



P&C Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 6 November 2024

Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Location: The Royal Oak and Zoom

Attendees:

BPS Staff: Maria Lambos, Emma Archibald, Angus Elix, Margy Wheelan, Rose Reedy, Amanda Pitman

P&C Exec: Trista Rose, Kara Martin, Tracy Baving, Sauvik Banerjee, Yann Le Roux, Ira Alvarez

P&C Members: Philip Chaplin, Suchi Szczepanski, Renate Harris, Rafaela Kohler, Shona Macleod, Sarah Spencer, Lujia Mi, Agatha Gothe-Snape, Natalia D’Morias, Emma Bull, Rochelle Bolitho, Sam Bolitho, Paul Galpin, Irene Lin, Izumi Takeda, Natasha Leist, Oscar McLaren, Rhema Tieu, Briedy Mahar, Celia Lee, Claire Gong, Imogen Kershaw, Kate Gauld, Sarah Montgomery, Shahida Hillerstrom, Thu Luc, Tracey Chen, Tao Shen, Hannah Rodgers, Madeleine D’Arcy, Alex White, Thoran Tyson, Cathy Upex, Kirsti Williams, Robert Buemme, Lujia Mu

Guests: Virginia Poggio, Nuala Collins, Kate Hurst, Sam Yetzes, Michael Reshko, David Stephan, Claire Parsons, Glen Smith, Olga Voronina, Ethan C, Audra Clifford, Dubravka Tosovic, Kim Wan

Apologies: Nancy Riley, Annabel Sun, Jennifer Widjojo

	Agenda	Who	Minutes
1.	Welcome and introduction Apologies/proxies Previous minutes & actions Correspondence	Trista Rose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apologies noted above - Ratification of P&C September meeting minutes – Philip Chaplin - Correspondence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Ethics Coordinator required (refer Appendix A) - Transfer of \$9802.39 to Yr 6 Graduation Committee (for noting – refer Appendix B) - Community Recognition Parliamentary Statement by Kobi Shetty - Support for air conditioning - at least 12 emails of support have been received from the school community and the P&C warmly welcomes 18 newly joined members
2.	Principal’s Report	Maria Lambos	<p><i>Tonight I join this meeting from Bidjegal Country. I acknowledge the traditional custodians and their connection to land, water and community. I recognise the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of First Nations Peoples. I pay my respects to Elders, past, present and emerging. These lands were, and always will be, Aboriginal land.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Conditioning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On behalf of all the staff at Balmain Public School, I would like to thank the P&C for organising this special meeting dedicated to air conditioning and cooling our school. This has been an ongoing issue over the years and we are hopeful that tonight, we’ll be able to

get a workable solution over the line for our students and staff

- The school has dedicated the cost of a casual, at almost \$700, for Mr Elix to work with the present and future ministers from the Health, Fitness and Wellbeing, as well as the Sustainability Portfolio, today. Tonight, Mr Elix joins this meeting to support student representatives from both portfolios. I am proud of the commitment of our school to promote student agency and authentic voice, and definitely proud of our student leaders and the presentation prepared for you. Thank you to Mr Elix and our students. A special mention to Trista, our P&C President, who took time out of her day today, to come in and work with the team. Thanks so much.

- **Tree Removal**

- Sadly, the tree at the Eaton St entrance will need to be removed. The DoE has brought in arborists to look at our increasing trip hazard from its roots, which have grown significantly over the last few years. The synthetic grass has not allowed water to penetrate, which has caused the roots to search for a water source. As much as we love our tree and the shade that it offers, the risk of tripping is now too great for our students, staff and community members.

- **IT Update**

- The school has 210 laptops for students which are projected to last for the next 2 - 5 years based on purchase date and wear.
- Colour run money has gone to the purchase of 6 computer charging cabinets and 30 new laptops. (\$37075.40)
- IT levy monies have been spent on the maintenance of classroom whiteboard displays (multiple lamp replacements), Jamf subscription to run school iPads, and XenonTech technicians to update and maintain IT equipment within the whole school.
- T4L points for 2024 have been spent in October with the delivery of 13 new staff laptops and a new display screen. Current staff laptops will be turned into student devices.

