

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017

### **Present:**

BPS: Maria Lambos, Joanne Edwards, Ariana Davis, May Ellwood  
P+C: Lyndal Rutgers, Rob Taubman, Mel Daniels, Jason Ockerby, Sophie Knox, Mark Chambers, Arabella Futcher, Van Allen, Anne Irvine, Bidy McDermott, Andrea Smith, Victoria Lush, Nyree Morrison, Matt Wilkinson, David Finlay, Liam Reid, Doug Talbot

**Minutes recorded by:** Lyndal Rutgers

### **1. Welcome**

Meeting opened: 7:05pm. Welcome from Rob Taubman and acknowledgement of country from Sophie Knox.

### **2. Apologies**

Cliff Philipiah, Melissa Slavin, Vanessa James, Les Schmalzbach, Joanna Nicholas, Belinda Mikhail-Gogos, Lynda Lovett

### **3. Previous Minutes**

Amendment: Sophie Knox offered to prepare a flyer regarding ethics teachers for the newsletter, which was not recorded in the minutes. (Thanks, Sophie!)  
August 2017 – Minutes accepted (Proposed: Bidy McDermott; Seconded: Nyree Morrison).

### **4. Actions Arising**

Outstanding actions from previous minutes:

- Sports shelter freight cost to be clarified  
⇒ **Victoria Clay, complete**
- Communication regarding ESC and lines of communication to be prepared by ESC for the school newsletter  
⇒ **Kate Buckell, ongoing**
- Modwood to be relocated from the weather shed to underneath the demountable  
⇒ **Cliff Philipiah, complete**
- Enquiries with Pickles regarding house t-shirts  
⇒ **Lyndal Rutgers, complete**

### **5. Correspondence**

P+C Federation – regarding ongoing frustrations at various schools because of delays in approval process at DEC for capital works projects.

### **6. Principal's Report**

#### 6.1 Playground

- The electronic sign is now installed at the park entrance, and is operational. A similar sign is to be made by Signpac for installation at the front entrance of the school on Eaton St.
- The government funded security fencing is mostly complete, apart from one gate which needs to be amended.
- A huge vote of thanks to Scott Feeney, for his hard work in the garden bed along the Eaton St boundary. The new plants look amazing!

## 6.2 Sports shelter

- Freight charges were clarified at \$65 for two 3x3m marquees (bringing the cost to \$1795 total). A second quote was obtained for comparison, which came to \$2464. It was moved that the P+C pay for two 3x3m Balmain PS branded marquees, as per the \$1795 quote obtained by Ms Clay.  
Proposed: Sophie Knox, Seconded: Biddy McDermott

## 6.3 Planning for 2018

- Our estimated enrolment numbers for 2018 are currently 376 (cf 347 for 2017), which will take us to 15 classes. This additional class will use the final empty classroom on the top floor. DEC will supply the furniture needed for this room, which already has a smartboard, but will need a guided reading table.

⇒ **May Ellwood to check the operation of the smartboard**

- The school is currently at 108% capacity, without the demountable. Another Inner West school in a similar situation became unable to accept siblings, and chose to lose two of its four OC classes (which were relocated to another school) to regain two mainstream classrooms, but quickly reached capacity again. Our school catchment area may be redefined, but many of the other local schools are in a similar situation. Nicholson St is currently using all its classrooms, and may add a demountable next year due to increasing enrolments. Possible solutions discussed for our school include: building a second storey to the library and sports shed buildings, which would supply three new classrooms (but no additional playground space); and purchase of the bowling club next door. It is possible that a new school may be built as part of the redevelopment of the White Bay area, which may curtail Departmental expenditure on increasing the capacity of existing schools. Concern was expressed that planning and action may not be happening quickly enough to prevent a crisis, and that perhaps the school community needs to lobby Government, or prepare and present its preferred solution, to spearhead action.
  - ⇒ **Maria Lambos to make contact with DEC regarding current plans for the future, given the existing squeeze**
  - ⇒ **Doug Talbot to set up a discussion with UrbanGrowth NSW (current BFR sponsor)**

- The school currently has two permanent classroom positions to be advertised concurrently for merit based selection. The successful applicants will take up their positions in 2018. (This does not include the classroom teacher for the 15<sup>th</sup> class, which will be a temporary appointment). A parent representative is required for the selection panel – Sophie Knox volunteered to undertake this role, thank you Sophie!

