

P&C May General Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 7 May 2025

Time: 7:01pm - 8:40pm

Location: Online only

Attendees:

BPS Exec: Maria Lambos (ML), Emma Archibald, Amanda Pitman, Rose Reedy.

P&C Exec: Trista Rose (TR), Philip Chaplin (PC), Tracy Baving, Sauvik Banerjee (SB), Yann Le Roux, Ira Alvarez, Amy Simpson (AS) – **Minutes**.

P&C Members: Renate Harris, Briedy Mahar, Ojia Skaff, Kate Gauld, Rick Van Der Zwan, David Harte, Kara Martin, Tara Smith (TS), Shona Macleod (SM), Suchi Szczepanski, Toni.

Apologies: None

	Agenda	Who	Minutes
1.	Welcome and introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation of April meeting minutes - Apologies - Correspondence 	Trista Rose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification of the April meeting minutes by Renate Harris. • No apologies. • Amy Simpson reported on correspondence to note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plans are underway for a local schools P&C roundtable on 12 June, with local member Kobi Shetty also to attend. Draft agenda being prepared. ○ Open invitation to parents and carers has been shared by the P&C Federation for a webinar held by the eSafety Commissioner “Exploring the online experiences of boys and young men” on Tuesday 27 May 12:30pm. Registration: https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/3097197158603562592 ○ Balmain Public Hospital organising an event for NAIDOC week on 9 July 10am-12noon, will invite BPS and FJT to be involved. Further details pending, however this will be occurring in the school holidays. <p>Action: AS to share link for eSafety webinar with ML, for wider circulation to parent community.</p>
2.	Principal’s Report	Maria Lambos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band Updates – thanks to Leah and Tara • Choir – well done, good engagement especially for Junior Choir

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update yet from DOE about the switchboard upgrade – quote from DOE is with Shona and cooling sub-committee Parents voluntary contributions <p><u>Band & Choirs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What a great start to the band and choir programs this term! Many thanks to the P&C, Leah Rosalky and Tara Smith for supporting these worthwhile extra-curricular activities. Although I wasn't able to visit Nicholson St PS on Friday, Leah shared a video which has been uploaded to Insta today, after checking Nicho permissions with principal Lucy Norrish. I was able to pop in to both choir sessions; the seniors were well-disciplined and committed, arriving for an 8:15am start and Tara had our juniors, who chose to attend choir instead of play time, totally engaged! Snippets of all 3 sessions have been posted on Instagram today. <p><u>Air Conditioning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has not been an update as yet from the DoE regarding when the [switchboard] upgrade works will commence. The DoE Air Con quote came through to me on 15/4/25 and was immediately forwarded to Shona and her [cooling subcommittee] team. Shona asked for additional breakdown of costs information on the actual quote on 30/4/25. Forbes Air updated the quote and it was forwarded to the team. <p><u>2025 P&C Tech & Resource Contribution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the short time that the 2025 P&C Tech & Resource Contribution was posted in Compass, an incredible \$36,675 has been received, which equates to 44% of students having paid already.
3.	Treasurer's Report	Sauvik Banerjee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 30 April, cash balance is \$124,905. Since then we have had the election BBQ and Year 6 bake sale, raising another \$6,486.

			<table><tr><th colspan="5">Monthly Cash Balance</th></tr><tr><th>Particulars</th><th>Jan'25</th><th>Feb'25</th><th>Mar'25</th><th>Apr'25</th></tr><tr><td>Opening cash balance</td><td>126,493</td><td>129,093</td><td>130,638</td><td>118,294</td></tr><tr><td>Add: Amount received - Net</td><td>2,600.02</td><td>2,226</td><td>1,603.92</td><td>7,811.55</td></tr><tr><td>Less: Payments - Net</td><td>0</td><td>-681.29</td><td>-13,947.25</td><td>-1,201.32</td></tr><tr><td>Closing balance</td><td>129,093.05</td><td>130,637.76</td><td>118,294.43</td><td>124,904.66</td></tr></table>	Monthly Cash Balance					Particulars	Jan'25	Feb'25	Mar'25	Apr'25	Opening cash balance	126,493	129,093	130,638	118,294	Add: Amount received - Net	2,600.02	2,226	1,603.92	7,811.55	Less: Payments - Net	0	-681.29	-13,947.25	-1,201.32	Closing balance	129,093.05	130,637.76	118,294.43	124,904.66
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4.	NAPLAN Review	Amanda Pitman	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Amanda Pitman presented official NAPLAN data obtained from My School website (https://myschool.edu.au/school/41130/naplan/results) - refer to appendix B.NAPLAN is an optional national assessment, not mandatory, and BPS teaches to the DoE Curriculum, not NAPLAN.This included previous 10 years of Year 3 results (2014-2024 inclusive – no NAPLAN results from 2020), compared to similar demographic schools, peninsular schools etc.Dip in BPS Year 3 NAPLAN results across all capacities noted for 2024. Similar demographic schools also experienced a dip in 2024.Year 5 results also shown, disaggregated for OC and Mainstream students, compared to similar demographic schools.BPS Executive meeting held to discuss possible reasons for dip in 2024 results and actions taken to address to improve learning: <p>Possible reasons/What are we implementing at BPS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2022 and previous years' tests were held in May, term 2 (Acara directed)- 2023 onwards, test moved to March, term 1- New curriculum rolled out across K-2 in 2022/23 (DET mandated)- New curriculum in 3-6 2024 (DET mandated)- gap in 2023 and 2024 with new curriculum for year 2, but old curriculum for year 3 NAPLAN test- Lower cohort of students - evidenced by our other forms of assessing and data collection <p>I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introduced targeted 'teaching sprints' in 2024 to address drop in grammar and punctuation- 2024 stage 2 targeted maths groups- Macqlit/Minilit- implementing new phonics program from K-2- Continues use of teaching sprints for stage 1- targeted interventions for year 3 2025:- Spelling Mastery program being implemented this term - explicit approach- Targeted math groups starting this term- Literacy rotations with specific target areas <ul style="list-style-type: none">NAPLAN is only one of several measures that BPS uses to assess students and determine teaching priorities.																														

