monday 17th December.
- Uniform changes
 - ⇒ Given the decision to change the uniform colour from brown to navy, consideration is also being given to the choice of uniform provider, and the possibility of bringing the uniform shop in-house (alongside the Second Chance Stall), to generate funds for the P+C. A consideration would be storage of the uniform inventory, although with the gymnastics company vacating the hall at the end of the year, a large amount of cupboard space will become available.
 - ⇒ As previously mentioned, contact was made with Sustainable Schoolwear, through the hard work and initiative of Alexandra from the OC class. Mel W and Maria have met with their rep, who made samples available for P+C to have a look at. They are able to provide a number of uniform items in a similar style to the existing items, some of which are made from a blend of recycled polyester fibre and cotton. Indicative pricing has been provided also. Timeframes were also considered.

- ⇒ It is important for the sake of new students that some of these decisions are made quickly, and preferably uniform items are made available by Kindy Orientation, which will be held on Nov 21. It may be possible to roll out the uniform changes progressively across stages, if a smaller number of items will be available initially.
- Kindy Welcome 2019
Mel Slavin has kindly offered to coordinate this again for 2019. Kindy start date will be Monday 4th February. Approval was given for \$250 expenditure to create the welcome packs. Proposed: Nyree Morrison; Seconded: Lyndal Rutgers.
- Dogs on school premises
 - ⇒ There are currently a number of families who bring their dogs with them on the walk to school, and leave them tied at the fence to the park (or on Eaton St) during drop-off and pick-up. Recently council rangers have told parents dogs cannot be in the footpath area in Gladstone Park adjacent to the school as this is a dog-free zone, along with the playground and ball court areas.
 - ⇒ The question was then raised whether dogs can be brought onto school property. There is no DOE policy, excepting reference to animal welfare and the 1998 Companion Animal Act which states that dogs are excluded except where the Principal grants permission.
 - ⇒ Given that Balmain is a very dog-friendly area, Maria has sent a communication to the school community stating that dogs are permitted on the playground, on a standard leash, under adult supervision during school drop-off and pick-up. They are also permitted to be tied to the inside of the school fence, as long as they are not fretting. It was emphasised that dogs should not be brought to special school events (eg dress-up parades), and that dogs coming to school should be an occasional, not daily, occurrence.
 - ⇒ Concerns were raised regarding fouling on the playground (this has happened previously with dogs coming to after care pick-up), and the safety / comfort of children who are scared of dogs, especially given the level of noise / excitement / volume of people moving in the playground immediately before and after school, and the effect this may have on the dogs. The situation will continue to be monitored.

10. Events Calendar

- Father's Day Breakfast (complete) – Dads came, the bands played, people ate breakfast, it was good. We even raised \$170! A big (genuine) thanks to all involved.
- 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

- Anne and Kate have been in communication with Rob. Bookings for vacation care are going well, with only a few days with vacancies remaining.
- An Ad has been placed for a Service Director. Jackson has accepted the role of permanent 2IC, and Matt continues to act in the role of Director, however is unable to take the position permanently.
- ESC have requested that the party lights under the COLA be removed after P+C events. An issue is needing the lights to cool before they can be taken down, however this needs to happen in a more timely manner as they are a hazard for the children at ESC, particularly with the potential for balls to smash light globes.
- There is currently no waiting list for places at ESC.

12. Canteen report

- Advertising for a canteen supplier is underway (see 6.4).
- Van is hoping to have a Canteen Party, possibly December the 14th, to thank the suppliers and the volunteers. More details to come.

13. Any Other Business

- 3/4K - the projector is faulty. Replacement is \$3K, but the existing board is old. Approval was given for a wall-mounted LED board at ~\$5.5K, with funds to come from the 2018 IT levy. Ms K to confirm tomorrow whether a mobile board is needed (in some rooms, sunlight becomes an issue with visibility at certain times of the day).
- During the most recent staff meeting it was identified that the stepping poles near the library are a source of concern, due to accidents and injuries. Some discussion followed regarding options for remediating the area – turning the poles into benches; cutting them shorter; cutting them at ground level to turn them into stepping ‘stones’; complete removal, which would likely also require replacement of the artificial turf. Van will source a quote for rubberised soft fall for the raised garden bed area, and seek remediation options.
- A query was raised regarding supervision in the park during break times and usage of the play equipment, with some children indicating they are not allowed to play on the equipment. Maria to clarify.
- BBQ to promote the BFR at Loyalty Square on 27th October; Kindy parents to be invited to volunteer. It was noted that the Kindy parents are not the best placed to promote the BFR or answer questions, as they are new to the school and may not have previously attended a run.

Meeting closed 9:09pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 7th November at 7.00pm in the staffroom. All welcome!