

Meeting Minutes Wednesday 1st February 2017

Present:

BPS: Jo Edwards, Maria Lambos, May Ellwood, Pauline Jensen

P+C: Alexis Butler, Anastasia Phillips, Andrea Smith, Anne Irvine, Bronwyn Batchelor, Bidy Mc Dermott, Cath Templer, Cindy Scheule, Cliff Philipiah, David Finlay, Doug Talbot, Fabricio Vulcano, Jane Williams, Kate Dryder, Lyndal Rutgers, Matthew Wilkinson, Melissa Slavin, Natasha Foster, Nyree Morrison, Paul Cassidy, Rob Bennett, Rob Taubman, Rong Dai, Shanel Cameron, Tatiana Gotvig, Trevor Chaitow, Van Allen, Vanessa James

Minutes recorded by: Van Allen

1. Welcome

Meeting opened 7.10 pm. Welcome from Cliff Philipiah & Rob Taubman, and Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Apologies

Rob Bennett running late (arrived at 8pm)

3. Previous Minutes December 2016

Minutes of meeting to be approved at the next meeting

4. Actions Arising

Was not discussed as the previous minutes was not on hand to refer to.

- AGM will most likely be held in April, pending completion of financial audit
- Lyndal Rutgers will be acting Secretary

5. Correspondence

No correspondence

6. Principal's Report

The school's student count currently stands at 341, allowing a 14th class to be created. This was pre-empted during preliminary class formations at the end of 2016. A third kindergarten class has now formed without disturbance to the other years. Ms Sophie Parsons has been appointed as teacher. Stage 2 of the playground upgrade is due to commence mid-March, pending confirmation from the contractors (Urban Landscape Design)

Investigative learning will be integrated into both Years One and Two program.

2017 vision for CAPA (Creative And Performing Arts) –

The highly successful school Art Show will not be run this year for three main reasons:

- The school would like to be able to place more emphasis/showcase the Performing Arts component of the CAPA program
- Sophie Parsons is now allocated to teach kindergarten full time and is unable to commit the time required to run the art show
- Minimizing volunteer fatigue

The concept is to have a fete day from noon through to the afternoon. A temporary stage is to be erected in the playground, with each class to perform something they've been working on every half hour or so.

This is the international year of *Sustainable Tourism for Development*. Following on the tradition of naming each class after this "motto", each class will be named after a major tourist attraction. Learning streams will be based around it for children to learn about the country and culture the attraction is located. They would take this forward into creating items or food stuffs to sell in stalls on the fete day.

Timing of the event is critical as to not clash with pull on volunteers for major events such as the Balmain Fun Run – slated for November 19th. Preliminary scheduling to be end of Term 3.

The school 'wish list';

\$669 portable whiteboard for 3rd kindergarten class

\$3500 needed Art resources

\$4900 needed for Class resources (14 x \$350)

\$50 needed for Kindergarten science unit

\$5000 needed for Library

\$5000 needed for Stage 3 texts

\$1000 needed for Music

Quote for blinds in the 2x new Year 1 classrooms above the school hall

Quote for "You Can Do It" Anti-bullying program

Total \$20,119 + unknown quotes

The above amount was approved by the P&C (proposed Rob Taubman, seconded Bidy McDermot)

Based on previous experience, \$2000 was approved for the blinds. A circular resolution among the executives will apply if the quote is higher. Maria will contact Wynstan and/or Kresta for pricing.

Rob Bennett to create a table for comparison with previous wishlists, for the benefit of new members.

7. Finance Report

A formal report will be given at the next meeting. Rozelle PS has again agreed to audit the P&C's finances, with our treasurer David, reciprocating.

A summary of the P&C balance is as follows:

Approximately \$142,000 was raised in 2016, a record for the school, and around \$102,000 was spent on a variety of items.

The four main sources of revenue being:

- (i) P&C voluntary contribution (\$150 per family)
- (ii) Canteen, approximately \$16,000 pa
- (iii) Fundraising eg BFR (\$45,000+), Art Show (\$17,000+), Parent Welcome Drinks (\$7000+), etc
- (iv) Grants - CBP 2015 \$30,869 CBP 2016 \$20,000, specifically for the playground upgrade

Current cash balance stands at around \$130,000 and is adjusted to \$83,000 accounting for funds already allocated; eg Stage 2 of the playground upgrade, IT commitments

8.P&C Goals and Issues

\$14 was collected from those in attendance, in payment of the 50c annual membership fee, required prior to voting at the AGM.

It was reminded to all that P&C and school events aren't always about fundraising but also fostering strong parent, staff and community relationships. It's a balance against revenue opportunities.

The inaugural IT Levy charged by the school last year was highly successful with a take up rate of around 95%. This freed up around \$40,000 from P&C funds to allow the school to maintain and/or replace current stock and purchase new IT equipment for the growing student population. This levy needs to be maintained for the school's IT plan to be sustainable. It relieves pressure on funds raised by the P&C and allow for greater depth and range of investment in other aspects of the school.

We have ongoing commitments such as the Playground Upgrade, Stage 2 is ready to commence. The successful Community Building Partnership Grant application means the next Stage (weather shed & sandpit area) can commence as soon as practical.