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 saw a drop in grammar and punctuation levels from other testing methods (not just NAPLAN), so now using teaching sprints for all stages. • Targeted support for students identified to need additional assistance. <p>Discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BPS Parents concerned about school rankings, particularly rankings on public websites which show sharp decline in 2024. • Maria informs that some data sets are on privately run websites which schools have to pay to publish on. Query about the integrity of the publicly available ranking data sets. • BPS parents request more analysis on longitudinal NAPLAN data, particularly if there is a steeper decline in results compared against similar demographic schools. Agreement for BPS executive and parents to be looking at the same data for further discussions. • The DoE provides BPS with brief analysis of data, they do not provide rankings nor a detailed interpretation/comparison of NAPLAN data. • Amanda informs that minor computer/technical issues did not affect student results as timers were paused. NAPLAN in 2025 was the smoothest running examination yet. <p>Action: BPS Executive and P&C Executive/members to review official NAPLAN results over a 5+year period (considering COVID effects), in comparison to peninsular and similar demographic schools, then analyse data and trends. When 2025 NAPLAN results are available, BPS Executive to present at P&C meeting.</p>
5.	<p>Funding requests for decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - i. Funding request for IT resourcing 2025 - ii. Funding request for Good in the Hood - iii. Funding request for sandpit 	<p>Philip Chaplain / Emma Archibald</p> <p>Rose Reddy</p> <p>Trista Rose</p>	<p>DECISIONS:</p> <p>i – Resolution for \$18,181.80 (ex GST) for purchase of 30 new laptops (replacements for stage 2), passed by majority vote. Request for replacing 2 whiteboards pending information on model required.</p> <p>ii – Resolution for \$1,200 for a stage 2 incursion from Good in the Hood, passed by majority vote.</p> <p>iii – Resolution for \$650 for fixing sandpit cover passed by majority vote.</p>

	cover repairs (Refer to Appendices Ai, Aii, Aiii)		Action: EA to provide specifications for whiteboard models to procure, once due diligence/trial completed.
4.	Eaton Street Centre transition - Due diligence update	Philip Chaplain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A due diligence (non-financial) framework document has been drafted and circulated to Executive for input. Cover aspects of: legal and regulatory compliance; licences, agreements and leases; staff and human resources; operations and service delivery; governance and management; community and school engagement; IT systems, security and data; physical premise, equipment and safety; insurance & liability risk; litigation; and transition & handover risks. Financial aspects of due diligence require an accountant – still awaiting quotes from some providers. P&C Federation guidance documents on transitioning OOSH to P&Cs received 6 May. P&C Federation are in the process of preparing a cost estimate sheet for transition process. Project plan to be developed, detailing timelines, data to review and questions to be asked, to inform P&C Executive recommendation on due diligence outcome. <p>Action: Due diligence framework to be finalised and shared for discussion at June P&C meeting.</p>
5.	Cooling Initiative sub-committee update	Shona Macleod	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quote received from Forbes Air Services, issued through School Infrastructure NSW, for the installation of air conditioning in both the Main School Building and the Treehouse Classrooms. Total Project Cost: \$256,355.99. Cost Breakdown (ex GST) is; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main School Building: \$198,100.36 [Ground Floor: \$57,229.07 + Level 1: \$66,146.29 + Level 2: \$74,725.00] Treehouse Classrooms: \$58,255.55 Maria Lambos noted that Building C, the 5/6S classroom above the kitchen, was not included in the quote. Based on 350 students enrolled, this comes to approximately \$740 per student. We currently only have around 1/3 of this total as available cash balance. Although it's a high figure, since this quote has come through School Infrastructure

			<p>NSW, the sub-committee recommendation is to proceed with this scope, as it meets all compliance requirements and is aligned with the government's processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding Approach & Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Finalise ACNC registration and set up a dedicated Building Fund for air conditioning to begin issue-specific fundraising, with the added benefit of accepting tax-deductible donations. o Launch the petition with Kobi Shetty to advocate for NSW Government funding support, given the community's \$740-per-student contribution burden. • Sub-committee does not recommend a staged rollout. SM recommends we ramp up our targeted fundraising between now and October 2025, at which point we can review our position. From a project delivery and cost perspective, breaking the works into stages can actually increase the total cost — especially if the contractor has to phase work and return to site multiple times. A full rollout, done in one scheduled window, is likely to be more efficient and economical, and less disruptive to the school and students. <p>Action: Maria Lambos to request installation for Building C be included in the quote.</p> <p>Action: P&C Executive to progress ACNC registration.</p>
6.	Performing Arts Sub-committee (PAS) update	Tara Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First PAS Monthly report for May prepared – <i>refer to Appendix C.</i> • Highlights in April / May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 12 students from BPS have joined concert band at Nicholson Street Public School (NSPS) with rehearsals on Friday mornings. o Junior and Senior choir rehearsals began 6 May, with 102 students signed up. o Term 2 music performance of concert band and choirs planned for 1 July. o Ongoing investigation of options for string ensemble, training band and private instrumental tuition, and extra-curricular drama programs.
8.	Upcoming Events	Tracy Baving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trista shared that Balmain polling station was the busiest on the peninsular on election day, successful day for BOS fundraising.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A. Election recap & summary - B. Mother's Day 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A net profit of around \$3,600 came from the democracy sausage sizzle (plus a profit of over \$2,300 for the Year 6 bake sale) • Next events planned are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Friday 9 May: Mother's Day bake and flower sale, with sausage sizzle and coffee available. o Friday 13 June: Retro movie night at Gladstone Bowling Club. o Family fun day in September
11.	Other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental initiative - Extracurricular activities - Swimming update - Other items from community 	Trista Rose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several extracurricular activities (Paper, Rock, Scissors for kindergarten craft, French, Mandarin, State soccer) started last week. Most are at capacity and good feedback so far. • Thanks to Natalia D'Morias for coordinating with extracurricular activity providers. • Ongoing dialogue with Inner West Council for use of basketball courts for another extracurricular sport program. • Maria and BPS Executive are looking into holding the DoE's 10-day 'Swimming and Water Safety Program' for Stages 2 and 3 later in the year.










Appendix Ai

BPS P&C Association Funding Request Form

All Funding Request Forms to be sent to balmainpspc@gmail.com a **week prior** to monthly P&C meetings to be tabled for discussion. Please note no funding requests will be agreed to without completion of this form.

