

Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus

P&C Minutes of General Meeting 3rd December 2018

Attendance recorded in attendance book.

Parents & Carers: Jane Crawford, Suzanne Luburic, Susan Mercer, Cathy McMillan, John Collyer, Ann-Therese King, Eoin Murphy, Robyn Bernstein, Siranda Torvaldsen, Sally Wortley

Staff members: Vince O'Donnell (Relieving Principal), Judy Kelly (College Principal/Relieving Director Inner-City School Strategy), Belinda Conway (Deputy Principal)

Guest: Allecia Khartu (Transdev Sydney - Communications and Community Engagement Specialist)

GENERAL MEETING

Commenced 7.08pm

Welcome given by Jane Crawford to all attending.

1. Apologies

Priscilla Strachan, Jack Hawkes, Kelly Stephens

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting

John Collyer approved minutes from previous meeting, seconded by Eoin Murphy.

3. Matters arising from previous Minutes

a. Dept of Ed review of mobile devices

- i. No changes to current mobile policy.
- ii. Vince addressed parent regarding laptop use - laptop use is continually being monitored, including monitoring data by technical support officer. The school has a tight BYOD policy. Teachers have management strategies to make sure kids are using device for class work, eg. arrange seating so teacher can see screens, look at how students are using device - how keyboard is being used, concentration levels etc.

4. Reports

a. Principal's Report (Vince O'Donnell, Relieving Principal)

i. General Report

- Well done to the P&C 'Comedy for a Cause' event, I thought it was great.
- Student Strike in relation to Climate Change on November 30th presented some challenges, but, thanks to John Collyer for the early heads up.
 - Parents commented on how well the school handled the strike, advising the students to have a conversation with parents and have permission. It was empowering for students hearing their peers from different schools speak so well.
- Thanks to all the P&C for your hard work this year and kindness towards me as I have relieved in the Principal's role.

i. Staffing Update

- I have offered the HT Math position to the recommended applicant, it is still within the 10 day appeals period, but this is positive news for our Campus.
- James McCue (Math) and Andy Calvert (English) will be moving permanently to the Blackwattle Bay Campus. Therefore, we will need to fill their positions. Anna Letsios, our Careers Adviser will be moving across to Blackwattle Bay Campus in a temporary role in 2019.
- We have created a new Head Teacher Learning and Enhancement role for 2019 in a temporary status. Cheryl Ellis will be fulfilling this role. It will have a focus on predominantly co-ordinating the schools learning and support and enhancement

teams which has a focus on supporting students with additional learning needs. But, the role will also look at high potential learners.

ii. **Recent Events**

- Year 10 exams in 'week 5' Tues Nov 13th-Fri Nov 16th
- P&C 'Comedy for a Cause' Saturday Nov 17th fundraiser
- Year 10 drama night Nov 20th
- College Wellbeing Parent Evening Wed Nov 21st
 - Positive feedback from parents at meeting, highlighting that it was beneficial to all stages of learning
- Duke of Ed Bronze trip Nov 22nd/23rd
- 'Days at High School' and 'Taster Week' in 'week 7' last week starting Mon Nov 26th

iii. **Future Events**

- Year 7 2019 Orientation Day will be Dec 4th
- Year 10 farewell assembly Wed 5th Dec
- Year 7 Learning fair Thurs 6th Dec/Fri 7th Dec
- Year 10 recognition ceremony Mon Dec 10th
- Years 7-9 recognition ceremony Wed Dec 12th
- Market Day and Talent Quest Fri Dec 14th
- December 19th is the last day for students

