



The Dem P&C

Supporting Our School

P&C General Meeting Minutes **Wednesday.11th April 2018**

Meeting held in the library, North Sydney Demonstration School – Commenced at 6:40pm

Present: Myra Wearne (MWP), Laurens Libeton (LL), Brinda Balakrishnan (BB); Meera Gopakumar (MG); David Bond (DBP); Edward Re (ER), Kristen Ring (KR), Allen Furnas (AF); Cintia Mistro (CM); Vanessa Horler (VH); Martina Stima (MS); Oisze Altonaga (OA); Jeb J. Altonaga (JA); Antony Giorgini (AG); Lucy Sarto (LS); Luke McElnea (LM)

1. Apologies: Karen Stuart (KS), Edward (RE)

Chaired by: (DBP) welcomed everyone and thanked the new faces for attending tonight's meeting. (DBP) briefly introduced existing Committee members.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes: (DBP) moved (BB) seconded

3. Principal's Report: (MWP) parent teacher interviews are being conducted this week. Tonight will be one of the busiest nights for interviews. Most teachers will have completed their interviews by Thursday night.

(MWP) advised the continued development of scope for the 3 year strategic Technology Plan/Investment. Including future focus goals, allowing visibility for progressional steps to the student and parents. Collective well being. Such as emotional coaching information for parents. And staff well being. Teachers should still feel fulfilled with the technology they are using in their classroom rather than drained by continually documenting throughout their day.

(JB) Are the older kids using Google search, is that part of wellness?

(MWP) It's about critical thinkers. Google search doesn't have credibility. We aim to teach them to research and validate.

(MWP) need to develop a curriculum for critical teaching and creating digital solutions. Staff will need more access to technology. Need to decide what technology is best. Refer to

Luke and Allen for input. Our staff is ready to go. Just need the correct technology and path for implementation.

(DBP) What constraints are there? Resources, teacher capabilities?

(MWP) We have enough members, support and drive to provide learning. We need the right technology provided.

(DBP) types of resources needs?

(MWP) smart boards, iPads and such all need a clear plan.

(AG) Perhaps we don't purchase and contract the technologies including plans for their maintenance and updates?

(MWP) certainly. Bring your own device as other schools have done....

(AF) what is the objective? How do you measure effectiveness?

(MWP) Making sure of data representation in digital form. Comprehension.

(MS) classroom environment future all tech?

(MWP) probably not. Hard to mark learning.

(MS) what do you do with parents not wanting tech?

(MWP) It's almost like taking away their child's rights. Great things are accessible. They just need to be right.

(AG) are modern apps for Ipads conducive to basic coding?

(MWP) limited. However we also have limits to the amount of PC's available for our school.

(LM) what or who are the drivers to the types of technologies? Parents? Teachers? How does the school decide? Where is that push?

(MWP) Research drives to the technologies. The children are more excited and engaged with learning. We need to strike a balance between time spent learning and the amount of time digitally documenting measurement.

(VH) I enjoyed Mr. Mackie's communication with my son Blake, via video as it gave me a birds eye view with his feedback included. He was already having an interview with Blake. Just pressed the record button and no further digital documentation was needed. His current teacher had also witnessed a golden moment this term and was able to record a video. It was something worth seeing and his teacher passed it on.

(MWP) sort of a shared discussion. Kids love it.

(LS) my kid loves to hear that I am logged in

(LM) the conversation between the parent and child is not happening. However the teacher/child conversation is happening.

(AG) my child brings her homework book home every week. Why can't she bring her exercise books home for documentation purposes? I can see what she is doing by her exercise books and the teachers will not need to complete additional work for documentation.

(VH) I'm sure the teachers would accommodate sending exercise books home upon request.

(MWP) some teachers would love too and others would be concerned of books not returned to class. We need documentation of what is being done in the classroom. We don't want to lose sight of engagement with the child.

(JA) do we host open houses?

(MWP) we have education week. Often open house with open books creates competition between parents.

(DBP) politicians are sending blame home with parents. Ownership and partnership instead. Concern for parents pointing the finger at teachers may be of concern.

(MWP) can of worms. School leadership shuts those concepts down.

(JA) the 10 minute parent/teacher interviews feel rushed. Very little time to dive into your child's progress.

(AF) our books were put out before the conference. Very helpful.

(DBP) final questions

(LM) hardest, scope drive and commitment. Need unanimous support with clear direction and purpose. Will these videos resurface? Keen to hear where the push is from.

(DBP) boils down to understanding why we do what we do.

(MWP) we present it to teachers. They come back anonymous in teams. Some are already driving it.

(AG) what if parents compare their child's tech in class to another child's tech in class. What if it's not the same?

4. President's Report (DBP) thank you to previous P&C committee, Laurens, Vanessa, Ennis, Megan and Harmony day helpers. Events like these couldn't be done without people like them.

(DBP) Chris Kane and Ray White turned out for the Harmony day raffle and bbq. Covering half of costs. Currently in discussions for auctioning of commission of sale. Will advise how it plays out.

(DBP) General strategy and direction. Wants to maintain events including EOYF, K-2 disco, spelling contest and ideally an adult night. Perhaps a comedy show.

(BB) are we doing the mango sale?

(DBP) yes. Make sure we service and do the things we want to do. Find ways to engage parents. These events don't work without parents. See how we can get them involved. Really keeping things rolling.