Name of Project/ Resource required:	IT resourcing 2025
Summary of project benefits. <i>Please provide a short summary of the benefits the funding will bring to the school and our students.</i>	<p>Balmain students are learning to be confident digital citizens. This requires students being able to confidently and successfully use technology. A large part of this is learning how to type on a keyboard and use functions of a computer.</p> <p>In term 1 every year, years 3 and 5 students are required to undertake NAPLAN assessments on devices. Along with that, each year, every student is required to complete 'Essential Assessment' testing on a device. Across the school, computing skills are integrated within our teaching and learning programs and we practice research and publishing skills online daily.</p> <p>This proposal is to help give equal access to working technology across the school.</p>
Name and contact details. <i>You must be a parent or carer; Principal or teacher.</i> What amount needs to be funded by the P&C this year? <i>This is the amount that will be allocated in the P&C budget if the project proceeds. Please also include any non-monetary support required (e.g. volunteers).</i>	<p>Emma Archibald</p> <p>Priority 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 x interactive whiteboards (3/4C, 3/4N) - \$6000 - 8000 each depending on model (ex GST) - total: \$11000 - 15,272 depending on model <p>Priority 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 new laptops (Stage 2) to replace set that will be obsolete by October 2025 - 30 x \$606.06 = \$18181.80 (ex GST) <p>Priority 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Xenontech IT maintenance - \$5850 per quarter (ex GST) <p>Priority 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 x interactive whiteboards (Kindy middle room, Treehouse x2)
Is ongoing funding required in future years? <i>Provide details of what ongoing funding is needed, please include an estimate of maintenance costs if applicable.</i>	Yes, see BPS IT plan document previously shared with P&C. This is the complete 2025 expected expenditure.
Will some of the cost be funded in other ways? <i>List any anticipated grants, donations etc.</i>	no

<p>Is the funding request time critical? <i>Would the school miss out on a significant opportunity if this project is not funded immediately? Can the request be included within the school resource fees in the following year?</i></p>	<p>The two whiteboards in Stage 2 are time critical as these are used daily to facilitate engaging and effective lessons. These whiteboards are not at full functionality currently.</p> <p>Xenontech invoices come quarterly and therefore require payment.</p> <p>Chromebooks will need to be replaced by term 4 to ensure there is not a deficiency within Stage 2 for the remainder of the year.</p>
<p>Is there any further information you would like to add?</p>	<p>[Cost /invoice below]</p>

 <p>MLD 86" BalanceBox Wall Mount Height Adjustable Clevertouch IMPACT MAX - ASI</p> <p>ASI Solutions</p> <p>\$7,636.09 Each</p>	 <p>MLD 86" Wall Mount Fixed Height Clevertouch IMPACT MAX - ASI</p> <p>ASI Solutions</p> <p>\$5,883.93 Each</p>	 <p>HP Chromebook Fortis 11 G10, Value Chrome Notebook, 3 Years Warranty</p> <p>HP PPS Australia Pty Ltd</p> <p>\$606.06 Each</p>
 <p>Interactive Panel Bundle 86 inch Wall Mount Fixed Height SMART GX186 SMART Visionext</p> <p>Visionext Pty Limited</p> <p>\$5,720.00 Each</p>	 <p>Interactive Panel 86 inch SMART SBID-MX286-V2 Visionext</p> <p>Visionext Pty Limited</p> <p>\$6,990.00 Each Price: \$7,090.00</p>	 <p>MLD 86 inch Mobile Fixed Height SMART MX286-V2 AllMetalMagic Visionext</p> <p>Visionext Pty Limited</p> <p>\$7,940.00 Each Price: \$9,090.00</p>
 <p>Interactive Panel Bundle 86 inch Wall Height Adjustable SMART GX186 AllMetalMagic Visionext</p> <p>Visionext Pty Limited</p> <p>\$6,930.00 Each</p>	 <p>Interactive Panel Bundle 86" Wall Mount Fixed Height SMART MX86 V3 Integrate AV</p> <p>Integrate AV</p> <p>\$5,869.09 Each Price: \$6,199.00</p>	 <p>Interactive Lamp Projector Bundle Epson EB-710UI Laser Gilikon 2100 x1200mm Whiteboard Precision Industries</p> <p>Precision Industries</p> <p>\$3,860.13 Each</p>

TAX INVOICE



Balmain Public School (7404)
1 Eaton Street
BALMAIN NSW 2041

Invoice Number: INV-184347
Invoice Date: 07 Feb 2025
ABN: 53 153 737 636
DoE Vendor Number: 100 314 493
Reference:

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	GST	Amount
IT Support Plan - BLACK Period: 31-Jan-2025 to 29-Apr-2025 Quarterly Cost: \$5,850.00 Unrestricted Pool Hours: 30 hours per quarter	1.00	5,850.00	10%	5,850.00
		Subtotal		5,850.00
		Total GST 10%		585.00
		Invoice Total		6,435.00
		Total Net Payments		0.00
		Amount Due		6,435.00



Appendix Aii

BPS P&C Association Funding Request Form

All Funding Request Forms to be sent to balmainpspc@gmail.com a **week prior** to monthly P&C meetings to be tabled for discussion. Please note no funding requests will be agreed to without completion of this form.

Name of Project/ Resource required:	Good in the hood excursion for Stage 2.
Summary of project benefits. <i>Please provide a short summary of the benefits the funding will bring to the school and our students.</i>	<p>Benefits are for students to learn about connection with community and giving back to those less fortunate. We envision this will help students to see kindness and empathy in action; very important wellbeing and life skills.</p> <p>It supplements our core English unit this term of perspective and context, and understanding varying viewpoints of the world.</p>
Name and contact details. <i>You must be a parent or carer; Principal or teacher.</i> What amount needs to be funded by the P&C this year? <i>This is the amount that will be allocated in the P&C budget if the project proceeds. Please also include any non monetary support required (e.g. volunteers).</i> Is ongoing funding required in future years? <i>Provide details of what ongoing funding is needed, please include an estimate of maintenance costs if applicable.</i>	<p>Rose Reedy Stage 2 Assistant Principal</p> <p>Emma Archibald Stage 1 Assistant Principal</p> <p>\$1200 for Stage 2 is required to assist in funding the program.</p> <p>No.</p>
Will some of the cost be funded in other ways? <i>List any anticipated grants, donations etc.</i>	The remaining cost of \$1670 will be divided by the 82 students and additional cost covered by parents/carers. This takes the cost down from \$35/head to \$20.36/head.
Is the funding request time critical? <i>Would the school miss out on a significant opportunity if this project is not funded immediately? Can the request be included within the school resource fees in the following year?</i>	Yes, incursion booked for mid term 2
Is there any further information you would like to add?	

