

P + C Ordinary Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Minutes recorded by: Victoria Lush

Introduction

Meeting opened at 7:39pm

Attendees

BPS: Sean Baumann, Maria Lambos

P&C: Alma Dayawon, Alvin Lau, Anne Irvine, Ash Guven, Chandra Shastry, Clare Young, Cliff Philipiah, Conor McCormack, Gabrielle Levette, Gemma Puplett, Hamutal Mazrier, Krishna Neecamrajv, Mick Darda, Paul Galpin, Peta Joyce, Rick van der Zwan, Shehana Darda-Teixeira, Tara Smith, Victoria Lush

Via Zoom: Kate Murphy, Mark Coughlan, Melissa Slavin

Welcome and Introduction P&C President

Previous Minutes (February 2021)

Motion to accept previous minutes proposed Chandra Shastry, Seconded Peta Joyce.

Carried.

Correspondence - P&C Secretary Victoria Lush

- BYOD topic – to address the P&C later this meeting - Rick van der Zwan
- Some volunteers for Welcome Drinks and BFR – thank you! Will all be followed up with. Lots of good new volunteers.

Principal's Report - Maria Lambos

- **Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) 2021-2024:** The P&C exec have been sent our Situational Analysis as the representatives of our community, to assist the school with the development and publishing of our 2021-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP), a requirement for all NSW government schools, due at the end of this term.

The SIP is a working document to replace the 2018-2020 School Plan; it will detail the steps our school will take to improve learning outcomes, as well as the achievement and growth of all students. To ensure continuous improvement, the SIP reflects where our school is at and how it will further improve learning, teaching and leading.

- **Assistant Principal (AP):** A vacancy for a substantive AP was advertised at the beginning of term. A panel was formed including: teacher rep, parent rep and AP from another school. The 10-day appeal period concludes on Friday, with the successful candidate being announced in this week's issue of the Pigeon Post.
- **Playground upgrade continues:**
 - Metro Renewal Program - 50:50 DoE & school (not P&C) - synthetic grass - from path after existing synthetic grass to the synthetic grass of Yarning Circle (previous assembly area) - approx \$50,000 (total)
 - mini-stage and cantilever umbrella for the new COLA
 - Seating upgrade to match existing new seating along wall of new mural (removal of old silver seats)
 - 3 x umbrellas for Kindergarten area (next to Ms Pauline's Garden)

- 1 x umbrella for Yarning Circle
- **Class Reps:** Class Reps Expression of Interest is due CoB Friday 5 March - reminder SkoolBag notification has been sent out.
- **Volunteers:** Parent/carer volunteers SkoolBag notification, as follow-up from Pigeon Post has been sent out today.
- **School Resource Fees:** Sent out via SkoolBag on Monday 1 March - 96 families have responded: Full amount - 84 families/105 students, Term 1 - 7 families/8 students, Other - 1 x family/1 student
- **IT Levy:** As per Sean's request at the end of last year, 15 laptops have been purchased, to replace 'non-operational' ones, using the balance of the IT Levy from 2020.
Bal 12/20: \$11,141 - \$10,090.89 (15 laptops) = \$1,050.11
ADD
2021 IT Levy deposits - \$82 x 105 = \$8,610 + \$20.50 (term 1) x 8 = \$164 - TOTAL to date \$8774
Total IT Levy balance as at 03/03/2021 - \$1,050.11 + \$8,774 = \$9,824.11
- **Technology at BPS:** Background information for newer members:
 - DoE - annual T4L (Technology for Learning) rollout - depends on enrolment numbers - allocated points - upgrade IWB laptops for classrooms etc...
 - P&C - funded/supported since before my arrival in 2014 - IWBs (Interactive White Boards) and laptops for teaching and learning
 - 2015 - P&C asked for 3-year IT Plan - long-term sustainability of replacement/ongoing maintenance of IT
 - 2016 - P&C introduced IT Levy (with amount pre-determined by P&C) as part of School Resource Fees asked by the school
 - P&C has since funded additional costs, as required, over the amount of IT Levy collected
 - 2020 - P&C decided that some funds accumulated and kept for the 'rainy day' should be used as the 'rainy day' (or COVID) had arrived.