3. **Finance Report**

Sauvik Banerjee

Monthly Cash Balance

Particulars	Jan'24	Feb'24	Mar'24	Apr'24	May'24	Jun'24	Jul'24	Aug'24	Sep'24	Oct'24
Opening cash balance	136,169	142,705	138,170	141,081	162,203	173,293	129,117	127,665	105,551	159,208
Add: Amount received - Net	6,565	1,885	2,976	50,524	27,744	1,577	3,815	691	54,076	11,308
Less: Payments - Net	(29)	(6,419)	(65)	(29,402)	(16,653)	(45,753)	(5,267)	(22,805)	(419)	(20,205)
Closing balance	142,705	138,170	141,081	162,203	173,293	129,117	127,665	105,551	159,208	150,311

Notes:

Amount received in Sep-24 and Oct-24 primarily relates to:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fundraising from Art Show and Halloween Disco - Expenses primarily relate to payment to vendors for Art Show
4.	<p>Cooling the school initiative <i>(Decision required)</i></p>	Trista Rose	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Trista provided an overview of the background to this issue (also refer Appendix E).</p> <p>The last Parent Survey established air conditioning (a/c) as parents' top priority. Following the survey, the P&C learned that the school had significant IT resource shortages, which required urgent attention.</p> <p>The P&C has undertaken the following to date to address cooling the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blinds installed on all North facing windows of the main building. - Successfully applied for a Community Building Partnership grant for further blinds on the South side of the main building. - Trista and Sarah Spencer have met with Kobi Shetty and received her in-principle support for the proposed Cooling the School initiative. - Trista has met with the White Bay Port Authority regarding air quality in Balmain. <p>Student Presentation</p> <p>Ministers Jonah, Leo, Luca and Elizabet gave a compelling presentation on behalf of the current and incoming BPS ministry, on the need for a/c at BPS (refer Appendix D).</p> <p>Health and Safety Discussion</p> <p>Mr Elix as chair of the BPS Work Health and Safety Committee noted that a/c is essential to cool the school - fans are ineffective in cooling large classrooms and window ventilation is limited.</p> <p>Ms Whelan as the BPS Teachers Federation representative noted that the staff had voted unanimously to request a/c of the P&C at this meeting.</p> <p>Logistical Issues and Action Plan (also refer Appendix E)</p> <p>Trista noted that cooling the school has been an ongoing issue for the last 10 years, based on a review of P&C minutes. The current P&C Executive team are committed to resolving this issue.</p> <p>One of the main impediments to a/c is cost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Switchboard testing by Department of Education (DoE) qualified technicians is expected to cost \$5K - If expected energy load of a/c to 15 classrooms can be handled by the current switchboard, we can proceed to next step

- If not, a switchboard upgrade will be required which involves significant costs
- Expected cost of a/c the top floor of the main building, based on an initial quote, is approximately \$76K plus GST
- A further \$8K would be needed for fencing around the a/c units (totalling \$93K)
- The load testing must be conducted by the DoE and the a/c project must be managed by the DoE

BPS does not qualify for government funding for a/c as Balmain falls just short of the January temperature thresholds for the 'Cooler Schools' program.

A/c is an important element of cooling the school, but improved air flow and ventilation will also help. The P&C requests that all windows should be able to be opened to the maximum allowable distance of 12.5cm and that opening windows from the top needs to be investigated by the school/Assets team.

Mrs Lambos outlined the process for such an infrastructure project, as set out by the DoE Assets team, who would be responsible for the project. To initiate the project on the DoE system, full funds for at least Phase 1 of the project would need to be placed into a school trust account so that Assets can confirm we can afford the project. Based on the figures above (if Phase 1 of the a/c project was agreed to be the top floor of the main building), this would mean a transfer of \$75k + GST from the P&C into a trust account held by the DoE, before the load testing could commence.

Trista noted that the P&C's view is that we are scoping the project at this stage. The P&C will work with the NSW P&C Federation to seek Asset's agreement to separate the load testing from the a/c installation project itself, noting we view the load testing as a feasibility and scoping exercise, to determine next steps.

Mrs Lambos has also forwarded the P&C's request in this regard to Ken at Assets and is waiting for a reply about whether we can begin with load testing alone, before a commitment of funds is made to a/c installation.

In summary, Trista confirmed that this issue was of the highest priority to the P&C, the school staff have shown their support via Ms Whelan, the students have presented a compelling case for a/c and Mrs Lambos has also shown her strong support.

Trista proposed that nominations will be sought for a Cooling Initiative subcommittee to be formed at the December 2024 P&C meeting.