Appendix Aiii

BPS P&C Association Funding Request Form

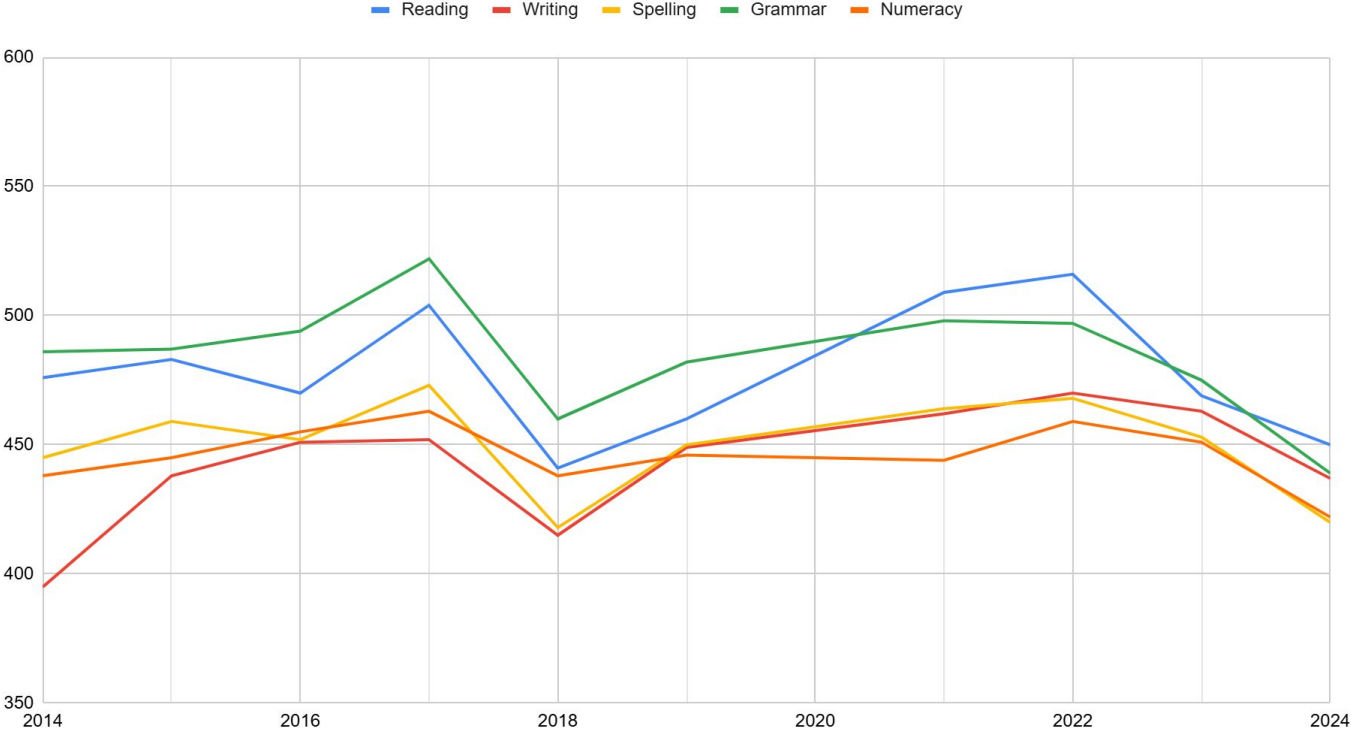
All Funding Request Forms to be sent to balmainpspc@gmail.com a **week prior** to monthly P&C meetings to be tabled for discussion. Please note no funding requests will be agreed to without completion of this form.

Name of Project/ Resource required:	Sandpit cover
Summary of project benefits. <i>Please provide a short summary of the benefits the funding will bring to the school and our students.</i>	<p>The current sandpit cover does not adequately cover the structure and there is no drainage. When it rains, the sandpit is unusable for weeks.</p> <p>In addition, the existing vinyl cover is covered in mould and needs to be disposed of.</p>
Name and contact details. <i>You must be a parent or carer; Principal or teacher.</i> What amount needs to be funded by the P&C this year? <i>This is the amount that will be allocated in the P&C budget if the project proceeds. Please also include any non- monetary support required (e.g. volunteers).</i>	<p>Trista Rose, P&C President</p> <p>\$650 to cover materials for the new sandpit. Parent, Will Crutchley has kindly agreed to provide the labour for the project.</p>
Is ongoing funding required in future years? <i>Provide details of what ongoing funding is needed, please include an estimate of maintenance costs if applicable.</i>	No when adequately fixed, this will be a one off expense.
Will some of the cost be funded in other ways? <i>List any anticipated grants, donations etc.</i>	Parent is providing the labour for the project.
Is the funding request time critical? <i>Would the school miss out on a significant opportunity if this project is not funded immediately? Can the request be included within the school resource fees in the following year?</i>	No
Is there any further information you would like to add?	No

