

P + C Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 10th February 2021

Meeting Opened 7.04pm - Minutes recorded by Victoria Lush (P&C Secretary)
Meeting was held in private room at the Bald Rock pub in Rozelle

Attendees (via Zoom):

STAFF: Maria Lambos, Annabel Yau, Belinda Mikhail Bryant, (Stephanie Loxton via Zoom)

P&C: (in-person) Shehana Darda-Teixeira, Paul Galpin, Victoria Lush, Cliff Philipiah, Mick Darda, Peta Joyce, Cindy Scheule, Ash Guven, Rafaela Kohlie, Sean Moore, Reshma Govindraj, Alison Hughes, Kate Hurst

P&C: (via Zoom) Mark Coughlan, Gemma Puplett, Wei Zong, Mel Slavin, Amir Yassa, Alma Dayawon, Quifong Hong, Natasha Foster, Sarah Brandt

Welcome and introduction - Shehana Darda-Teixeira (P&C President)

SDT – opened with thank you to teachers for the swimming carnival that was held today (Wed 10th Feb) and summary for new members where the P&C see their role and our objectives for this year.

Apologies – Victoria Lush (P&C Secretary)

- Anne Irvine and ESC – same night as their meeting
- Josie Simpson – permanent apology due to uniform stall commitment

New membership - P&C Secretary (VL) – has been hard through 2020 as all meetings post the AGM have been via Zoom – great to be back in person – will actively be able to get P&C attendees registered.

Previous Minutes (Dec 2020) - P&C Secretary (VL) - Motion to accept previous minutes - motion to accept previous minutes read & ratified by Cliff & seconded by Shehana.

Correspondence - P&C Secretary (VL)

- Funding request – School Library/Ms Whelan
 - Request for \$7,000.00 to restock the school library with current books – voted and unanimously passed – school will purchase and then invoice the P&C
- BBQ to be removed from the BBQ shed/Josie Simpson
 - P&C shed has had all the ESC paperwork cleared out and securely stored elsewhere
 - Old broken BBQ needs to be removed – Cliff sorting – may need help and to send out request via SkoolBag for ute....

Principal's Report - Maria Lambos

- Opened with huge thank you to the volunteers at the swimming carnival
- 2021 moving forward, as there are changes to COVID restrictions looking forward to more interaction
- Sad news that as there has been a slight change with the number of students enrolled at BPS since the beginning of the year the school has been forced to drop a class (due to DoE regulations) and as such 3 kindy classes will move to 2. March 8th will be Ms Jennett's last day then classes will change.

(There was a lot of community comment/sentiment from parents around this decision – conversation driven by parent Mark C and comments from Shehana in regards to New Parents Facebook page: it is obviously very upsetting and disruptive for the new kindy kids who have just started – a heads up would have been good – kids have just been built up to handle the start of the new year and it is changing already – how did you select the teacher that would go? – seems drastic – how will this work and can you handle it?

- ML response: all classes are at full limits and unfortunately the only space for movement was with kindergarten and this will be the least amount of disruption.
- Belinda MK (AP for Kindy at BPS) – explained further and re-assured parents that the kindy kids have settled in really well – the three classes work really well together on a daily basis already - they are one big class. Lauren and Belinda are both very experienced teachers and

work together well – they are professionals who will make this work. Hopefully there will be teacher’s aides to support them and they have a few weeks to get the kids ready.

- Gemma query – what happens if more kids get enrolled in the future? ML response – that if that happens then she will approach the Dept to reform another class.
- Cliff – to kindy parents: Balmain is a progressive school with interactive learning where the kindy kids already move around between the classes and already work in groups (ML commented it was good to hear that from a parent).
- Mel Slavin – would Out Of Area enrolments get us over the line? ML responded that we are not allowed to take them, it’s against the rules. BPS capacity is set at 330 – current enrolments are already at 369 – cannot even take siblings of OC children.
- ML brought up the subject of BYOD and passed to new teacher Stephanie Loxton to address the P&C as she has come from a school (Penshurst Public) that had a BYOD programme in place.
 - SL – BYOD seems confusing but is simple & made teaching at PPS a lot easier (presentations could be ready to go with 1:1 devices/flip learning/nobody is left behind/use google classroom/increases collaboration). Teachers get trained. Commented that at BPS teaching is a lot slower and children are disadvantaged – for example at BPS 14 devices are shared across two classrooms. Suggested a community survey. Her experience was that it took a term and by then most had their own devices or were school-supplied. Insisted that devices are part of today. With BYOD they get to research independently – otherwise stuck with the teacher, this is all they can get – they can find more....
 - Parent query – how much of the day currently is digital learning? Response – 1-2 hrs per day scattered. Writing and Reading still valued.
 - Shehana – what about the issues of equity and screen time?
 - Parent (Mark C) we should take an evidence-based approach that reinforces learning and the ‘gamification’ of learning.
 - P&C Secretary called an end to the discussion at this point as there seemed to be a lack of awareness that the BYOD topic has been well documented and detailed by Sean Baumann and that the new teachers might not be aware of this yet – the P&C has already committed to a parent survey to gauge general opinion around this topic.

ACTION – need survey prepared and sent out to BPS parent body – led by P&C in conjunction with the school.