b. **College Principal's Report (Judy Kelly)**

i. **Inner Sydney High School**

- This project involves the redevelopment of the Department of Education's site that previously accommodated Cleveland Street Intensive English High School.
- Fully comprehensive Years 7-12, with 1200 student capacity
- Tight site using existing heritage building plus modern 14-15 storey building.
- Will take the pressure of SSC Leichhardt/Balmain/Blackwattle Bay, SSC Rose Bay, Randwick Boys/Girls and Alexandria Park
- Sydney Secondary College (Leichhardt/Balmain/Blackwattle Bay)
 - 2019 Blackwattle enrolment - 850 students. With a capacity of 700, staff have been working on using learning spaces in different ways to keep demountables to a minimum.
 - Balmain - nearly 800 students, Leichhardt - 930 students
 - Judy is very proud of the success and growth of SSC, acknowledging the impressive students at Blackwattle Taster Week for 2019 Year 11. Judy reflected on the time that inner city schools were getting closed down, with a perception that there wasn't a need for public schools. Blackwattle, built in the 70s, future-proofed, great senior campus with lots of open flexible learning space, as well as discreet learning areas. Balmain and Leichhardt moving in the same direction.
 - The issue of boundaries will be constantly monitored between the junior campuses by the Department.
- Principal of Inner Sydney High School - Robyn Matthews (Principal of South Sydney High School for the last 6 years, (other executive experience includes role of Deputy Principal at SSC Leichhardt and Balmain. The College looks forward to a positive relationship with new school.
- Parent enquired about Lindfield Learning Village. Judy Kelly to follow up query with Department.

ii. **Fish Market redevelopment - impact on Blackwattle Bay Campus**

- Developers have presented plans to Jan Cuke (Acting Principal) and NSW Schools Infrastructure.
- Plans show redevelopment will come out further into the bay than what the concrete works does.
- No other impact other than construction noise known at this stage.

- Blackwattle executive pointed out their everyday needs for a good learning environment. And asked for improved landscaping to improve separation of public and school campus boundary.
 - Jane Crawford commented that as this is such an important issue, a City of Sydney Landscaper and Project Manager need to be involved as well in finding the best possible solution for the school. Judy Kelly advised that this could be further discussed at Blackwattle P&C meeting next year.
- Construction planned to start mid 2019.
- Noise issue is being addressed.
 - Air conditioning - possible option, similar to situation at Leichhardt campus.
 - It was discussed that P&Cs of junior campuses should also lobby for solutions to noise etc. as their children will also be affected once they reach the Senior Campus.
- iii. **Westconnex/feedback from Balmain Campus P&C**
 Our power as a College should address the impact of WestConnex.
Action: Judy Kelly to reinstate term meetings for P&C presidents from each campus to get together early 2019. Good for sharing knowledge and skill sets, and will keep P&Cs informed of what is happening in other campuses.
- c. **New Deputy Principal (Belinda Conway)**
 Belinda introduced herself to P&C. Apologies for not able to make it sooner to a meeting. It's been a great 2 months so far. And thanked the P&C for a wonderful welcome into a great community.
- b. **President's Report (Jane Crawford)**
 - i. Jamie Parker MP requesting the opportunity to meet with P&C to discuss funding opportunities
 - What are our plans and objectives for 2019?
 - Keen to help us get grants for the school, in particular how the school presents to the local community.**ACTION:** Jamie Parker to attend meeting March 4th - TBA
 - Jane referred to 2 stand alone projects - the entry from the hall from Derbyshire Rd, and improve Balmain Rd entrance forecourt.
 - ii. **President position**
 If anyone would like to takeover President's role that would be most welcome as that would allow Jane to dedicate much more time to the Masterplan, and stand alone projects.
 - iii. **Air Quality Sensor (Jane Crawford)**
 - Still in progress. Mark Swaddling has been in contact.
 - Before going ahead with installation, Jane is following up another opportunity with Sydney University.**Action:** Sally Wortley offered to look into Sydney University option, liaising with Jane.
 - iv. Outgoing Secretary, Robyn Bernstein was thanked for her contribution to the P&C, and is in the process of handing over to Assistant Secretary Eoin Murphy.
 - v. Fundraiser was a great success!
- c. **Treasurer's Report (Jack Hawkes)**
 - i. **P&C Account Balance:** \$102,796.47
 - Expenses: None
 - Committed funds: \$63,270.00
 - Uncommitted: \$39,526.47 (includes Fundraising deposits)
 - ii. **Fundraising deposits**
 - \$2,418.97 (Comedy Night Ticket Sales),

