

BPS P+C Association Constitution (2018)

Section 117 of the Education Reform Act 1990 requires that the prescribed constitution for Parents and Citizens' associations incorporated under the Federation of Parents and Citizens' Association of New South Wales Incorporation (Amendment) Act 1991, be published by the Minister in the Education Gazette. This prescribed constitution is as follows:

1. Name

This body shall be known as the Balmain Public School Parents and Citizens' Association, a body corporate under the Parents and Citizens' Associations Incorporation Act 1976.

2. Object and Functions

The objects and functions of this association shall be those set out in Section 116 of the Education Act 1990, which include:

- (i) The objects:
 - (a) to promote the interests of the school by bringing parents, citizens, students and teaching staff into close co-operation; and
 - (b) to assist in providing facilities and equipment for the school and in promoting the recreation and welfare of the students at the school.

- (ii) The functions:
 - (a) to report, when requested by the Minister for Education and Training, on the material requirements of the school and to advise on the subject of maintenance of the school, alterations and additions to school facilities, and the selection of new sites;
 - (b) to assist and co-operate with the teaching staff in public functions associated with the school;
 - (c) to be responsible for the election of parent representatives to any school council constituted at the school in consultation with the Principal of the school to ensure consistency with any guidelines for elections issued by the Director-General of Education and Training;
 - (d) to assist in any matters in which the Minister may seek the co-operation of the association and to exercise such other functions as may be prescribed by the regulations (under the Education Act 1990).

3. School Staff

The association shall not exercise any authority over the teaching staff or any matter relating to the control or management of the school. School staff may become members of the association. The Principal of the school, or the Principal's nominee, shall be a member, ex-officio, of the association and all its committees.

4. Membership

Membership will be open to all parents and guardians of pupils attending the school and to all citizens within the school community. The association shall maintain a register of members. A person whose name appears in the register and who has paid the annual subscription shall be a member of the association.

The register shall be updated after each general meeting by the Treasurer or the Treasurer's nominee. If the name of a person has been omitted from the register when that person is otherwise entitled to be a member and their name should have been recorded in the register, then that person shall be a member of the association.

5. Office Bearers

- (a) The executive committee, which shall be constituted of the Officers of the association and up to six other members, shall carry out the decisions of the association. Members of the executive committee shall not receive any remuneration or other material benefit by reason of their position in the association. A member of the executive committee may be removed from office by resolution of the association carried at a properly convened general meeting or special meeting, providing at least seven days' notice has been given to members.
- (b) The Officers shall consist of President, two Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary, and shall be elected at the annual general meeting.
- (c) The President shall preside at all meetings except that, in the absence of the President one of the Vice-Presidents shall preside and, in the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, the committee shall elect a Chairperson.
- (d) The Secretary shall attend meetings and keep a record of all business conducted. On relinquishing office the Secretary shall hand over records, minutes, account books, etc. to the incoming Secretary.
- (e) The Treasurer shall receive and deposit monies, maintain records, draw cheques and present accounts to each General Meeting; present all records for auditing each year and shall hand over all records to the incoming Treasurer on relinquishing office. The requirements for handling money, keeping records, etc in the School Manual on Financial Management shall be followed. Should it be necessary during the unavoidable absence of the Treasurer, another Officer of the association may receive any monies, issue receipts and either deposit the monies in an association account or hand the monies to the Treasurer within two business days, taking a receipt for same.

6. Casual Vacancies

Any casual vacancy on the Executive shall be filled by a ballot of the members of the association at any general meeting. A casual vacancy shall have arisen where a member of the Executive Committee:

- (a) dies;
- (b) resigns from the committee by notice in writing;
- (c) ceases to be a member of the association;
- (d) is removed under clause 5(a); or
- (e) has a continuing and long-term incapacity to fulfill the functions of the position.

7. Annual General Meeting

An annual general meeting shall be held once each calendar year at a date specified in the rules. At this meeting all Officer and other positions will become vacant and then be filled by nomination, and where necessary by ballot of members. All nominees shall be members of the association.

The audited statement of income and expenditure and Annual Report will be presented. A copy of the audited statement of income and expenditure, certified by the auditor, is to be forwarded to the Federation of Parents and Citizens' Associations of New South Wales within one month of the annual general meeting at which it is adopted.