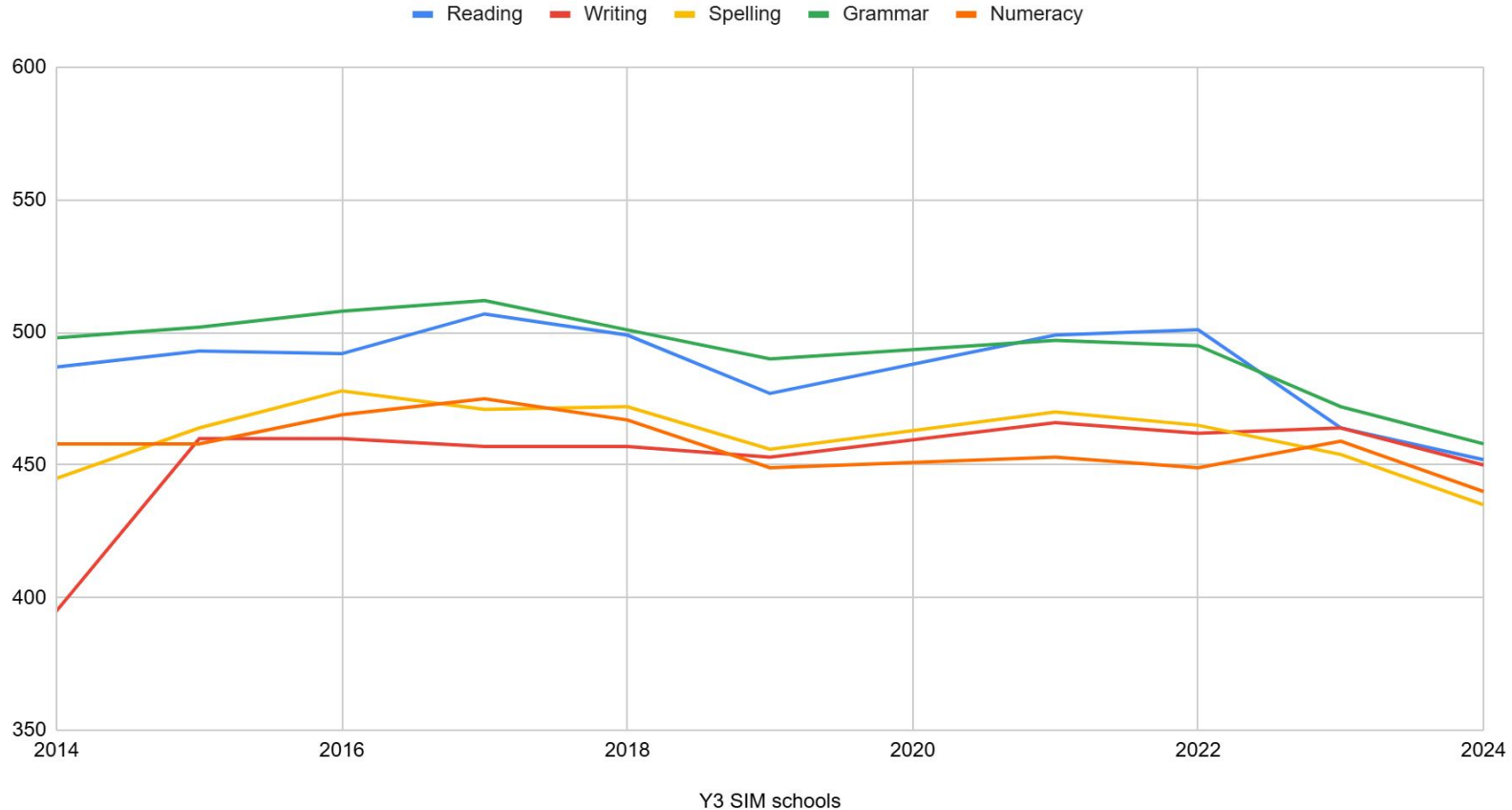
Appendix B - NAPLAN results presentation

2014 - 2024 Year 3 BPS NAPLAN results

Year 3



Year 3 Students from Schools with Similar Backgrounds 2014 - 2024 Year 3 SIM NAPLAN results



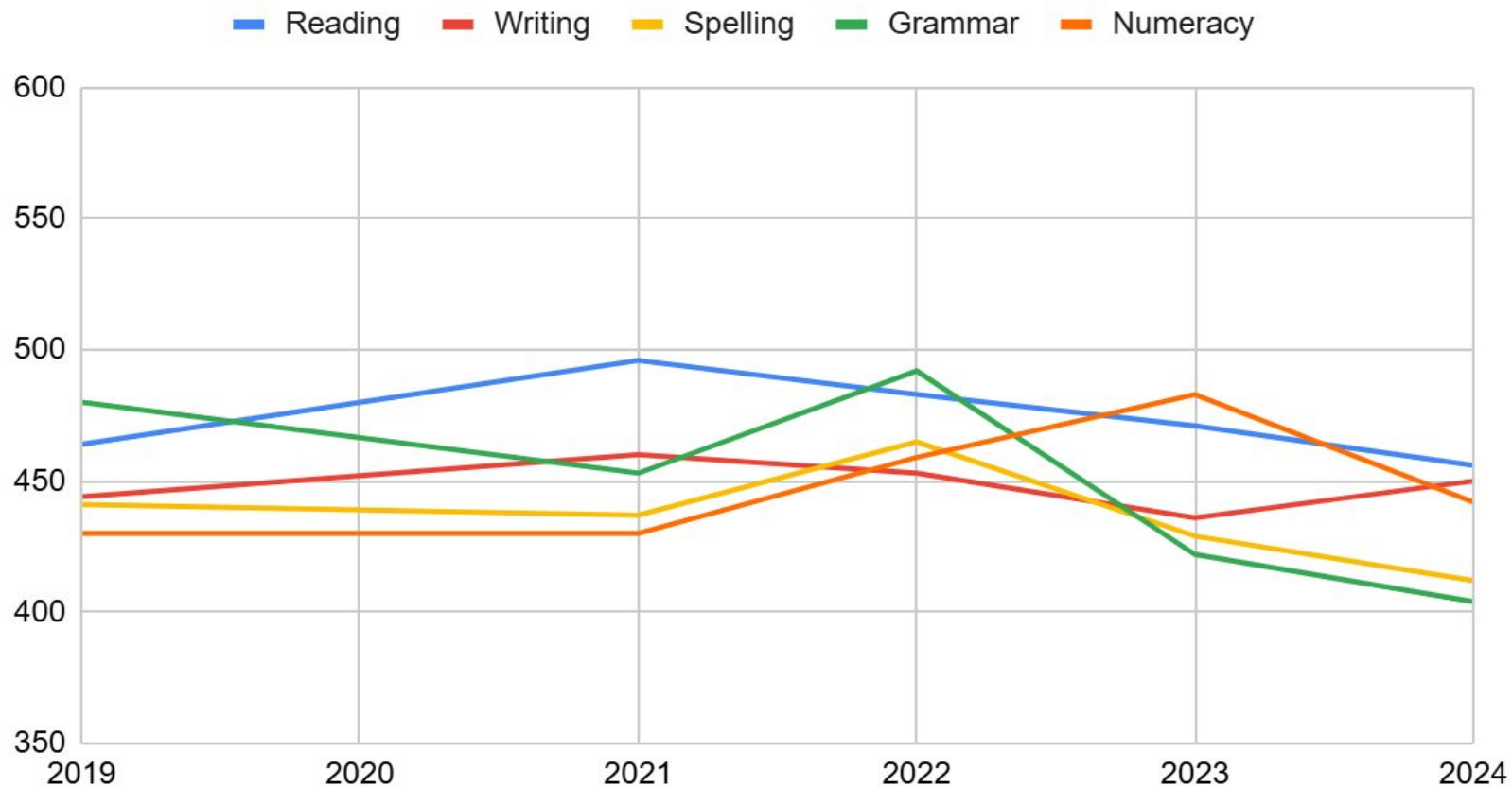
Similar Schools Network

Similar background – Students have a similar background as determined by parental occupation and education. The background of students has been shown to have an impact on NAP results.