Alvin (then P&C Treasurer) asked Sean to come up with various options/scenarios for technology in classrooms, including BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

 - BYOD has only been brought up as a consideration twice at P&C meetings, by parents, **not the school**
 - **School's position on BYOD is neutral** and definitely not advocating for its introduction - ultimately, it's about having sufficient, up-to-date and working technology, to support the learning programs for our students in their classrooms.

P&C Issues/General business

- Story in SMH re DoE and COVID restriction - Shehana
 - Motion being proposed to vote for the BPS P&C to get involved in a campaign to call upon the DoE Minister to address regulations & ease restrictions in schools – here is the P&C position and proposal:

MOTION – RE: SCHOOL COVID GUIDELINES - Balmain P&C joins the P&C Federation and other P&C's around the state in calling on the NSW Education Minister/ Department of Education to change COVID guidelines and restrictions for schools so that they are in line with other guidelines for the state.

Specifically:

- Allow parents back into school grounds;
- End staggered finishing times for different stages;
- Ensure clear and consistent guidelines for carnivals and excursions;

Schools have always worked closely with their local community and all the evidence shows that children thrive when parents are involved in their school life. The current restrictions are harmful for communities and unnecessary.

It makes no sense to continue to block parents when hundreds of people are now allowed to gather at events and in stadiums. We strongly support measures to keep children and teachers safe but they must reflect the evidence, be well thought through and consistent.

SDT – basic message is that we want parents back on school grounds. We've been talking to the P&C Federation and are keen to support their lobbying DoE and Minister. Would like to put to our P&C to vote for their support or not.

There was conversation around whether this was "imminent" and already in process. Whether the current guidelines from the NSW Health are clear, accurate and that there is consistency with interpretation. The disparity between different schools and the interpretation of the guidelines...school is a finite time of our kids' lives and we don't want to miss out if we do not have to – get in-line with the rest of the updated guidelines.

Vote – was unanimous to support the BPS P&C being involved in this campaign.

- **Solar My School project** - update Victoria – all on track, paperwork complete and being submitted on-line to receive the funding so we can proceed to the next round.
- **BPS toilet upgrade** – Paul Galpin
 - Good offers from parents to get involved – led by Brendan O'Brien who has a construction company – brought in his plumber to review.
 - Basic overview – it is not a knock-down job
 - Cosmetic fix up of toilet seats and cisterns
 - Regular steam cleaning required
 - Soap dispensers (actioned)
 - Hand Dryers – automatic – COVID safe

ACTION - Will complete a schedule of works so we can work out what can/might be able to be funded from DoE or if a project for the P&C 2021

- Comments:
 - Anne Irvine – is there any state govt grants available?
 - Should we approach Jamie Parker?
 - It is a communal space, outside groups use it so could be a consideration under a CBP (Community Building Project) if this is on offer?

ACTION - Hamutal – has experience with this at other school – will investigate funding opportunities

- **2021 P&C Events Calendar**
 - Welcome Drinks 2021 – March 26th - Cliff/Victoria
 - all booked in at Gladstone Park Bowling Club – just need to start selling tickets!
 - Need items for raffle ticket sales

- BFR – response to CTA for new committee members – Mick Darda
 - *Future pending – ongoing or dissolution motion Jason Ockerby* – as there has been a new BFR committee and coordinator nominated, at this stage the dissolution motion is mute.
 - Gabrielle Levette – queried whether a risk analysis for COVID needs to be done – before there is investment \$\$ etc spent. Mick Darda (new COORD.) has said this is the first thing that will be done.
 - Mick – all volunteers welcome!
- Call-out for Yr 6 parents for Farewell Committee – Cliff
 - Waiting on Class Reps to be assigned – then will start this
- Alma – queried if there will be an Art Show this year?
- Cliff – has put together a new events calendar for the P&C (refer end of minutes) – add to agenda

- Actions Arising

- Survey Monkey for BYOD proposal Shehana

BYOD topic – to address the P&C - Rick van der Zwan

Rick is a parent (to Anouk in Yr 1) works in schools all around the world (thanked BPS for the on-line response to home-schooling last year – was an almost immediate reaction to the shut down).

