

Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus

P&C Minutes of General Meeting 5th November 2018

Attendance recorded in attendance book.

Parents & Carers: Jane Crawford, Priscilla Strachan, Susan Mercer, Jill Jeremy, Anna Cowley, Siranda Torvaldsen, John Collyer, Suzanne Luburic, Ann-Therese King, Eoin Murphy, Kelly Stephens, Anna Cody, Wendy Richardson, Jack Hawkes

Staff members: Vince O'Donnell (Relieving Principal)

GENERAL MEETING

Commenced 7.05pm.

Welcome given by Jane Crawford to all attending. Special welcome to Jill Jeremy and Anna Cowley - parents of primary school children visiting meeting to gain some insight of the school.

1. Apologies

Judy Kelly (College Principal/Relieving Director Inner-City School Strategy), Belinda Conway (new Deputy Principal), Alex Munroe, Sarah Foster, Cathy McMillan,

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting

John Collyer proposed a motion to approve minutes from previous meeting, seconded by Siranda Torvaldsen.

3. Matters arising from previous Minutes

a. NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Westconnex Project (J Crawford/A-T King)

P&C President and Vice President (Ann-Therese King) were among the P&C's asked to address the NSW Senate Public Accountability Inquiry into Westconnex and its Impacts. They spoke mainly on the poor risk assessment and cost assessment processes that resulted in a preferred dive site nomination effectively at a school. Air quality, mainline tunnels underneath school, and traffic between campuses and to-and-from school during construction, were other impacts that arose in the course of questioning.

- i. Jane and Ann-Therese agreed addressing the NSW Senate was a "satisfying experience". It was good to make the most of an opportunity to voice the schools experience - the unnecessary negative impacts, the process, and the confusing message it gave students regarding their education and State Government priorities.
- ii. A parent noted that our presence at the Inquiry shows that the P&C isn't a pushover.
- iii. The P&C acknowledged the enormous amount of work that Ann-Therese has put in and also thanked Jane for her support.

b. Air Quality Sensor - electrician's quote (Jane Crawford)

- i. An outdoor powerpoint is needed for the installation of Air Quality Sensor (see September minutes).
- ii. Jack Hawkes (Treasurer) has installed one outside his home.
 - o Air Quality Sensor: <https://luftdaten.info/en/home-en>
- iii. **Action:** John Collyer proposed a motion that the P&C commit up to \$200.00 for the installation of outdoor powerpoint needed for Air Quality Sensor, seconded by Siranda Torvaldsen.
 - o Jane to follow up 3 quotes for electrical work. Vince suggested Mark Swaddling might be able to help.

4. Reports

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

i. General Report

- School has promoted the P&C 'Comedy For a Cause' fundraising event.
- Thanks to Robyn Bernstein for being the parent representative on the HT Math panel, applications close Wednesday 7th Nov.

ii. Staffing Update

- Melinda Bright has taken an opportunity to relieve as Rose Bay Secondary College Principal in term 4, her commitment is for term 4 only at this stage.
- Judy Kelly has returned to her role as College Principal while still managing role of Director of Inner-City Strategy. Judy can address Inner Sydney High School developments at future meeting.
- Belinda Conway, Deputy Principal has started this term, she would be happy to attend a P&C meeting to introduce herself. Thank you to Vanessa Palfreeman for being the parent representative on the Deputy Principal panel.
- Cross Campus teaching at Blackwattle Bay, at this stage Liz Jones and Sophia Gois will be teaching a class each. Lawrence Furlong will be doing a one year stint. We will have other staff moving permanently due to growth of student numbers.

iii. Recent Events

- Primarily Fun and Music in the Park Saturday September 8th
- Duke of Ed Bronze first journey Thursday Sept 6th
- Year 10 Geography Coastal Excursion Monday Sept 10th
- R U OK day Thurs Sept 13th
- School Production Performances Wed Sept 12th, Thurs Sept 13th, Fri Sept 14th (6pm-9pm)
- Work experience -Year 10, the week of Mon Sept 17th - Fri Sept 21st
- Raise Mentoring Graduation event Thurs Sept 20th
- ACCORD presentations-Year 9 - 24th September, very impressive
- Duke of Ed Silver trip Wed 26th
- Year 12 Graduation Fri Sept 28th
- Orange Grove Cultural Day occurred Oct 17th
- UTS Literacy Workshops for Aboriginal students Oct 18th/19th
- Year 9 exams Oct 22nd and 23rd
- Aboriginal students transition support for year 6 into 7 and year 10 into 11
- Invictus Games excursion Oct 26th
- Extended Professional Learning occurred for staff Wed Oct 31st
- Duke of Ed trip Wed 31st Oct to Nov 2nd
- Support Unit students transition occurred Thurs 1st Nov
- Selective School Presentation for prospective students, morning (Nov 5th) and afternoon (Nov 7th), thanks to Jane Crawford for helping out on short notice.

iv. Future 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
- Duke of Ed Bronze trip Nov 22nd/23rd
- 'Days at High School' and 'Taster Week' in 'week 7' the week starting Mon Nov 26th
- Year 7 2019 Orientation Day will be Dec 4th (Day after next P&C Meeting)

v. Vince addressed parent questions

- Do Years 9 and 10 sit more formal exams compared to years 7/8?