9.Events Calendar

Welcome Drinks- Friday 10th March 6-11pm. RT has applied for the license, food is organized and the bar is staffed by RSA-carrying parents. An email will be forwarded to ask for volunteers to decorate, sell drink coins etc

Footsteps Disco- Footsteps are offering 2x free discos again. Timing to be similar to last year – the first in Term 2 and the second for Halloween

Welcome BBQ- Friday 10th February 8-9am. Cliff Philipiah to co-ordinate event. Trevor Chaitow & Rob Bennett volunteered to run the BBQ. Anne Irvine volunteered to help with the food.

10.OOSH Report

No report, as the OOSH Liaison officer was not present.

11.Canteen report

Canteen to commence next Friday February 10th.

Balance from 2016 is \$166.65

Canteen Cheque #01 was requested for \$1000

Karen Harvey to take over the role of volunteer rostering from Monique Dower

Due to the earlier lunch times of 11.10am, Sushi Hub is now the new supplier. There is now a vegetarian option of avocado and cucumber sushi. There was a request for a gluten free option.

Pizza will have a third gluten free option.

12. Any Other Business

Second Chance has raised another \$350 to date. Matt Wilkinson presented the cash on behalf of Mel Wilkinson. Big thanks to her and Jane Williams for all they do.

Jane has asked for any parents who could assist with the stall on Wednesday mornings, as both she and Mel are now working full time.

Jane.williams@gmail.com

meljwilkinson@yahoo.com.au

Recycling/Environment

Pauline Jensen reported that since moving the school garden to the west side of the hall, the students have been able to harvest many fruits and vegetables – strawberries, beans etc. She's found that gardening has a calming affect on children who present behavioural issues. An expansion of the program is proposed to include growing fruit bearing trees.

It is requested to have \$770 for:

- 4x new garden beds
- Soil
- Additional tap fixtures (to work with previously approved hose)
- Replacement compost bin

This request was formally approved as a circular resolution by the P&C Executive, after the meeting.

Rubbish

Jo Edwards reported that the west side of the hall will be given back to the Year 6 students as their exclusive area. In line with Stage 3 Science stream about systems, the students will be designing both a waste management system and their exclusive area. They will be approaching P&C with their proposals for implementation and funding approval.

The levels of rubbish generated continues to be an issue. Solutions presented are:

- Purchase more bins
- Increase frequency of skips being emptied by Remondis
- Introduction of "Nude Food" Policy or Waste Free Wednesday

Maria reported that the school had been having issues with Remondis emptying the skips on their designated days due to there being incorrect placement of waste in the appropriate skips.

Kate Dryder is a lawyer for Veolis, and has said she can assist with Remondis.

Rob Taubman reported:

- Eaton Street Centre has agreed to pay for 50% of new bin costs
- Many parent correspondence regarding the issue would like to see the children take more responsibility for cleaning up after themselves; eg roster a class each day for rubbish duty

Rob Bennett will email the GM of Inner West Council to ask for assistance with more (free) bins. Updates will be made at the next P&C meeting.

Uniform "Protocols"

As a public school, the staff cannot enforce the school uniform to be worn but with the P&C's backing, strongly encourage that students adhere to the official uniform, as sold through Pickles.

Lost Property

Maria is waiting for details of another school's successful storage solution to their lost property. Jo Edwards & May Ellwood will organize some Years 5 & 6 students to sort through the substantial piles of lost property. Owners will be emailed and asked to collect their lost property. Clothing remaining after the deadline will be laundered, at P&C's cost, and given to Second Chance clothing store to be sold on.

Air conditioning

Over the summer weeks, the extreme temperatures in the classrooms, especially those on the top floor of the main building and above the hall are a main source of concern to both parents and staff.

Anastasia Phillips and Shanel Cameron are asking for:

- (1) a short term solution for those rooms most affected – use of the portable, free standing AC units
and
- (2) a longer term, sustainable option – ducted system

Constraints arising for both solutions are:

- the volume of the classrooms are such that a freestanding unit will not be powerful enough to create a significant impact, especially with the number of warm bodies in the space
- the serious concerns on the power loading of multiple freestanding units, and thereby a serious electrical fire threat
- the extreme costs of an effective commercial grade ducted/split system, and again the power load of this system
- the difficulties of obtaining DOE approval, as it involves the installation of a major asset

It was agreed the freestanding AC unit in Maria's room will be borrowed and placed in one of the worst affected rooms to test its effectiveness on the next forecasted hot day.

Anastasia and Shanel will spearhead enquiries into costing for a commercial grade ducted/split system
Maria will ask Spotless to inform us of current power capacity

Balmain Fun Run

Natasha Foster reported that it was now the time to chase sponsorship for the BFR. The committee is asking for approval to approach the 3x most loyal sponsors and offer them exclusive rights to renew their pledge, as opposed to going out to open tender.

(proposed Cliff Philipiah, seconded Rob Bennett)

Meeting closed 9.40 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 1st March 7.00 pm in the Balmain Public School staff room.