## 6.4 NAPLAN results

- The staff were pleased with the 2017 NAPLAN results, which show our school to be well above the state average, and also above other 'like' schools (schools with similar socioeconomic and cultural background). Comparison of the Y3 and Y5 results overall showed that the school was excelling in 'value adding' – that is the improvement of results from Y3 to Y5. (This is not attributable to the performance of the OC students, as these students usually perform highly in Y3 and as a result do not increase their results greatly in Y5.) The main target area has been improving the students' writing ability, by introducing programs like the Seven Steps to Writing Success, with demonstrated success: Y3 had 76% of students in the top two bands, cf 33% across the state; and Y5 had 50% cf 18% across the state. The staff hope to continue improving writing into the future, along with other learning goals.

## 6.5 Positive Behaviour for Learning (yes, it's another PBL!)

- As first mentioned at the April P+C meeting, the staff have been undertaking training in Positive Behaviour for Learning, which is an evidence-based whole school approach to improving wellbeing by establishing clear behaviour expectations. It will be known as The Balmain Way, and the children will be explicitly taught to be 'safe, respectful and responsible'. The staff discussed all areas of the school, and what it means to be safe, respectful and responsible in each area, and

identified areas of focus (including the toilet blocks). The Balmain Way will be implemented across the whole school beginning in term 4. Signage will be posted around the school, featuring a pigeon mascot which has been designed by the students, and a free and frequent reward system (raffle tickets) will be used during the implementation. More information about PBL is available online.

#### 6.6 Future Focused Learning Update

- As part of her Highly Accomplished Teacher accreditation, Ariana Davis has been undertaking a 3 year project on Investigative Learning (also known as future focused learning (FFL)). As part of this project she is preparing some of her work to be published on the school website, including details of relevant research articles, which will be available for interested parents to access. Parents will be notified when this goes live. She has already run a professional development session for the staff, and may facilitate some information sessions for parents next year. However, as the implementation of FFL will look different at each school stage a whole school presentation would be ineffective, but it is envisaged that information will be provided at a class level during parent-teacher information evenings at the beginning of the 2018 school year.

### **7. Finance Report**

- The current cash balance stands at \$177108 at 31 August, and is adjusted to \$80553 accounting for funds already allocated, including the remaining stages of the playground upgrade. The allocated funds include \$67105 spent this year on contributions to the school. A \$1500 cash cheque for canteen expenditure was approved. (Proposed: Rob Taubman; Seconded: Lyndal Rutgers).
- The P+C levy has been very successful, with contributions at around \$17K (on par with last year's levy) from 105 families – thank you very much to all those who have contributed!
- Monies from the Kids Disco and the Father's Day breakfast have been deposited into the P+C account.

### **8. P&C Goals and Issues**

- BFR Update
  - The charity partner for the BFR this year is the Batten Disease Foundation. Funds are raised for the charity either by purchase of the charity BFR shirt, or donations received at registration.
  - Orange Grove and Birchgrove schools have been offered discounted registrations, whereby a cheque will be made out to their P+C based on the number of student entries received.
  - Sponsors for 2018 have been finalised, with 5 gold and 3 silver sponsors. Belle Property have signed on for a further three years, including naming rights for the run. Funds raised are currently at around \$50K. As well as encouraging our school community to actively support our sponsors, there will be a general social media callout for school community members to follow and like the BFR page, which helps to build traffic, and in turn provides further exposure for the sponsors. This will be sent out through the class reps with an embedded link.
  - Registrations for the run are now open. Previously there have been around 1500 entries, hopefully this will be maintained for 2018. The BFR team will man a promotion stall at the Council elections on Sat 9<sup>th</sup> September. Darling St Day (BBQ at Loyalty Square to promote the run) will be held on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> October – coordination of this event was allocated to Kindergarten and Year 1.
  - There will be a general call for volunteers in Week 1 of Term 4.
  - Miss Morris is going to start running with the kids in Break B in Term 4, and other running programs will be held in the lead up to the day. There will also be a few promotions during morning lines during Term 4, however sadly at this stage Fun Run Freddie appears to be MIA...