- Yes. The school is phasing in HSC type of environment to help prepare students for later years and developing strategies to keep Year 10 students engaged till the end of school year transitioning to Blackwattle Stage 6 work.
 - Regarding changes to Accord Elective - who collates, reads, assesses feedback?
 - Emily O’Connell (HT Teaching/Learning, Accord teacher), Stephanie Ward (Y9 Accord), Sunny South (library).
 - Vince addressed the direction of learning as a school - moving towards the 4Cs (Critical thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, Communication), and what is driving the change.
 - One of the traps in inquiry based learning (Accord) is that if it’s too loose the students will go off in different tangents, there needs to be some sort of guidance in what the students need to do.
 - Accord is changing to be more about the journey of the process. Sometimes kids can fall short with final product, but their research and all their processes can actually show great critical thinking and creativity. This has resulted in a more guided approach to project based learning.

b. President’s Report (Jane Crawford)

- i. Jane gave Cathy McMillan an “enormous thank you” for completing the 2017 Audit. No small task, Cathy did an amazing job!
Action: Jane to follow up administration that is required now that Audit has been completed, including rejoining P&C Federation, re-establishing insurance, charity status.
- ii. If any parent is interested in being a P&C parent representative on a staff selection panel contact Jane.

c. Treasurer’s Report Jonathan (Jack) Hawkes

- i. **P&C contributions:** \$26,544.50 has been transferred from school account into main P&C Account.
- ii. **P&C Account balance:** \$99,065.50
 - Deposit: \$26,544.50 from SSCL
 - Expenses: None
 - Committed funds: \$63,270.00
 - Uncommitted: \$35,795.50
- iii. **Lostock Account balance:** \$9,139.16
 - Income: \$210.00 accommodation fees
 - Deposit: \$500.00 SSCL P&C contribution
 - Expenses: None
- iv. **Westpac Account Balance:** \$130.26
Jonathan Hawkes will contact those required to approve the closure of the Westpac Account

d. Secretary’s Report

We received an email from Balmain P&C inviting us to their Fundraiser “The Grateful Dad’s” and asked if we were in a position to promote their event via our communication channels.

- i. As it is on the day before ours, and that tickets sales to our fundraiser are low the P&C agreed that unfortunately we couldn’t to avoid confusion.
ACTION: Jane will email Balmain P&C to explain that regrettably, given the timing

of events, and low ticket sales at time of discussion we can't email their invitation for this particular event due to the potential confusion it could cause. We really appreciate Balmain reaching out to us and agree that there is plenty of scope for us all to broaden our reaches.

e. Event Coordinator's Report (Priscilla Strachan)

- i. "Comedy For a Cause" fundraiser is going to be a great night. More tickets need to be sold. 45 sold so far.
- ii. If people can't come they can make a voluntary contribution into P&C Account.
Action: email to be sent with P&C account details
- iii. Raffle being organised for Comedy Night.
- iv. Priscilla was thanked for coordinating "Comedy For a Cause".

f. Lostock Report Nothing to report

5. General Business

a. School Policy regarding banners on school perimeter fencing for supporters of the school - No advertising on school fence, supporters of school get acknowledged in School Newsletter and/or similar.

b. Mobile phone use by students in the classroom

A parent voiced concerns about mobile phone use in classrooms - distracting for other kids in the class and used as a cheating device.

- i. Vince addressed this issue. Mobile phone use reduced since school went 100% BYOD (no need for a mobile to be out of students bag). Mobile use in classroom is not high on list of behavioural issues reported by teachers, but is continually being monitored, including monitoring data. Teachers are not reporting problems addressed by parent. The school is focused on positive behaviour, teaching kids to be responsible - not banning phones at school.
- ii. Vince has observed less kids on device at recess and lunch. David Springbett's initiative of device free times is having a positive effect, less than expected pushback.

c. Western Harbour Tunnel Submissions noting implications for local area traffic including Tigers Dive Site (Ann-Therese King)

Western Harbour Tunnel submissions close Nov 9 with possible extension until Dec 1. This project involves a dive site at the former Tigers site on Victoria Road Rozelle, so further major traffic impacts for the area, though particularly affecting Balmain campus students' travel and travel between campuses. **Action:** Leichhardt P&C will not put in a submission; individual parents can choose whether they wish to.

d. Instrumental Music Program (IMP)

A parent complimented IMPs performance at recent Summer Hill Fair "they were amazing". Vince mentioned IMPs involvement in ABC ME (Kids) NYE TV show prior to 9pm Fireworks. They will be spending a day recording at ABC - very exciting and great honour!

e. Staff funding requests

With only one meeting left for the year, and a comfortable bank balance - members of staff could attend next meeting if they have any requests.

6. Next Meeting: Monday 3rd December 2018 at 7.00pm in the common staffroom - last meeting of the year.

7. Meeting closed 8.25pm