- \$492.00 (Comedy Night Raffle)
 - \$820.00 (Donations from parents/community)
 - iii. **Lostock Account Balance:** \$9,244.77
 - Income: \$540.00 (Accommodation)
 - Expenses: \$265.39 (Origin Energy)
 - iv. **Westpac Account Balance:** \$130.30
- d. **Secretary's Report** (Robyn Bernstein - outgoing Secretary)
 Robyn thanked the P&C and school Executives for their support throughout the year. It was a pleasure to work with such a dedicated group of parents and staff.
- e. **Lostock Report** Nothing to report

5. General Business

- a. **Tramsheds Update** (Judy Kelly)
 A section of Tramsheds that the school thought had been offered to them for extra parking, has been allocated to another (unknown) organisation.
- i. This could have safety repercussions and potential obstacles to school improvements and use of Tramsheds in the future.
 - ii. Jamie Parker has been an enthusiastic advocate for the school to use this piece of land for parking. P&C agreed that if we wait until March to discuss the loss of this space it could be too late.
 - iii. **Action:** Ann-Therese King proposed a motion that P&C President write a letter to Jamie Parker after this meeting saying: could he please look into this, we are very concerned, bewildered and confused. We have only just been made aware of this, and we have not been told who is going to use this bit of land adjacent to school grounds. Seconded by John Collyer. Ann-Therese to draft letter.
- b. **What is planned for the school's maintenance program for next year?**
 Vince to follow up in light of Jamie Parker's offer to help with applying for school grants.
- c. **Future proof Leichhardt Campus**
 Judy Kelly addressed a question from Jane Crawford regarding steps towards creating a flexible outdoor learning space. If an area of the school is identified as a potential external learning space how would the P&C go about approaching the Department for support/funding to help future proof campus?
- i. Blackwattle 'future proofed' learning spaces are internal.
 - ii. External learning spaces have to be weatherproof, covered for sun and rain.
 - iii. External leisure spaces are crucial, to play, socialise, relax etc.
 - iv. Judy's recommendation was to first consult/discuss with school community, then with Director of the school, followed by NSW Schools Infrastructure.
 - v. There would have to be a strong reason behind developing a new learning space for the Department to support - the focus being, why educationally do we want it for generations of students? The school has lots of good reasons, it just needs to be presented well.
- d. **P&C Annual contribution to Year 10 Dux Prize**
Action: Robyn Bernstein proposed a motion for P&C to contribute \$300 for Year 10 Dux prize (\$200 for 1st prize, \$100 for runner up) for next year's Presentation Day. Seconded by John Collyer.

e. Fundraising 2019

Ann-Therese King has offered to coordinate Trivia Night 2019 to be held sometime at the end of August (tbc), but only if there is a sub-committee of 4-6 people to support her.

f. Interschools Snowsports 2019 - July school holidays (Siranda Torvaldsen)

For a student to compete the school need to be registered. This can be done by either the school or a parent volunteer.

- i. Teams and individuals compete in their school divisions:

Division 1 Year 11 & 12, **Division 2** Year 9 & 10, **Division 3** Year 7 & 8

If the College was registered and there was enough interest a team could be formed combining kids from Balmain and Leichhardt.

- ii. The school wouldn't have to do anything, except perhaps put it in Newsletter.
- iii. Siranda would coordinate registration but would not be responsible for the kids. Kids would go down with their own parents or carer.
- iv. **Action:** Siranda will send Judy Kelly a link with all the information for Judy to present at Principal's meeting.

g. Staff photos

A parent ask if there could be staff photos published somewhere like Sentral to help with knowing who your child's teacher was. Judy Kelly addressed this question, that as with children, privacy is an issue. Vince said he will follow up staff.

h. Transdev Sydney (Allecia Khartu - Communications and Community Engagement Specialist)

Allecia Khartu introduced herself to P&C. Transdev Sydney operates and maintains Inner West Light Rail working in partnership with Transport for NSW. Transdev Sydney would like to work in partnership with schools along their route to improve Light Rail service and safety.

6. Next Meeting: Monday 4th February 2019 at 7.30pm in the common staffroom (after 6pm 'welcome BBQ' for new parents and carers).

Amendment: This date has been changed since last meeting from 11th Feb to 4th Feb 2019.

7. Annual General Meeting (AGM): Monday 4th March at 7pm in the common staffroom.

8. Meeting closed 8.50pm