Community Q&A

Q: Can the scope of the current immediate project be confined to load testing with the DoE Assets team?
A: Mrs Lambos has made this request of DoE.

Q: What is a realistic timeframe for the project? Hopefully installation can be achieved by next Winter, if not by next Summer.

A: Mrs Lambos noted that timeframes vary by project within the DoE. The first step is load testing (which will take at least 1 week). The school is fortunate to have a proactive Assets Manager, therefore no holdups from Assets are anticipated. There is no longer a requirement to obtain 3 quotes or put the project out to tender. It is likely that a Heritage Impact Statement will be required as part of process, which will add to timeframes.

Trista noted a recent letter from Assets to the NSW P&C Federation indicating that some infrastructure projects have had a delay of up to 3 years. Mrs Lambos stated that this does not apply to our area.

Q: Have we costed providing a/c to the Treehouse classrooms?

A: Assets have indicated that air conditioning the main building classrooms will cost approximately \$15K each, with some economies of scale as lower floors are done. The Treehouse classrooms would cost approximately \$8K each (cheaper due to their location). It is also expected that a/c on the top floor will provide a slight cooling effect to lower levels.

Q: Can we organise load testing to be carried out by an a/c company that provides this service?

A: No, the load testing must be conducted by the DoE. A/c installation can be done by an external company but they need to be accredited with Sealy A/C (the DoE Assets a/c provider).

Q: Has the P&C explored other funding avenues?

A: We understand Ashfield PS switchboard upgrade was paid for by the DoE, but we have not explored other funding avenues at this time. Sydney Boys High School was quoted approximately \$500K for their switchboard upgrade. Mrs Lambos also noted that once the a/c project is initiated, money needs to be deposited in the trust account upfront (ie funding cannot wait for a grant for eg).

Q: The OC spaces have windows that face North and West. Student recordings are showing very high temperatures and heat is often retained overnight. Windows also do not have blinds. Will the a/c order of priorities be based on temperature tracking in classrooms?

A: Yes, we suggest prioritising the hottest learning spaces first for a/c installation and are looking forward to seeing the longer term results of student's temperature tracking. At present, we understand the top floor of the main building is experiencing the hottest temperatures. We can reassess classroom temperatures after a/c is installed on the top floor, as it's expected there will be some cooling benefit to the middle level also). Blinds will be considered for all learning spaces (see action below)

Q: Who will be responsible for increased energy running costs due to a/c?

A: The DoE currently provides a certain amount of funding for electricity - increased costs will need to be considered as part of the project.

		<p>Q: Noting the ongoing cost of running a/c, would the P&C consider installing more solar? A: Limited solar was installed as part of a previous 'Solar my School' grant. A full investigation was undertaken at the time of this grant and only the library building was deemed suitable for solar due to the heritage nature of other buildings. We therefore understand that we are at capacity with regards to solar at the school.</p> <p>Q/Comment: There is arguably a strong case for additional solar panels on the North facing roof of the main building, given it is out of sight which would be the main heritage consideration.</p> <p>Q/Comment: In addition to a/c there are a number of potential interim cooling solutions, to help in the short and long term, including increased ventilation through opening the windows and investigating awnings for the Treehouse.</p> <p>Q: Will the a/c units interfere with the children's play space or bike racks? A: The a/c units will need to be fenced off for safety but will be located close to the building and there should be minimal impact on the playground.</p> <p>Q: Can the P&C assist to overcome any of the specific barriers preventing windows from being opened? A parent contractor is available to assist if helpful and permitted by Assets. A: Mrs Lambos will investigate the option of windows being opened from the top and will follow up with DoE to determine the policy regarding window safety devices including bars and grills (see actions below). The DoE has previously indicated bars are not permitted for heritage reasons, however it was noted that Birchgrove PS has bars on their heritage listed windows facing the street.</p> <p>DECISION - to approve expenditure up to \$5,000 for load testing of the current school switchboard by the DoE.</p> <p>Voted in favour: Majority</p> <p>For noting: No commitment or decision has been made with regards to the installation of a/c at this point, beyond the load testing. It is proposed that approval for Phase 1 of the a/c project will be sought during the December 2024 P&C meeting, subject to load testing results having been received, and those results confirming that a new switchboard is not required. The scope of Phase 1 will also need to be clearly defined before a vote to proceed.</p> <p>ACTION - P&C to circulate an updated Q&A document following the meeting.</p> <p>ACTION - Mrs Pitman to email P&C regarding the need for blinds in the OC landing area, which is used as a learning space.</p>
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			<p>ACTION - Mrs Lambos to investigate with Assets the option of windows being opened from the top.</p> <p>ACTION - Mrs Lambos to follow up with the DoE to determine the policy regarding window safety devices including bars and grills.</p>
5.	<p>Funding request & update – Library <i>(Decision required)</i></p>	<p>Emma Archibald</p>	<p>Refer to attached Library Funding Request Form.</p> <p>All funds received to date this year have been spent (\$11,000)</p> <p>For the library:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Books from the Premiers Reading Challenge List (\$1000) - Books from the Childrens Book Awards List (\$1000) - Awesome books Ms Whelan and Ms Archibald find in the book shops that reflect the books students have requested through library sessions - Books to teach inclusion and diversity in the classrooms (shared between the whole school and stored in the library as a central place) (\$500) <p>For classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 x set of 20 dictionaries (\$1500) (not used as a class set, split and shared 5 per class) - 1 x set of 20 atlases (\$1000) - New English Syllabus texts for Stage 1, 2 and 3 to teach department programs (\$1000) - In-class readers for Kindy, Stage 1, and Stage 2 (used to teach students how to read) (\$3500) <p>Things that need to be purchased:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more class sets of dictionaries - class sets of thesauruses - books for new syllabuses just released for minor KLA's - books based on student interests for library <p>DECISION - to approve \$4,000 in Library funding (\$2,000 for this month plus \$2,000 that was not sought at the September 2024 meeting)</p> <p>Voted in favour: Majority</p>
6.	<p>General Business: Events updates</p>	<p>Tracy Baving Trista Rose</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enrichment Tree - to be considered for 2025 classroom resources. - ACTION - TB to meet with Mrs Archibald and then take a proposal regarding the Enrichment Tree to Mrs Lambos. - Art Show - Final fundraising figure to be confirmed, thanks to all involved.