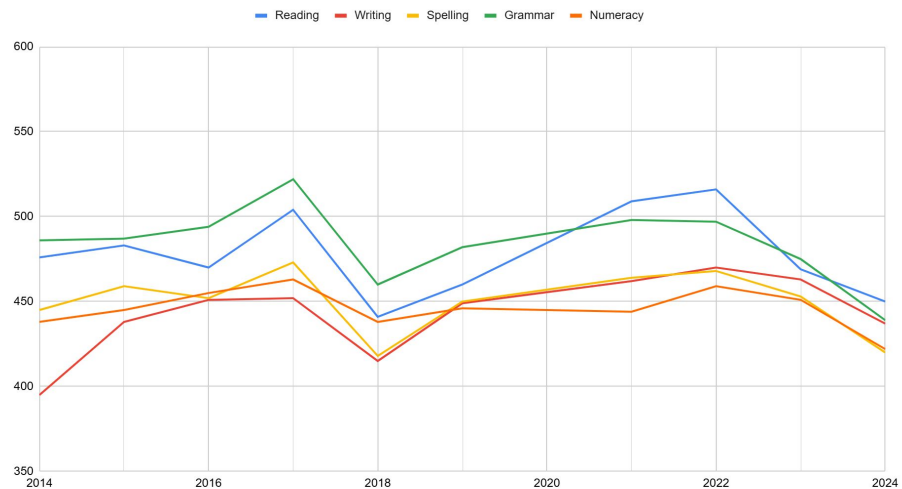
School	Network
Artarmon Public School	Gordon
Balgowlah Heights Public School	The Beaches
Balgowlah North Public School	The Beaches
Beaumont Road Public School	Gordon
Beauty Point Public School	North Sydney
Beecroft Public School	Hornsby
Bronte Public School	Bondi
Cammeray Public School	North Sydney
Castle Cove Public School	The Forest
Cherrybrook Public School	The Hills
Clovelly Public School	Bondi
Darlinghurst Public School	Port Jackson
Epping North Public School	Carlingford
Forest Lodge Public School	Iron Cove
Glenmore Road Public School	Port Jackson
Gordon East Public School	The Forest
Greenwich Public School	North Sydney
John Purchase Public School	The Hills
Killara Public School	Gordon

Lane Cove Public School	North Sydney
Lane Cove West Public School	Gordon
Lindfield East Public School	The Forest
Lindfield Public School	Gordon
Matthew Pearce Public School	The Hills
Middle Harbour Public School	North Sydney
Neutral Bay Public School	North Sydney
Nicholson Street Public School	Iron Cove
North Sydney Public School	North Sydney
Northbridge Public School	North Sydney
Pymble Public School	The Forest
Roseville Public School	The Forest
Seaforth Public School	The Beaches
St Ives North Public School	Pittwater
Summer Hill Public School	Canterbury
Turramurra North Public School	Pittwater
Turramurra Public School	Gordon
Wahroonga Public School	Hornsby
Warrawee Public School	Hornsby
West Pymble Public School	Gordon
Woollahra Public School	Bondi