An auditor for the ensuing year who is not an office bearer of the association shall be appointed. The appointed auditor shall possess appropriate skills and experience in auditing and financial record management together with an appreciation of the issues of probity as they relate to the role of association auditor. In particular, the auditor must not have or appear to have any conflict of interest arising, for example, from a personal or business relationship with an officer of the association.

8. General Meetings

A general meeting shall be held at least once during each school term.

9. Special Meetings

A special meeting shall be called by the Secretary at any time upon written request signed by at least 10 members or on the authority of the Executive Committee. The special meeting shall be held within one month of the date the Secretary receives the request or is given the authority. Members shall be given at least seven days' notice of the meeting which notice shall also state the business of the meeting.

10. Quorum

Where the association has a current membership of 50 or more, the quorum at all meetings of that association shall be 11 members. Where the association has a current membership of less than 50, the quorum shall be set according to the rules of that association but shall not be less than five.

11. Liability

- (a) A member or Officer of the association is not, by reason only of being such a member or Officer, liable to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the association or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the association.
- (b) The association must effect and maintain approved public liability insurance, unless the association is covered by such insurance affected and maintained by the Federation of Parents and Citizens' Associations of New South Wales. In this section "approved public liability insurance" means public liability insurance, which an association incorporated under the associations Incorporation Act 1984 is required by Part 6 of that Act to effect and maintain.

12. Subscriptions

The annual subscription shall be set by the rules but shall not be less than 50 cents.

13. Subcommittees

The association may establish subcommittees, however styled, to carry out specific functions on its behalf. Any subcommittees that are established shall report regularly at meetings of the association and follow any directions received from the association. The association may dissolve a subcommittee at any time. Any funds raised or handled by a subcommittee shall be, for all purposes, funds of the association.

14. Dissolution

- (a) The association may be dissolved in terms of a resolution carried at a general meeting or a special meeting of members, providing at least seven days' notice has been given to members and subject to the concurrence of the Minister for Education and Training, or otherwise at the Minister's discretion.
- (b) The association shall be dissolved if the number of members falls below the quorum or the school to which the association is attached is closed.
- (c) Where the association is dissolved minute books, audited accounts and other records, together with the residue of funds, shall be given to a kindred organisation having a taxation status accepted by the Australian Taxation Office as equivalent to that of the association. In particular, where the association maintains a deductible gift fund (such as a School Building Fund) on dissolution any remaining assets or funds must be transferred to another gift deductible fund with similar objects to the association. Any records given to a kindred organization will be retained in accordance with taxation legislation requirements. The transmission shall occur within two months of the dissolution of the association, and only after the books of account have been audited as provided under Clause 16. If the association is registered for GST, dissolution shall not be finalized until all accounts have been paid, all revenue received and all GST transactions have been accounted for in the association's Business Activity Statement.
- (d) Where the association is dissolved, assets and funds on hand after payment of all expenses and liabilities shall not be paid to or distributed among the members.

15. Rule-Making Power

The association shall make such rules as are required to carry out its functions. The rules shall not contravene the terms of this Constitution, the Education Act 1990, or the Parents and Citizens' Associations Incorporation Act 1976. The rules may be adopted, altered or withdrawn according to a simple majority vote at any meeting of the association for which a month notice has been given. Such notice shall include details of the proposed changes. The rules shall provide for the procedure to be followed:

- (a) at meetings of the association;

- (b) to convene a substitute meeting when a quorum is not attained at a meeting; and
- (c) in making an application for membership.

16. Accounts

The funds of the association shall be banked in the name of the association with any institution holding trustee status within the meaning of the Trustee Act 1925, provided interest is allowed on the balance. The account shall be operated by two or more officers of the association delegated in that behalf by the association. No commitment shall be entered into for the expenditure of association funds, except by resolution of a meeting of the association. The association must make such financial reports about its affairs (including reports of its auditors) as are required by its rules or by the Minister for Education and Training.

