

P + C Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 1 July 2020

Meeting Opened 7.04pm

Minutes recorded by Victoria Lush (P&C Secretary)

Attendees (via Zoom):

BPS: Maria Lambos, Felicity Bowman

P&C: Shehana Darda-Teixeira, Alvin Lau, Cliff Philipiah, Victoria Lush, Peta Joyce, Rob Taubman, Van Allen, Gemma Pulett, Kate Dryden Jane Williams, Liam Reid, Doug Talbot, Candy Jenkins, Renate Harris, Marcus Heisler, Ash Guven and Mick Darda.

Introduction and welcome – Shehana Darda-Teixeira (P&C President)

Welcome to everyone to our first Zoom meeting

Thanked the statewide campaign to change the P&C Constitution to allow video conferencing for meetings

Apologies P&C Secretary

Anne Irwin, Jo Nicholas

Previous Minutes (December 2019)

Motion to accept previous minutes proposed Shehana Darda-Teixeira, Seconded Van Allen. **Carried**

Correspondence – Cliff Philipiah (P&C Vice President)

Query was received from a parent in regards to SRE/SEE (scripture/ethics).....in particular the return of SRE/SEE in Term 3.

Was confirmed by Maria Lambos that Scripture/Ethics is returning in Term 3

Principal's Report - Maria Lambos

COVID 19 and the effects on the school – acknowledge staff & community for their efforts and support through this period.

Thanked the P&C for the coffee fund at Fundamental Café and all the other gifts and support received.

Noted that Term 3 will continue as is with the current COVID restrictions in place.

K-2 purchase of reading eggs programme - \$28 per student paid for by the school with a \$10 co-contribution

Footsteps programme continued this term through the purchase of an on-line version, with some owed make-up lessons f/scheduled or term 3

The P&C funded reading support programme has been able to be continued with additional Dept funding.

School Resource Fee – was held back as did not want to put pressure on families in this period. Amounts to a lot of missed funding (379 students, approx. \$67K in fees)

which funds the IT levy, Mathspace, Sound Waves etc in the classroom. These programmes have been continued and the school has been paying to cover the costs. **Issues – Interactive Whiteboards** that need replacing: 1/2M and 1/2L - physically 'working', however, after troubleshooting, Sean (Mr Baumann) has been unable to get interactivity back. The sound has also gone, but an external speaker is being used for the time-being. It is currently being used as a projector, but is hindering the students' learning activities. These have been installed quite a number of years ago and are out of warranty.

Usually would be paid for with the school IT Levy but as this has been held back due to COVID 19 it was requested that this be covered by the P&C

MOTION – Alvin (Treasurer) said the P&C are supporting the motion to resolve the IT issues and it will be solved

- Urgent IWB replacement for 1/2L - **\$5,395** (ex. GST)
- Urgent IWB replacement for 1/2M - **\$5,395** (ex. GST)
- Board only replacement - STEAM room - **\$1,845** (ex. GST)

Lastly – as seen in Instagram stories, there have been some surprising playground upgrades made possible from an old funding grant finally coming through – it was stipulated that it had to be spent soon and on specific areas.

Will be spent on:

- Installation of new seating (near the Eaton St entrance)
 - 4 new sensory panels in front of the library
 - Synthetic grass covering the dirt patch also in front of the library
 - Approximately \$25,000 remaining – student voice in determining what they would like
- School-funded (not P&C or DoE):
 - A new covered area that will fit the whole school for assemblies – a symmetrical shade shelter between the main building & canteen area 17m x 11m, plenty of shade, in line with heritage (report done)
 - Extra synthetic grass areas with handball courts marked on them to increase the in-demand hand ball courts and make accessible to boys and girls.

Will be installed next term.

Van Allen asked if these funds came from the grant. ML answered that yes it was from the 2015 joint funding/playground upgrade. At the time the upgrade was approved by the P&C but the grant did not come through at that time – the costs were covered by a mix of P&C, community grants and Eaton St Centre.

Doug Talbot asked if it was the \$60K received. ML confirmed this.