			<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Halloween Disco (see Appendix C) - Final fundraising figure attached, thanks to all involved.- On behalf of P&C, sincere thanks to Trista, Jen and wider team for these events.
7.	Other business: Uniform stall signatories	Sauvik Banerjee	<p>Summary of amendments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Removal of Elisabeth Coffey as BPS Uniform Shop Co-manager- Removal of Alex Duffy as BPS Uniform Shop Co-manager- Addition of Mahsa Deravi as BPS Uniform Shop Co-manager <p>The P&C Uniform Subcommittee calls for volunteer nominations to assist with uniform orders. Commitment of 1-2 hours per month.</p>

Meeting closed 8.34pm.

Appendix A

Dear parents and carers,

Could you be an ethics coordinator at Balmain Public School?

Our current ethics coordinator is moving on at the end of this year and we are seeking a replacement.

Primary Ethics is the not-for-profit organisation approved to deliver ethics in NSW schools during the Special Religious Education (SRE)/ Special Education in Ethics (SEE) timeslot.

The volunteer ethics coordinator liaises with Primary Ethics, communicates with school staff and supports the team of volunteer ethics teachers (currently 16 volunteers).

This role provides a great opportunity for a working parent who might be unable to volunteer during school hours. It is a highly rewarding way to engage with the school community. Times are flexible, averaging approximately 1-2 hours per week over the course of the year. Online training is provided, and coordinators are fully supported by a Primary Ethics area manager.



If you or someone you know is looking for an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to our school, please use the QR code to learn more

or visit <http://www.primaryethics.com.au/volunteer>

details.

or contact Renee Alborough, Ethics Coordinator via balmainethics@gmail.com for more

Appendix B

Progress Summary

Net funds Raised to Date 29-Oct

Activity	Date	Fund	Notes
Seed Funding	2023	\$ 1,000.00	
Yr 6 t-shirt	Nov-23	\$ 364.12	
Yr 6 hoodies	Mar-24	\$ 665.23	
ANZAC biscuits	Apr-24	\$ 1,070.91	
Colour Day Dress Up	Apr-24	\$ 476.90	
Tea Towels	Jul-24	\$ 1,992.10	
Kid's biscuit bake	Sep-24	\$ 200.20	
Election Day	Sep-24	\$ 2,932.93	
Tombola	Oct-24	\$ 590.00	
Total		\$ 8,702.39	