BPS P+C Association Rules (2018)

To be accompanied by the Prescribed Constitution

1. These rules are made under the constitution of Balmain Public School Parents and Citizens' Association (The BPS P+C).
2. The P&C Association is formed for the benefit of the students of the school, which will;
 - (a) participate as much as possible in the activities of the school and communicate with all members of the school community;
 - (b) co-operate in the activities of the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales; and
 - (c) promote the interests of public education.
3. The financial year of the association will close on **31 December** each year.
4. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) must be held once in every Calendar year.
5. The AGM of the association will generally be held in **March** of each year, subject to the availability of the Audit Report and proper, formal notice.
 1. The AGM can only take place if the certified financial Audit Report has been completed and is available for presentation. If the Audit report is not available for the AGM then the meeting cannot take place and must be reconvened when the Audit is finalised.
 2. The AGM will generally be held in conjunction with and preceding the ordinary general meeting for that month.
 3. The agenda of the AGM shall include setting the membership fee of the association for the ensuing year and nominating the person to conduct the audit of the financial records of the P&C Association.
 4. The AGM is advertised to the whole school community and all P+C Association Members at least 14 days prior to the meeting. The notice includes a meeting agenda and a list of the positions to be elected.
5. No person will serve more than **three** consecutive years in the same position.
6. A general meeting of the association will be held on the first Wednesday of each month during term time at 7.00pm.

7. Any person eligible for membership may become a member or renew membership by paying the required membership fee of \$0.50 to the Treasurer, or nominee of the Treasurer, after any general meeting.
8. Membership will remain current until the close of the AGM in the following year. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining an up-to-date register of membership.
9. At a general meeting the quorum will be in accord with Rule 10 of the P+C Constitution. Where that rule does not specify a number the number will be 5 persons.
10. If a meeting for which due notice has been given does not achieve a quorum within 30 minutes of the advertised starting time the Secretary will, or in the absence of a Secretary remaining members of the Executive will, call a further meeting and failing that any five members of the Association may call a further meeting with a lapse of not more than 31 days of term time to carry on the business of the association.
11. In the absence of the Secretary the remaining members of the Executive or any five members of the association may call any meeting that is required, giving due notice of the business proposed for the meeting.
12. All meetings will be conducted in accordance with the rules and policies of the P&C Association. Members will conduct themselves accordingly and within the following parameters:
 - All Reports [ie Principal; Treasurer; sub-committees etc] and formal presentations be permitted to finish before questions are asked;
 - Adherence to the P+C Code of Conduct when asking questions;
 - A verbal warning may be given (by the Chair of the meeting) for any code violation;
 - A second verbal warning may be given (by the Chair) for any further code violation plus a warning of potential ejection from meeting should there be any further code violation;
 - A third code violation will lead to the individual(s) being removed from the P+C Meeting.
 - If the individual does not remove themselves from the meeting, the meeting may be closed (by the Chair of the meeting or the Principal).
13. In addition to the provisions of Rule 5(a) of the P+C Constitution, an individual may be removed from a P&C Meeting, or be removed as a BPS P+C Member, on the basis of misconduct, inappropriate behaviour, intimidation and/or persistent code violation. An individual can only be removed as a Member by resolution of the association carried at a properly convened general meeting or special meeting, providing at least seven days' notice has been given to members.
14. Each meeting of the P&C Association will be conducted as follows:
 - Welcome and formal opening of meeting;
 - Apologies;

- Minutes of the previous meeting [Receipt/Amendments/Adoption];
 - Business / Actions arising from the previous meeting Minutes;
 - Correspondence;
 - Reports [including Principals / Treasurer / sub-committees / representative];
 - General Business [motions to put on notice or those already notified to members];
 - Meeting Close.
15. The P&C Association may elect representatives who will be responsible to represent the P&C Association on committees or at events. Members who are elected to represent the P&C Association are required to produce a written report to the next general meeting of the P&C Association.
16. A general meeting of the P&C Association may declare any Officer who has been absent for three successive meetings, to have vacated their position and to have created a casual vacancy to be dealt with by means of Rule 6 of the constitution.
17. Any motion to expend P&C Association monies must be placed on notice for the meeting at which it is to be considered
18. Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 21, the executive committee is permitted to expend a maximum of \$1,000 in any given calendar month, to a maximum of \$5,000 in any calendar year, subject to approval being granted under circular resolution. Unanimous agreement of all executive committee members has to be obtained for the expenditure to be approved and all approved expenditure is to be reported to the next general meeting.
19. The P&C Association may confer the honour of Life Membership or Outstanding Service on a member of the P&C Association or a volunteer who has made a significant contribution to the work of the association. Life Members may attend and speak at meetings but are not entitled to vote or to hold office unless they are also ordinary members.