There was general discussion around whether this should have been brought to the P&C to discussed and be involved in – while it was school money to spent as the school seems fit (DoE stipulated funds to be spent on 'playground upgrade'), it was

linked to a project that was funded by the P&C to cover this money not received in time.

General consensus that the P&C body would like to be involved in decision making especially at this time when we face so many future challenges in fund raising opportunities due to the restrictions of COVID – and there needs to be greater transparency on the funds available.

Shehana Darda-Teixeira confirmed that this is part of the new P&C Exec strategy – to have a 3yr/5yr priorities and plan, developed with parents, in consultation with the school.

Action – plan to get passionate parents involved in the areas they care about – include call to action in planned POLL

Felicity Bowman pointed out that playground trends are just that, trends, can be easily installed with paint/low cost materials such as skipping etc – and so we should go with what they want to do.

Rob Taubman – a (complimentary) educational query – during the time of lock-down and home schooling, some topics easily handled by kids and some (mostly new) topics were not – obviously not a patch on face-to-face learning. Question is – are the kids on pace for where they should be?

ML – there has been varying amounts of feedback about input, not much negativity about where the kids are at, lots of anxiety which they have been focused on addressing with the students.

Rob Taubman/Renate Harris – brought up the recent announcement in the media of the changes to curriculum.

ML – replied there is no change now – these changes are easing in by 2024.

Shehana Darda-Teixeira asked if we will be receiving reports this term – ML replied they are due out by the end of August (there was a SkoolBag update) and that it will be a simplified version (should be out Term 3, week 3). There was so much time at home and they did not want to spend the current term assessing – continuing the learning then more time to assess.

Finance Report – Alvin Lau P&C Treasurer

Alvin addressed query from Jane Williams (asked in Chats in Zoom) that yes all spending needs to be approved by the P&C

Thank you to Maria Lambos and teachers – thank you to the previous P&C and committees for putting the current P&C in a good position of having a “war chest” to get us through this period.

P&C Contribution – we have not been sure of what to do and when to send out – similarly concerned with how parents have been hit in this period but also aware that some might be keen to contribute.

Rob Taubman asked if it is still policy for Dept to ask for this. Basically the P&C and IT levy is a parent request and voluntary. School Resource fee is separate.

There is a genuine wish to contribute to their children's education.

It is in the messaging of the communication.

General consensus with the group was to do this now as already at the end of Term 2 – make sure messaging is clear.

Action – by September the P&C to have a Strategic Plan Directive (that can of course flux to any immediate needs that arise) with strategy on short, mid and long-term needs.

Action – Sean Bauman to update IT 3yr/5yr plan

Felicity Bowman will support any playground survey/information we need.

Alvin – has said teaching support/STEAM/Mathspace paid for – we do need to know the IT needs and what injection of funds now is required.

Action - Maria Lambos to come up with a list now

Alvin – whiteboards request approved

NOTE – please note that we updated all banking details with the CBA for the new Exec Committee – all lodged and approved. Also note that a mistake was made with the CBA when we lodged paperwork – two signatories required to authorise payments for the Uniform Stall were accidentally removed.

Please add Lyndal Rutgers and Josie Simpson as signatories for BPS Uniform Shop Invoices.

Confirmed account signatories are now:

Shehana Darda-Teixeira [President]

Cliff Philipiah [Vice-President]

Victoria Lush [Secretary & co-Vice-President]

Alvin Lau [Treasurer]

Lyndal Rutgers [BPS Uniform Shop Co-Manager]

Josie Simpson [BPS Uniform Shop Co-Manager]

Please also note to update the CBA with correct contact details:

Balmain Public School P&C

1 Eaton St

Balmain

E balmainpspc@gmail.com

P&C Issues/General business - Shehana Darda-Teixeira P&C President

Shehana formally acknowledged our teachers and Maria for the outstanding way they handled the quarantine period and the return back to school.

Mentioned the way parents have expressed their appreciation - free coffees on order, cookies and other treats and numerous emails were sent.

We talked about how the work they did wasn't standard – lots of other schools were still relying on paper sheets and other options.