Event Costs

Items	Cost	Notes
Legacy		
Year 6 gift - books for library	\$ (1,000.00)	To be paid from Yr 6 Bazaar fundraising
Seed Funding for 2025	\$ (1,000.00)	To be paid from Yr 6 Bazaar fundraising
Year 6 Day Out	\$ (1,910.00)	To be paid from Yr 6 Bazaar fundraising
Venue, Supplies & Decoration		
Venue hire	\$ -	No cost
Decorations	\$ (1,238.00)	Quote from Lynne
Giant Mask	\$ (321.00)	Paid by Van
Other	\$ (130.00)	Forecast based on 2023
Ex-student gift cards	\$ (180.00)	Forecast
Catering		
Soft drinks	\$ (400.00)	Forecast based on 2023
Meal - Blue Eye Dragon @\$25 pp	\$ (4,500.00)	Forecast based on 180x attendees
Cupcakes	\$ (500.00)	Forecast
Entertainment		
Photobooth - iCanvas	\$ (770.00)	Quote from Lynne
DJ - Sugaree Events	\$ (500.00)	Quote from Lynne
Ticketing		
Staff tickets	\$ (375.00)	Forecast for 15x school staff
Total	\$(12,449.00)	

CURRENT SHORTFALL \$ (3,746.61)

Net funds Raised to Date

Activity	Fund	Notes
Ticket Sales	\$ 4,500.00	Forecast based on 180x attendees
Yr 6 Bazaar	\$ 3,000.00	Forecast based on 2023
Dress ups	\$ 500.00	Forecast based on 2024
Iceblock salea	\$ 300.00	Forecast based on 2025
Total	\$ 8,300.00	

Funds requested

Activity	Date	Fund	Notes
Funds rasied to date		\$ 8,702.39	
P&C Grant		\$ 1,500.00	
DJ deposit	Sep-23	\$ (100.00)	
Photobooth deposit	Sep-23	\$ (300.00)	
Total		\$ 9,802.39	

Appendix C

Halloween Disco Report

The Halloween disco was held on Friday 25th October with **530** tickets sold and net funds raised of **\$9105** (minus payment transaction fees). Thank you to Kara Martin and Ira Alvarez who led the communications and ticketing.

It was great to see that a significant number of parents and children were dressed up for the occasion. Thank you to Nat Khan who kindly volunteered as MC and Ms Archibald and Ms Walsh who were the mystery judges for the best dressed competition.

Sustainability was top of mind when planning for this disco which also ensured that expenses were well managed. This year, minimal decorations were purchased and thanks to the help of creative parents like Shona Macleod, Kate Hurst and Nuala Collins, many decorations were hand made. The remainder decorative items have been purchased by the P&C in the past or lent generously by Trista Rose.

Left-over snacks and drink stock from the Art Show was sold in the refreshment stall thanks to the leadership of Charlotte Chaplin. We were able to sell all of the chips and pop-corn on the night. There are still plenty of left-over drinks and ice-blocks that can be used for future events.

Games stalls were handmade and repurposed from the Art Show. These stalls proved to be a hit and was busy with queues right until the end. It provided additional entertainment for children (in addition to the disco) and we were able to use left-over stock from previous years as prizes. Big thank you to Tracy Baving and Andy Bingeman for leading these bustling stalls.

Hot dogs were sold on the night and worked well. It was fast and easy to cook and the team lead by Paul Galpin were able to ensure that any queues moved swiftly.

Thank you to all the parent volunteers on the night, we recognise that we just came off the big event of the Art Show and yet the community were still very generous with donating their time. This would not have been a success without all you amazing humans supporting us with each event.

Finally, please see the summary of tickets and financials below.

Tickets sold

Junior Disco	129
Senior Disco	145
Younger sibling	28
Adult	228
	530

Financial Summary

Revenue	\$ 10,717
Expenses	\$ 1,612
Net Funds Raised (inc. trx fees)	\$ 9,105

Appendix D

Ministers Air Conditioning Script

Speakers:

Jonah

Leo

Luca

Elizabeth

Introduction (**slide 1**)

LEO: Hi, we are the BPS Health, Fitness, Wellbeing and Sustainability ministers for 2024 and 2025

JONAH: We are here tonight to convince you of getting air conditioning for our school.

LEO: It is vital that our school is given air conditioning for many reasons, which we will present in these slides

ELIZABET: Tonight our speakers will be Jonah, Leo, Luca and me, Elizabet, but all our ideas come from our whole ministry of 2024 and 2025.