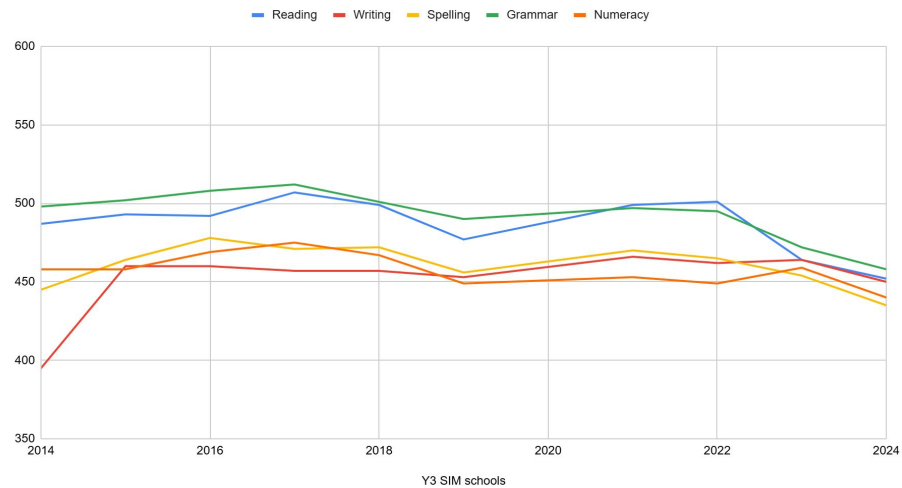
Y3 Peninsula School



Year 3



Year 3 Students from Schools with Similar Backgrounds

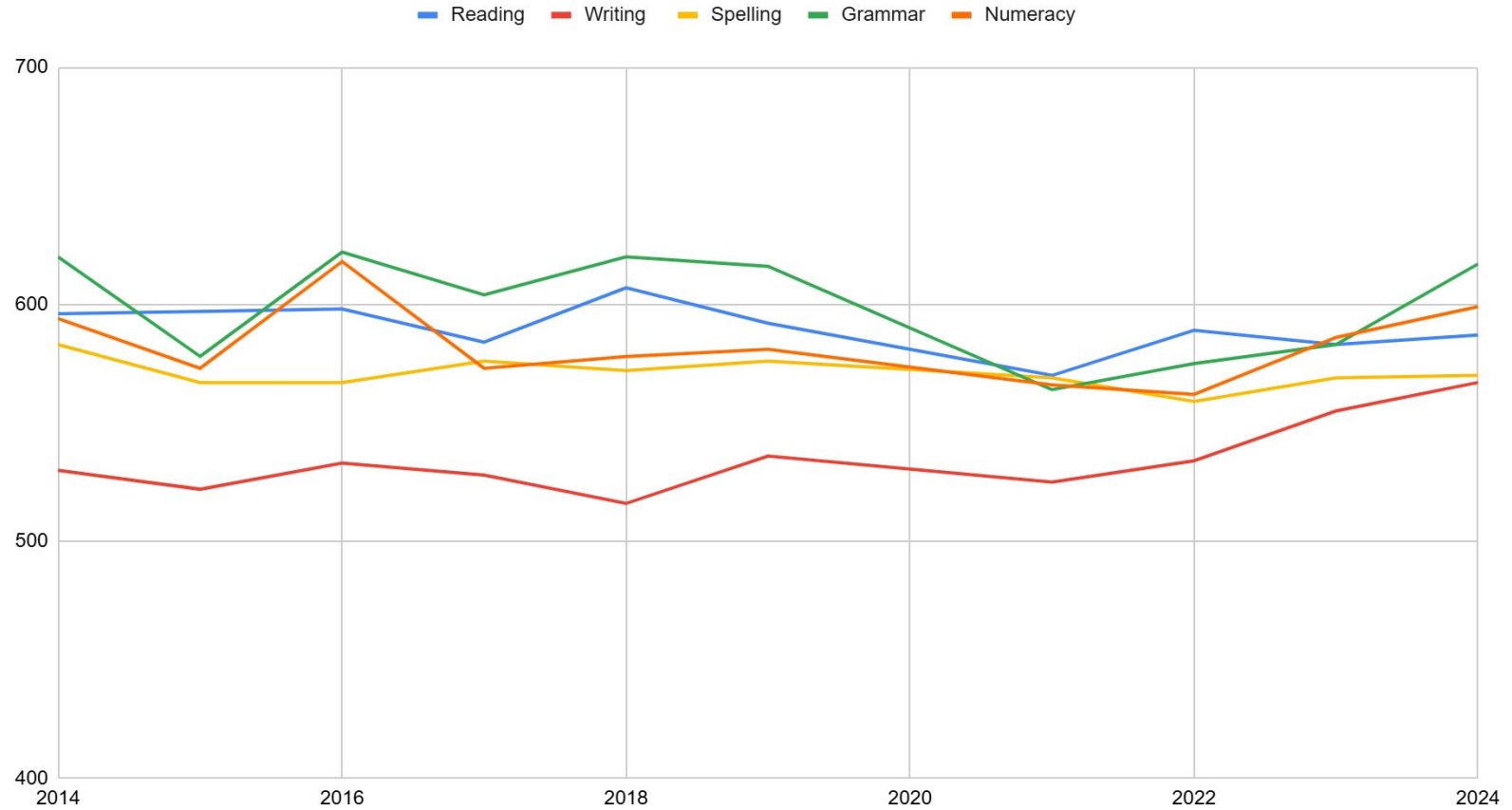


Possible reasons/What are we implementing at BPS?

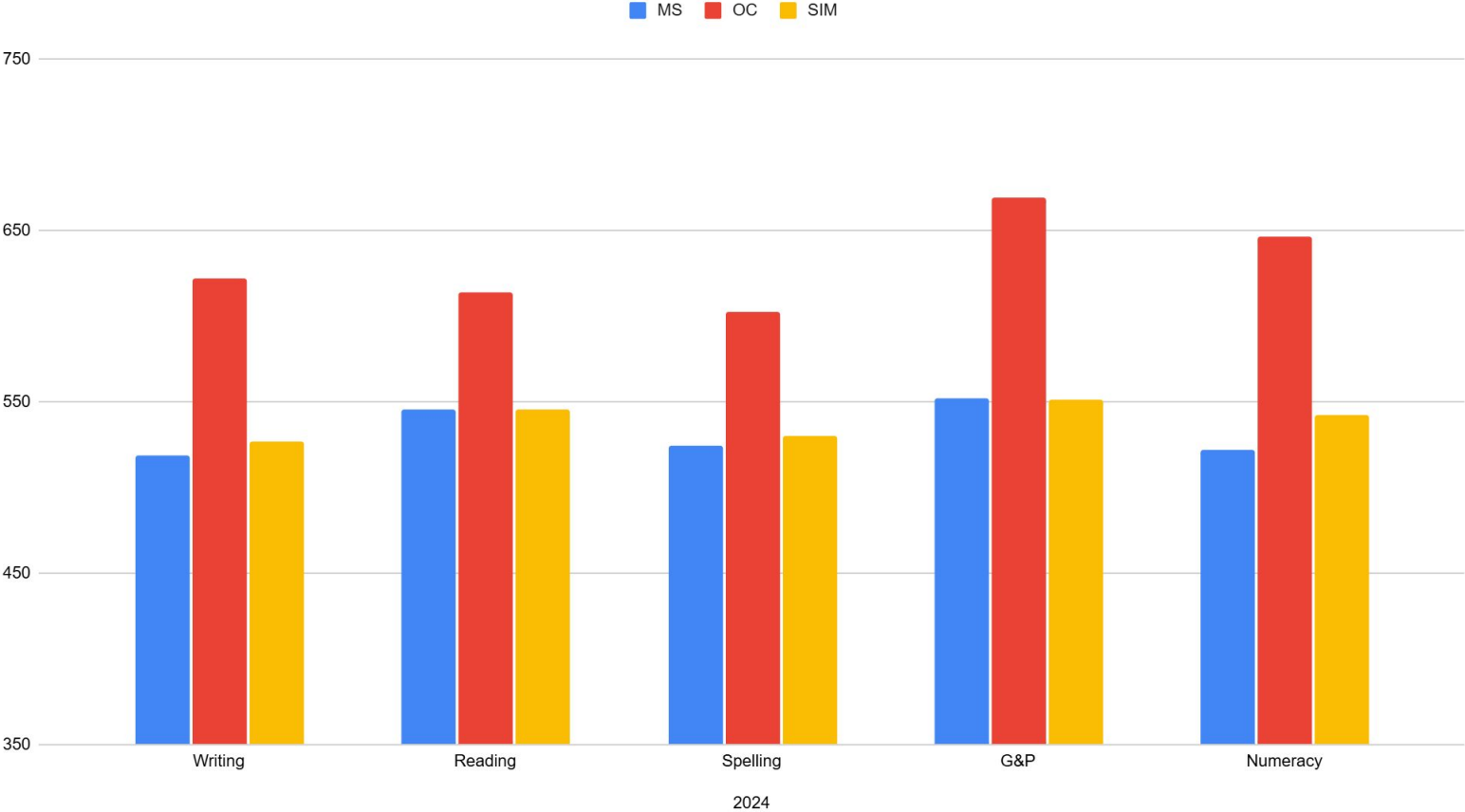
- 2022 and previous years' tests were held in May, term 2 (Acara directed)
 - 2023 onwards, test moved to March, term 1
 - New curriculum rolled out across K-2 in 2022/23 (DET mandated)
 - New curriculum in 3-6 2024 (DET mandated)
 - gap in 2023 and 2024 with new curriculum for year 2, but old curriculum for year 3 NAPLAN test
 - Lower cohort of students - evidenced by our other forms of assessing and data collection
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- Introduced targeted 'teaching sprints' in 2024 to address drop in grammar and punctuation
 - 2024 stage 2 targeted maths groups
 - Macqlit/Minilit
 - implementing new phonics program from K-2
 - Continues use of teaching sprints for stage 1
 - targeted interventions for year 3 2025:
 - Spelling Mastery program being implemented this term - explicit approach
 - Targeted math groups starting this term
 - Literacy rotations with specific target areas

2014 - 2024 Year 5 NAPLAN results

Year 5



MS, OC and SIM - 2024



Appendix C - Performing Arts Subcommittee May report

BPS PERFORMING ARTS SUBCOMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT, MAY 2025

Date: May 2025

Author: Tara Smith

BACKGROUND

Balmain Public School (BPS) P&C Association believes that access to quality performing arts experiences is an essential part of a child's overall education.