Was very concerned after the last P&C meeting (Feb 2021) and the way the BYOD programme was explained by teacher Stephanie Loxton – we must remember that a BYOD device programme will be a social justice issue with our kids. Children who struggle with are low SES background – do we want o disadvantage them more?

It is also a pedagogical issue – what’s the advantage to introducing a BYOD programme?

Other concerns raised by parents (Ash Guven/Conor McCormack/Tara Smith)

- Security concerns – use school wifi – but what is already in the device? (ML/SB replied that DoE has policies in place to support BYOD and there are strong firewalls)
- Are there gains that a BYOD would assist? Is there something in the SIP that would be addressed by a BYOD programme? (ML certainly with STEAM and areas that are programmed with technology – using tech as an educational tool to assist engagement – preparing for the real world)
- What is the school policy on how to address any social disparity – will BYOD increase disparity or help?
- Are they owned by the kids or should we look at a shared resource policy?
- Survey needs to be clear as to what it is asking
- Should it be called a BYOD Survey? Or should it be IT Funding questionnaire...

Sean Baumann – has explained that the topic of BYOD at BPS was brought up by the P&C as an option for funding – it is simply a financial question – BYOD is not changing the amount of time spent on devices in the classroom – this is already set in the syllabus.

We are looking at BYOD to fill the shortfall in IT funding/cost of maintenance/upgrading systems etc
It is not a whole of school programme – start with Yr 3 onwards, a 4yr implementation. Never for Kindy.

ACTION - The end of the discussion it was decided that the survey needs more work – Rick has offered to format this with the help of his team (expertise in this area)

BPS Band – lack of response addressed? Ash Guven/Maria Lambos

- ML has been told DIM would reach out – Ash said this still has not happened.
- Other parents also frustrated with the lack of response (Tara Smith)
- No information but still invoiced
- Rick asked if we are locked in to this provider. ML said we are not locked in but finding another company is the challenge.

ACTION – Rick and Tara will look into other options as both have experience in this field music and/or education. They will review other schools and options and report back.

Time on notice board outside the school updated? Maria Lambos – not an easy fix as it is the device this board is linked to that is causing the problems – for now she has simply removed the time all together until a permanent fix can be sorted.

- OOSH Report – Kate Murphy
 - Vacation care programme is happening!
 - Mon/Tues/Thurs – still vacancies at aftercare
- Uniform Stall Report – no update
- Any Other Business - P&C President – none

Meeting concluded at 9.36pm

Save The Date – future P&C Meetings

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

2021 P&C EVENTS CALENDAR [Work In Progress]

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Mo												
Tu												
We			2 AGM / P&C MEETING			2 P&C MEETING			1 P&C MEETING		2 P&C MEETING	1 P&C MEETING
Th												
Fr	1 New Year's Day			2 Good Friday					3 FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST			
Sa				3 Senior Saturday								
Su				4 Senior Sunday					4 Father's Day			
Mo				5 Senior Monday						6 Labour Day		
Tu												
We												
Th												
Fr		10 P&C MEETING			3 P&C MEETING			4 P&C MEETING		6 P&C MEETING		
Sa												
Su												
Mo					7 MOTHER'S DAY CHOICE BREAKFAST							
Tu					8 Mother's Day							
We						14 Queen's Day						
Th												
Fr												
Sa												
Su												
Mo												
Tu									21 NEW LOCAL GOV'T ELECTIONS			
We												
Th												
Fr			26 WELCOME DRINKS									
Sa												
Su				24 ANZAC Day								29 Xmas Day
Mo												26 Boxing Day
Tu												27 Xmas Day (Observed)
We	24 Anzac Day											28 Boxing Day (Observed)
Th												
Fr												
Sa												
Su												
Mo												
Tu												
We												
Th												
Fr												
Sa												
Su												

LEGEND:

PUBLIC / TERM HOLIDAYS

P&C RELATED EVENTS