LUCA: There are 3 main reasons that air conditioning is a crucial addition to our school and must be provided immediately.

JONAH: Our reasons to have air conditioning in our school are; for health and safety, learning, and in preparation for climate change. To support our arguments, today we went around the school and asked our peers about what they thought. You will be hearing from them throughout this presentation.

Health and Safety (**Slide 2**)

ELIZABET: Firstly, Health and safety During the peak of summer, classrooms can become a greenhouse. and students can feel tired, making it too hard to focus When it gets hot the temperature can have a severe impact on our safety.

(Slide 3) LUCA: A student in 3/4 E Said that “The heat causes fatigue and if you are tired you can’t learn and the fans don’t do much” Consequences of fatigue could

be a feeling of constant exhaustion, burnout or lack of energy. This is something that is not good for growing kids.

(slide 4) ELIZABET: One student in 5/4 C said that “It is much stuffier upstairs than it is outside in the playground.” and another said that “It is too humid in the classroom.”

JONAH: when some ministers went around the school asking students on their opinions of the recent weather we got answers of “it’s been getting really hot lately” or just the word “hotter” as multiple students in 3/4 E said

(slide 5) ELIZABET: When children get too hot the consequences can be nosebleeds, vomiting, fainting, dehydration. Some students are saying that “it is getting really close to summer and it would be really nice to have air conditioning”

(slide 6) LEO: Last year carbon dioxide monitors were installed in the classrooms. From this we learnt that CO2 could cause a lot of problems and its levels are always high. High CO2 could cause Lung diseases, Cushing's syndrome, Kidney failure and Metabolic alkalosis, a condition in which your blood is not acidic enough. We believe that airconditioning could reduce CO2 levels during the hot summer days.

LUCA: Students and education staff are deeply affected by the heat; from fans not helping, to not being able to focus and getting dizzy. Therefore we need to get air conditioning for our school, to benefit all students.

Learning **(slide 7)**

LEO: Another major issue that can only be fixed by air conditioning being installed is the students and their learning. With extreme heat levels in classrooms, students can not learn properly which is crucial for their future.

(slide 8) JONAH: There have been cases of students feeling dizzy and exhausted from extreme heat, and even a case of fainting. “Sometimes, I get dizzy from the heat,” says a student from 5/6R. Such feelings of exhaustion and headaches prevent active learning by distracting students from receiving their proper education.

(slide 9) LUCA: In Sydney there are 15 days a year where it gets over 30 degrees, meaning every year there are around 15 days of school where students are unable to focus due to extreme heat. The point of school is education. But it is practically impossible to learn when students are fainting, vomiting, dizzy and tired.

ELIZABET: This term we have been collecting data on temperature around the school. Our data has shown that the top floor of the main building is in severe need of AC, with up to high average temperatures of 26.4 degrees and it's not even summer. This high of a temperature is unacceptable when it comes to learning in a safe environment.

JONAH: Adding on, 5/6P and 5/6R are also in desperate need of AC. Because they are facing the west, they take the full brunt force of the Sun's rays. These can be higher than other classrooms. For example, on week two Thursday, Treehouse temperatures reached 23.8 degrees, 1-2 degrees higher than several classrooms in the main building. Not to mention the fact that installing AC in the Treehouse is way easier than the main building, because it's lower to the ground and therefore more practical to install.

Global warming **(slide 10)**

LUCA: Our final argument is about global warming and how schools need to prepare for the extreme heat that is soon to come. Global warming is an important issue that is facing young people everywhere.

LEO: As young people, we are strongly concerned about our future, and the possibility that if we do not act soon, we may not be able to save our wonderful school from the extreme heat that may be to come.

(slide 11) JONAH: In 2023, the average temperature was a soaring 1.36 degrees celsius higher than in the mid to late 1900s. This proves that temperatures have risen dramatically and will only keep on rising, until the school is as hot as a never-ending inferno.

LEO: Our point being that these temperatures are rising and are starting to affect us all. Installing air conditioners would help battle this rising heat as it comes in.

ELIZABET: We all know that it will be needed, as air conditioning would improve the school a lot, so buying them is inevitable, the question is do we do it now or later. There have already been issues in the past, we learnt today that eight years

ago the issues of air conditioning at Balmain Public School were brought up, yet nothing major has happened.

JONAH: One student said today “I am worried about global warming, and what happens to Balmain once it gets too hot.” It is clear that students at Balmain care about these issues and fixing them.