Finance Report - P&C Treasurer (Paul Galpin)

- Welcome to new Treasurer – thanked Alvin for the hand-over
 - Will give full financial run-down at the AGM next month
 - Quick summary/overview:
 - P&C is self-funded with \$55k-\$60k ‘base’ spend a year (approx. \$15k on class supplies/ \$10k IT/\$20k Special Reading support/\$10k books and sundries)
 - Income – Trivia Night – which was a great initiative in the absence of the Balmain Fun Run (traditionally the largest fund-raising item)
 - Voluntary Contributions are well down (to be expected after the year that was 2020 COVID19) – but based on the number of families at BPS – the potential of IT Levy with P&C Levy for 2020 was about \$40k – reality was that we received \$10K in 2020 (and it was \$20k in 2019) so the way this is communicated when and how is very important.
 - The ‘base’ spend detailed does not cover big ticket items (.e.g. fans)
 - Final summary of Yr 6 Farewell financials submitted by Van Allen
 - Surplus has been gifted to charities
 - Medecines Sans Frontieres - \$470
 - RSPCA - \$470
 - Red Cross - \$1,100
 - Request from Cindy – can Van send an email to Yr 6 parents 2020 to let them know about this and where the \$\$ went?? Kids will be so excited to hear. (Note VL - done).

P&C Issues/General business - P&C President

- 2021 P&C Strategic Plan update
 - There has been engagement with the parent body on this inclusive of key priorities for the P&C and the school with respect to events needed (what/how/when). A sub-committee has drafted this plan and it is now ready to share with a wider audience and solicit feedback.
- TOILETS – ST has heard from a lot of parents/feedback from kids about the state of the main toilet building at BPS (mainly dark & dirty).
 - Question – should the P&C help fund an upgrade?
 - We need input from Maria Lambos/BPS on costs plus advice on how much could be covered by the DoE
 - This will enable us to set a target for 2021 fund-raising
 - ML:
 - Some works are planned – plumbing uplift is happening in the April holidays (cannot be done during term time for obvious reasons)
 - Lexi (school Prime Minister) has approach ML with a proposal (it was generally agreed that it would be great idea if she could attend the next P&C and present this)
 - Recent issues raised include taps not working. The school were not aware but is a simple fix and will be actioned
 - On-going issues with paper towels/toilet paper are partly due to deliberate mis-use (purposely blocking toilets)
 - Lexi's proposal included hand dryers as a COVID-friendly option (she also considered up-front and ongoing costs)
 - Finally Maria confirmed that significant upgrade is an option as long as the proposals keep to code

P&C 2021 Events Calendar - P&C Representative (Cliff/Victoria)

- 2021 planning ahead – Mark Coughlan has suggested we need to know the target, work out what we need and then fund – is happy to take on a role to help with fund-raising. Mick Darda has also put up his hand to assist with this as has a background in fund-raising (Alma and Natasha Foster has lists of past sponsors/contributors to pass over). VL suggested that Mark share ideas and follow up Marilynn Olson who did a lot of work last year on proposals for other fund-raising ideas.
 - Mark suggested – sell-a-brick for new toilet block
- **Welcome Drinks 2021**
 - Cannot have on-site due to on-going restrictions however we have explored to possibility to host off-site (resoundingly supported)
 - Save the date to go out – looking at Fridays in March
 - Host at the Gladstone Park Bowling Club
 - Send out request for help with organising committee
- **Balmain Fun Run – Natasha Foster**
 - Is there an appetite for the Fun Run?
 - There is basically no committee left
 - Need significant school desire & commitment
 - Would need new parents to be involved

Actions Arising

- BPS Solar My School update – VL
 - Successful grant - application to receive monies need to be done by end of March 2021 – in process of following up
- Belle Property signage update?
 - Sign down but needs to be returned – need to thank for support

OOSH Report - done via correspondence – there are still a small number of vacancies – any queries to go directly to ESC Director Kate Murphy

Uniform Stall Report - done via correspondence – few delays on receiving stock due to COVID-related delays on shipping for suppliers but now most items are back in stock or will be shortly.

Any Other Business -Yr6 Fundraising/Graduation Organising Committee:

Shehana asked about the timeline & process for setting up the Yr6 Committee.

Cliff said that he would send a recruitment email out to Yr6 parents once the Parent Reps had been organised for Stage 3. Planning usually starts in late March/early April.

From Ash Guven – very disappointed and frustrated with the school band and lack of communication – it is hard to get in contact and they are not returning calls or emails. COVID presented challenges but they are charging the same fees.

- One Zoom on-line rehearsal with all schools groups – not ideal.
- Paid the whole year, every term – full fees
- This year the classes are starting in week 4 – same fee! Paying \$550 per term – cannot get in contact – general response only – issues not addressed.
- Are there other options? Other school bands?
- Feels music is very important for social connections but is very frustrated with the current situation.
- Wants the school to help address.

ML response – gave the background as to how the school ended with DIM and feels how they behave is beyond their control.

Shehana asked if the school could please air grievances on behalf of the parents.

ML – has asked Ash to send her an email listing her grievances.

From Amir Yassa – has made an offer to the school to help/alleviate some of the time spent on various elections – help with a framework to digitise the elections? Parents or P&C to run.

- Ms Yau wanted clarification around what he is offering? Ms Whelan runs the elections – the process is hopefully going on-line this year to simplify.
- P&C – this is not a P&C role – it is a school process.
- ML – student voice is very important and need to make sure rest of the school has their say. Will be easier with new process – doesn't affect teachers only ML and Ms Whelan.
- Amir has said his offer is there for any other needs.

From Kate – the time on the digital sign out the front of the school is wrong – can this be changed?

ML – yes will update time

Meeting ended 8.59pm

Save The Date – future P&C Meetings

Mar 3, May 5, June 2, Aug 4, Sept 1, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1

All P+C meetings take place at 7pm in the school ConneXion Hub, unless otherwise notified.

NOTE – all Term 1 2021 meetings will take place via Zoom AND in a nominated off-site venue.