There was also a mention of the Climate and Sustainability Report and the fact that we've had to cancel most of our events this year because of COVID-19.

Solar My School project update Victoria Lush P&C Secretary/co-Vice President

The new P&C inherited the Solar My Schools project which was initiated by Margie Whelan (Librarian). The Solar My School project is a Department of Education initiative, supported by the Inner West Council, to offer 50% co-funding contribution for rooftop solar for eligible NSW Government schools.

So far, BPS has been assessed as being eligible to apply for the 50% grant (please refer to the feasibility report attached to these minutes). In addition we have applied for additional funding through CBP (Community Building Partnership 2020) grant application to cover the majority of the balance, with some co-funding also from the P&C (if all approved).

Our school, according to the feasibility report, has limited options for rooftop solar panels due to shade and also the fact that many of our buildings are heritage protected. We do also already have solar panels – the recommendations are to replace the old panels on the library with double the number of panels which will increase output.

Total cost \$15,000.00

Solar My School contribution \$7,500.00 (if successful) and the school must be able to show that we have the capacity to pay the other 50%

We have applied for CBP contribution \$7,500.00 (if successful) plus the P&C Co-Contribution \$2,000.00 (if approved)

Rob Taubman queried payback period – included in attached report - of 5.2 years

Liam Reid has queried whether we should push back on the heritage status of the other buildings that were deemed unsuitable in the feasibility report. That way we would have a much larger solar panel capacity.

We will keep you updated on the applications.

P&C Events Calendar Cliff Philipiah – P&C Vice President

What's possible for 2020 fund raising as most events have been cancelled – there have been lots of requests for another trivia night/kids events

Cliff – Art Show update – lots of options being considered until we know what we can and can't run – art auction during the Trivia Night? Family Day next Day?

Halloween Disco in late October – have a carnival/stalls/fundraiser/fun! Atmosphere

Balmain Fun Run 2020 update - Doug Talbot

We need to look at the BFR in context – it is a major fund raiser that has been going for 11 years, event managers are used, revenue is gained through sponsorship and fees for participation.

When COVID hit the Exec did make a preliminary call to cancel the event, many other events have been cancelled and this seemed to make sense.

But – the Bay Run is going ahead in 2020, Mini-Mos and many other community fun runs are going ahead....so at this stage the BFR is still locked in for 15th October 2020. So – if this is still to be run then we need to start seriously organising by August

- Do we have enough volunteers?
- Do we have enough sponsorship?
- Do we just run something for the kids and the community

Action – POLL – poll parents to gather idea of support for fund raising options – do in early Term 3 - Need to be clear about what we need – who can do what?

Rob Taubman – do we just hold a BPS BBQ event and run around the oval?
Sponsored school event?

Van Allen – do we know if we can even hold an event like this?

Mick Darda – is in support to go ahead with the BFR

Limits/Challenges for Yr 6 fundraisers - Van Allen

The Yr 6 graduation is facing many challenges – mainly around the lack of fund raising opportunities. They are selling tea towels.

Kids want to do stalls at the Halloween Disco

- this was approved by Cliff

Asked Maria Lambos is the kids are allowed to do a Yr 6 Bizarre?

- This was a YES from the school, just don't know if parents are going to be allowed onto the school grounds – but kids can run it

ASKED – if there is a shortage and if needed, would the P&C help fund the Yr6 Graduation – the quorum agreed to support this motion – Yr 6 have had it tough

Action – Van to come with (revised) pricing estimates – especially if they have to change venue

ART SHOW - Felicity Bowman – very keen for the Art Show at any level to go ahead – for the kids – for those that are creative and need this!

Action – will hold event but need to confirm date and link to POLL in regards to volunteers.

Actions Arising

- Bicycle Rack like for like replacement by contractor
 - Done!! Ben sent through bike rack recommendations – has been purchased and installed by the school
- Soap Dispenser in the girls toilets
 - Replaced in both boys & girls bathrooms with plenty of soap.



**Parents &
Citizens
Association**

Meeting concluded at 9.17pm