LEO: To sum it all up, we think we should definitely buy the AC now, children are suffering all of the time because of intense heat levels THE TIME IS NOW.

Conclusion (slide 12)

LUCA: We learnt today that the potential cost of Air Conditioning at the school may be \$100,000. We know that is a lot of money.

Leo: But we think it will be worth it. Heat is a serious issue for our health, for our learning and for our future.

LUCA: On behalf of the students, teachers and staff at BPS. We the ministers of BPS ask the P and C to please provide the school air conditioning as soon as possible.

All: Thank you!

Appendix E

Balmain Public School – “Cooling the School” Initiative brief

In 2024, the P&C set out to achieve three primary goals.

1. To tackle the severe shortages of computers at Balmain Public School;

- ü The P&C sourced donations of 100 high quality computers worth ~\$140K
- ü Hugely successful colour run allowed school to purchase an additional 48 computers and 8 charging stations;

2. To deliver best-in-class 2024 Art Show

- ü Incredible support from the school, community and local businesses;
- ü Event raised ~\$45,000;
- ü Recognition of event and P&C by Kobi Shetty in parliament

3. Address School temperatures

- ü Blinds on North-facing aspect of main building complete
- ü Won community building grant for \$14,000 to install blinds on south facing side of main building
- ü All classrooms will have blinds by December

At the start of 2024, 45 of the 60 windows in the main building were missing blinds which are in progress to be replaced. This will go some way to alleviate the heat challenges, but we recognise there is still a significant temperature problem we need to address.

The 2024 P&C Executive has voted in favour of addressing temperatures as our highest priority going forward.

A special P&C meeting to address school temperatures will be held on 6 November at 7pm online or at the Royal Oak where we will outline the problems we will need to solve for and our action plan. The community (including non P&C members) are welcome to attend this special forum and will be given the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions.

What is the problem?

Due to the height and the structure of the building (high ceilings with exposed windows) the classrooms heat up above outside temperatures on warm days. For safety reasons, the windows may only be opened 10cm so ventilation in the classrooms is also limited and many of the windows do not open (school is presently addressing).

Year 5 students are presently measuring inside temperatures, but we anecdotally believe that the top level maybe in excess of 3 degrees higher than outside.

Why can't the Department of Education fund air conditioning at Balmain Public School?

The Department of Education will fund and install air conditioning at certain public schools provided several conditions are met ("Cooler Schools"). Schools are eligible if their mean maximum January temperature exceeds 30 degrees over the past 20 years.

Balmain Public School does not qualify for this funding as its mean maximum January temperature over the last 20 years was approximately 29 degrees.

What are the impediments to implementing air conditioning now?

Many of the buildings at Balmain Public School are heritage listed meaning that our only option for installation are ducted systems. Window air conditioners are not allowed to be placed on the external face of the building and standalone systems are inadequate due to the height of the ceilings.

Ducted systems are extremely expensive costing approximately \$15,000 per classroom. On top of this, the existing switchboard may need an upgrade to cope with the additional energy load.

It is our understanding that as the switchboard runs on a 3-phase system it is likely that this not required. Electrical load testing will be required to determine whether it is necessary. The P&C is proposing to undertake load testing and the costs (if necessary) will be voted on during the November 6 meeting (Expected to be ~\$5000).

Can we just get solar and this will solve the switchboard issues`

Solar does reduce the energy consumption of air conditioning.

There is already solar on the main building of Balmain Public School. In 2021, the P&C was successful in obtaining a "Solar my school" grant. Due to the heritage listed nature of the building getting solar is highly unlikely that additional solar would be approved.

Per above, we understand that a switchboard upgrade is not likely to be necessary (to be confirmed) so we don't expect energy load to be a major impediment.

What is the P&C's "Cooling Initiative" action plan?

As a first step, we will need to understand the costs involved in installing in air conditioning. Electrical load testing is the first step to understanding the all-in-costs.

- **6 November** – P&C will vote to approve costs of Electrical load testing (Exp cost \$5000)
- **November** – P&C will apply for the Community Building Partnership Grant to replace water coolers with chilled water coolers (exp cost \$17,000)
- **November** – P&C looking into ACNC not for profit status to accept tax deductible donations
- **1 December** – Blinds on south side of main building will be installed
- **4 December** – P&C meeting to review costs, detail next steps
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Tentative plan-to-cool-school