- House T-shirts  
Enquiries were made with Pickles regarding shirts in house colours which could be worn at sports carnivals. The two options included cotton t-shirts in the four house colours with the house name screen printed on the front, and polo shirts in the house colours with the house names embroidered across the back (indicative prices: \$19.50 and \$28 respectively). As these shirts are non-compulsory, and would only be worn at school carnivals, the cotton t-shirts were the preferred option. The shirts should be available for pre-order and delivery by the end of the school year. Further details to be confirmed.  
⇒ **Lyndal Rutgers to liaise with Pickles regarding ordering the shirts**
- A/C update  
The preferred initial approach is to improve ventilation and air flow to the top classrooms. As the external windows are hard locked for safety due to the height of the building, installation of electric extractor fans into the roof space may be a solution. Les Schmalzbach has offered the contact details of an architect / builder acquaintance who may be able to provide helpful advice. The roof space is not currently insulated, however installing insulation would be very expensive. P+C is also prepared to purchase pedestal fans for any classroom that requests them.  
⇒ **Liam Reid to investigate the cost of installing extractor fans, and to liaise with Les**
- Playground Upgrade – update  
The next stage of the playground upgrade, which includes demolition of the weather shed and sandpit structures and installation of bench seating, has been delayed slightly. Work is expected to begin by the end of term, and is scheduled to take about four weeks, weather permitting.
- Father's Day breakfast – was held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September. Thank you to Cliff, Anne Irvine, Lauren Rutherford, Louise Booth, Christine Brown, Andrea & Isla & Rob Smith, Tony Leeds, Lyn & Nick, and Laurence Curson for all their efforts in making this event a success – it was wonderful to see so many Dads attend! The event raised \$412.60, less the cost of the meat which is yet to be reimbursed.
- A new ethics coordinator has been found, but more ethics teachers are still needed.
- An application for a Westconnex grant has been submitted, requesting \$7.5K to refurbish the Year 6 area of the playground (between the hall and the park fence), with this amount to be matched by P+C if the grant application is successful.

## 9. Events Calendar

- Council Election – BBQ and cake stall, 9<sup>th</sup> September  
BBQ Coordinator – Cliff Philipiah. The food has been ordered and will be delivered to the school on Friday, and a roster of volunteers has been organised. Based on demand from the previous Council election, the BBQ will run from 11am – 2pm (or until the food runs out).  
Cake Stall Coordinator – Nyree Morrison. The stall has been advertised, cake boxes are available at the school office. Cakes can be delivered to the staffroom on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> until 3:30, or to the cake stall on the Saturday morning by 10am. The cake stall will run 8am – 2pm, or until sold out.
- Whole school Working Bee – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September  
The working bee will run from 8am – midday. Currently 50 people have indicated their availability to help, and \$1000 in donations have been received to cover the cost of materials used. There are 30 more plants to be installed during the working bee, as well as installation of a new slim line shed against the library building to provide additional storage, repair and painting of the timber slats around the bubbler and P+C storage sheds, weeding, pruning, cleaning and repair of the frog pond area, cleaning of the toilet blocks, and other general maintenance tasks. There will also be a BBQ provided on the day for the volunteers. The P+C also wish to extend a huge thank you to Scott

Feeney for his hard work clearing the garden beds along the Eaton St boundary, and obtaining and installing the new mature trees. We really appreciate it Scott, they look fantastic!

- Halloween Disco – Term 4, Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Oct, planning is on track and volunteers have confirmed their availability to help again.
- BFR – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, get ready to run!!!

**10. OOSH Report**

Nil

**11. Canteen report**

Nil

**12. Any Other Business**

Nil

**Meeting closed 9:04 pm**

**Next meeting: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 7.00pm in the Balmain Public School staff room.**