5. Treasurers report (LS) 1) financials highlights for Quarter 1, 2018:

- Income: \$87,440.37 (down 13.37% from Q1 2017)
- Cost of Sales: \$52,193.60 (up 14.13% from Q1 2017)
- Operating expenses: \$25,819.28 (down 4.14% from Q1 2017)
- Overall net profit for the Quarter: \$9,427.49 (down 66.63% from Q1 2017). Note decrease driven mainly by Uniform Shop sales - Q1 2018 \$34,060.82 vs \$52,034.15 same period 2017.
- Cash balance as at 31 March 2018 is \$147,049.03

(LS) Harmony Fair (Indicative position only- report to be provided next meeting once all costs are in.

(LS) Income: \$17,957.10
Est Cost of sales: \$ 5,500.00
Profit \$12,457.10

- Expected profit is 100% up from last year's Fair which had been adversely affected by rain.
- Raffle ticket income \$4,277.75 (including \$492 on night)-up from \$2,986 prior year.
- Will provide better details once all expenses are inputted in zero.
- Recognize we are working with volunteers which we are appreciative of but going forward want to get in the habit of receiving itemised expense receipts. As a P&C organization, we should want to be transparent and also have clear records for auditors to review.

(LS) harmony fair profit doubled from last year most likely due to rain.

(JA) Why are cost of sale down.

(VH) uniform sales.

(LL) parent contributions are not in full yet.

(LS) need to obtain itemized receipts from volunteers for accounting and budgeting purposes.

(VS) good to know if receipts are being put through for a more accurate budget for next year's Harmony Day Fair.

(DBP) we need to know what the items are. It can be problematic when we are needing to trust what those items are.

(LS) we just need to tighten the process.

(DBP) I fully support.

6. Summary following Northern Sydney District Council meeting (MWP) Mark is not here. Still in progress.

7. Committee updates

7a. Tuckshop (AG) the bill for complete renovation might be covered entirely. Myra will do further investigation. No timeline was advised.

(MWP) the concept drawing has been received and approved. Amount has not been confirmed.

7b. Uniform shop (BB) we received winter stock however we have no storage left to store the uniforms.

(AG) could we use the storage containers?

(LS) any empty cupboards in McHatton building?

(LL) fairly full.

(VH) relocate EOYF temporarily to store uniforms?

(LL) We need to figure out what we want to relocate and how often I'll scope storage tomorrow .

7.c Communication sub-committee -description/proposal (OA) Facebook page has been created with office approval. Unable to remove the existing FB page. Attempting to manually move legit population across to the correct FB page.

(LS) can we mention it in the news letter to clear up any confusion?

(OA) school stream and web page updates are listed as well.

(VH) how are we monitoring comments?

(OA) blocking everything.

(AF) I want to suggest a slight change in approval process for posting. Posted to be created by the poster then sent for authorization approval.

(DBP) Bridgett has put a lot of time and energy into it. She advised happy to step back for a break.

(AF) we are simply adding another channel of communication. Start with one, learn from our mistakes and select additional channels.

(DBP) Email addresses. President's account has been deleted. Use individual name@thedemP&C.

(AF) advise use of google non-for-profit. They will manage your mailing list and allow people to unsubscribe.

(LS) advised it might be better to pay. Otherwise there may be some concern for privacy. You're consenting to what students are researching if they're asked to use Google products.

(DBP) I believe there are different levels and options. Bridgett should be able to provide more information on options.

(OA) Amazon? what do we do about emails?

(AF) we own the domain. We need to have someone host the server. David to get in touch with Bridgett.

7d. Environmental sub-committee (LS) we had a hot summer per council. Most of the plantings did not survive. Looking to focus on one area at a time during each school term. Need volunteers. Council is willing to educate on soil conditioning and planting. Also need volunteers for weeding and clearing the gutters.

(MWP) change of name from working bees to garden club to entice volunteers?

(AO) is there a list of volunteer work that can be distributed at the company I work for?

(MWP) yes. Volunteer work during school and weekends is available. We can get you a list.

(DBP) would an environmental educator who is devoted to regeneration be of some interest? I can put you in touch.

7e. Population Growth/Overcrowding (LL) in contact. Another meeting will be set.

(MWP) we may be down in numbers at this point.

7f. Fundraising (DBP) K-2 disco is typically held in term 3. Looking for an adult event with minimal work. The adult comedy was a well run and contained event in the past. Perhaps an event we can bring back?

(LS) should we consider setting a template for events moving forward? Setting a platform and implementing for the events to be shared amongst the grades.

(DBP) it is feasible to ask among the grades to take control of an event. Would it be on a rotation? Every second year? Alternating with the P&C?

(LS) yes. Just want to make it a habit. Hope to gain additional volunteers and community support within the school.

(DBP) we should give it a go. Look into making contact with potential volunteers from each grade.

(VH) Kristen and Ennis volunteered to run the K-2 disco. Our spellathon last year was absolutely fantastic.

(AG) spellathon participation becomes increasingly difficult as the children get older as they are required to learn more words. Would it be wise to offer an appropriate incentive to the older children?

(LL) depends on your goal. Are we looking to maximize participation or the amount of funds raised?

(VH) the older children are only required to learn twenty words as are the younger children. However they have harder words.

(DBP) Lucy to look into spelling.

7g. Other N/A

8. Events updates (MWP) I was advised the Toll Tunnel talk would not be permitted on school grounds. I'll flick an email to Edward and let him know.

(DBP) mother's day event by a local school requested to borrow folding tables.

(MWP) yes. We should support each other.

(VH) we should mark the tables to help keep track of them.

(MWP) year book. We will need to allocate time for review to get them underway.

Meeting closed 7:45pm.