Until 2024, external provider Directions in Music offered private instrumental tuition, and facilitated concert band, training band and a string ensemble at BPS. At the end of 2024 Directions in Music decided to leave the school, leaving us with no instrumental tuition program or music ensembles.

Driven by the departure of DIM and response from parents in the P&C survey, the P&C have established a Performing Arts Subcommittee (PAS) with the goal to build a thriving performing arts program where students are given the opportunity to extend their music, drama and dance interests through co-curricular and extra-curricular activities at school.

The objectives of the PAS are to:

1. Provide BPS students access to performing arts (music, drama and dance) activities through either co-curricular activities run in collaboration with the school, and / or extra-curricular activities provided by third-party providers.
2. Provide and facilitate the opportunity for students to participate in performing arts ensembles including choir, concert band, string ensemble, drama and dance troupes (to meet demand and where no other opportunities are available).
3. Provide performance opportunities through regular live performances at school assemblies and work towards performances at local community festivals and school eisteddfods.
4. Foster the love and enjoyment of the performing arts within the school community (students, staff and parents) through performing arts participation and performances, strengthening a sense of belonging, wellbeing and social inclusion.
5. Increase participation and engagement in the performing arts by providing transparent, clear and timely communication to parents on performing arts activities offered at the school.

The status of the PAS priorities for 2025 are outlined below.

PRIORITY 1: Establish Music Ensemble Programs

1. Concert Band

- **70% of survey respondents (90 respondents)** said they would like their child to join an instrumental ensemble at BPS.
- To reestablish a concert band offering for existing musicians, we decided to combine with Nicholson Street PS as they have an established program with a band conductor. Rehearsals take place on Friday mornings from 7:30am – 8:15 at NSPS.

- Expressions of Interest went out to the school and **12 students** who currently play an instrument at the appropriate standard have joined the band. They commenced attending rehearsals at NSPS on Friday 2 May.
- BPS parent volunteers attend each week to help with band set up and pack up, and to accompany BPS students back to school on the bus.

2. Choir

- **80% of respondents (103 respondents)** said they would like their child to join a choir at BPS.
- Learning an instrument requires significant investment of time and money from parents so the school and P&C agreed that we would like to offer choir for all students free of charge. A funding proposal was approved at the April P&C meeting which covers paying a choral conductor, and a small allocation towards music resources.
- Tara Smith, an experienced choral director and music educator (and BPS parent) was appointed to the position, and the following rehearsal schedule was established:

Tuesday, 8:15am - 9am Senior Choir (years 3 - 6)

Tuesday, 10:40am - 11:10am Junior Choir (years 1 - 2)

- A sharing arrangement for use of the Hall on Tuesday mornings was agreed with Eaton Street Centre.
- Application forms were sent to the whole school, and **102 students** have enrolled in choir – 60 in Senior Choir and 42 in Junior Choir. Rehearsals commenced on Tues 6 May.

3. String Ensemble

- **9 BPS students** completed an EOI for a potential string ensemble – 2 cello, 2 viola, 5 violins.
- Now that concert band and choir have been established, the next priority is looking into re-establishing a string ensemble. We are currently looking into two options: engaging and employing our own string ensemble tutor; or approaching Birchgrove PS to see if we could combine ensembles. A further status update will be given in the next report.

4. Training Band / Beginner Programs

- A longer-term priority of the PAS is to establish a training band program for new / beginner students. To build towards establishing our own band program, we will need to seek opportunities for students to commence learning instruments, so this initiative will be established in conjunction with Priority 2 below.
 - It was noted that in the EOIs for commencing an instrument, many students identified that they would like to play percussion. The PAS is currently investigating establishment of a junior percussion ensemble at BPS, as a beginner / feeder program for potential training band / instrumental program.
 - We are commencing conversations with the percussion ensemble tutor at Birchgrove PS and will provide a further status update in the next report.
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PRIORITY 2: Private Instrumental Tuition at BPS

- **80% of survey respondents (91 respondents)** said they would like their child to learn an instrument.
 - Before we can establish a training band program, we need to ensure that students have access to private instrumental tuition. Finding teachers and transporting students to and from lessons is often cited as a barrier to learning instruments, and so the PAS is seeking to establish a private instrumental tuition program on school grounds as an extra-curricular opportunity.
 - It is likely that it will take some time to recruit suitable tutors, however the PAS have commenced working on this strategy and will continue to build towards, with the aim of having private instrumental lessons in key band instruments (woodwind, brass and percussion) by 2026 at the latest.
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PRIORITY 3: Drama & Dance Opportunities

- The PAS would like to support participation in all performing arts and will be seeking to both support and expand on existing drama and dance opportunities.
 - Many parents have mentioned the desire for students to participate in drama activities, so the PAS is seeking to support and promote existing co-curricular offerings within the school, and is looking into potential external providers for after school drama programs.
 - There are currently existing dance opportunities within the school, facilitated by skilled and passionate teachers – including participation in the Wakakirri dance festival – which has over 50 BPS students participating. The PAS will seek to support these programs and help to coordinate communication and performance opportunities as much as possible.
 - It is noted that there are currently numerous extra-curricular dance offerings, so this will not be an immediate focus for the PAS.
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PRIORITY 4: Performances & Events

- The PAS will be seeking to facilitate more performance opportunities for students and the community. These will include:
 - Termly performances at school assemblies (band, choir, drama and dance groups as appropriate)
 - Performances at community and school events such as Family Fun Day, Christmas Giving assembly, and Celebration of Learning assemblies
 - Establishment of Performing Arts Showcase concerts (at least one per year)
- The first music performance for Term 2 has been confirmed for **Tuesday 1 July at 9am**. This will see the combined BPS / NSPS concert band, and BPS Junior & Senior choirs perform for parents and community. More details will be communicated soon.