

Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus

P&C Minutes of General Meeting 4th February 2019

Attendance recorded in attendance book.

Parents & Carers: Jane Crawford, Cathy McMillan, John Collyer, Ann-Therese King, Eoin Murphy, Siranda Torvaldsen, Jack Hawkes, Ruth Lamaro, Sharon Stern, Sally Curtis, Claire Nichols, Susan Mercer, Kim Bluett, Emma Talbot, Ola Roberts, Carol Wallace, Belinda Button, Amanda (Scuba) Stackpool, Tim Stackpool, Jacqui Bolt, Genevieve Gardner, Kristina Resanceff, Emma Dixon, Stuart Dixon, Stephen Hughes, Martin Graham, Lourdes Blanco Gago, Gianina Olaro

Staff members: Melinda Bright (Principal), Judy Kelly (College Principal)

GENERAL MEETING

Commenced 7.35pm

Welcome given by Jane Crawford to all attending.

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Jane Crawford approved minutes from previous meeting, seconded by Eoin Murphy.

2. Matters arising from previous Minutes

a. Use of Tramsheds for school parking (Melinda Bright)

- i. Currently in discussion with NSW Police Property Manager - looks like we will get access for a token \$1 payment
- ii. Can be terminated with 2 weeks notice
- iii. School may be liable for fence maintenance
- iv. *Parent question: In the longer term could all or part of the current carpark be used for something else? Probably not*
- v. Thanks to Anne Therese for taking action on this, and immediately writing to Jamie Parker.
- vi. Jamie Parker is scheduled to attend the next P&C meeting. As we are in an election period, we can not have any political advertising, nor can any politician visit the school until after the election. He can be met offsite though.

b. Annual Fundraiser - Trivia Night (Ann-Therese King)

- i. Separate meeting to discuss and set up subcommittee - Monday 11th March 7pm
- ii. August 31st for the event. Usually held in hall. 2 years ago made \$20k
- iii. Need a good PA system.
- iv. Can talk more about guest performers..

c. Interschool Snow Sports 2019 (Siranda Torvaldsen)

- i. The main Interschool event for Sydney students is in Thredbo this year (it alternates between Thredbo and Perisher) in the second week of the July school holidays. Accommodation in Thredbo in the July school holidays is

very expensive, and all the reasonable accommodation had already been booked prior to Christmas. Hence it is thought to be unlikely that many parents would be interested, given the exorbitant costs.

- ii. There is an alternative event, The Amelia McGuinness Memorial Time Trials, in Perisher later in the year (August) at Perisher, which Siranda thought would give a similar experience at a much lower cost.
- iii. Siranda would go, a staff member would not be required. The school would just have to sign a statement to say that the student is enrolled at Sydney Secondary College.
- iv. The school will register to College with NSW Interschools once Siranda confirms that she will be attending the event.

d. Air Quality Sensors (Jane Crawford)

- i. Jane to speak to Mark Swadling, get quote for him to install

e. P&C Plans and Objectives 2019 (Jane Crawford)

- i. Partly prompted by Jamie Parker asked about this in late 2018
- ii. Rather than only responding to ad hoc funding requests, do we want to be more strategic? How should we best spend funds?
- iii. The P&C requested Melinda to ask the teachers and support staff what ideas they have for best use of P&C funds? including improvements to school infrastructure. It is important that teachers feel free to make suggestions without the onus of having to be the person to instigate and deliver such a project.

3. Reports

a. Principal's Report (Melinda Bright, Principal)

i. General Report

- Melinda very excited to be back
- Thanks to Vince O'Donnell for acting as relieving Principal while she was away, and Sally Bury also
- Year 7 start has been fantastic
- Facilities update include:
 - painting upstairs B block
 - entry to school
 - staff toilets (long awaited)
 - still some air con issues being sorted out
- Enrolments currently 940, 235 year 7, 5 vacancies (buffer) - must confirm with Department of Education by Feb 7

ii. Staffing Update

- New Head Teacher Maths - Mahmut Yanar
- Charbel Rahmi - HSIE - Commerce/Geography
- Kristina Fero temp .Science faculty
- Current vacancies include Maths (departure James McCue), English (departure Andy Calvert), Science, TAS (departure Jenny Donald)

- iii. **Future Events**
 - o Presentation Day Friday Feb 8th

- b. **President's Report (Jane Crawford)**
 - i. Nothing to report

- c. **Treasurer's Report (Jack Hawkes)**
 - i. **P&C Account balance: \$102,796.47**
 - o Deposit: \$279.00 from Trivia Night
 - o Expenses: None
 - o Committed funds: \$63,270.00
 - o Uncommitted: \$ 39,805.47

 - ii. **Lostock Account balance: \$9,244.77**
 - o Income: \$1430.00 accommodation fees
 - o Expenses: None

 - iii. **Westpac Account Balance: \$130.26**
Jonathan Hawkes will contact those required to approve the closure of the Westpac Account.

 - iv. **Review of Commitment Register** There is \$39k of commitments which is made up of 18 expenses. This includes commitments extending back to 2016. A Review by the executive would determine which can be updated. Next step Jack to send through to Melinda for first review.

 - v. **Process for expenses and expenditure** In the future it would be beneficial if there was a documented process for school staff and P&C members to be able to follow to reconcile invoices and claim expenses. Jack to work with School Admin team.

 - vi. **Audit process** Needs discussion. Cathy McMillan has offered to do it again this year. Must be completed within 30 days of AGM.

 - vii. **Lostock** there are significant expenses (replacement of septic tank) in the near future. Melinda to discuss with appropriate personnel in Department.

- d. **Secretary's Report (Eoin Murphy - Assistant Secretary)**
 - i. Nothing to report, but It was advised that an Annual P&C Membership contribution is required of not less than 50c per member.

- e. **West Connex Report (Ann-Therese King)**
 - i. P&C was invited to send a representative last year to meetings of WestConnex Community Reference Group (WCRG). There were 4 meetings in the evenings. This group includes reps from RMS, Planning Dept, ERA, Inner West Council, community groups and other P&Cs.

- ii. Mainline Tunnels ARE going under the school – in fact, it has emerged that 2 phases (part A & Part B) of Westconnex Stage 3 project meet under our high school in what is called the Inner West Interchange (as distinct from Rozelle Interchange), with tunnel spurs supposedly between 38m and 40m depth underground, whilst other depths for several mainline tunnels are deeper.
- iii. Contractor for Part A came on board late last year and responded positively to community's requests to attend WCRG. RMS will request that new contractor for Part B should be at ref group this year too.
- iv. There will be 8 meetings (WCRG 1 and WCRG 2) that P&C will potentially attend this year as we are the only group affected by both phases of the project. All other groups will attend 4 meetings of one of these groups.
- v. P&C Westconnex liaison officer Ann-Therese to give bigger update in March meeting.
- vi. Tunnelling under the school probably won't take place until Q1 20120 (part A), towards the end of Part A.
- vii. RMS must approach school/Dept Ed 3 months before tunnelling to give appropriate notification including of compulsory acquisition of subsoil and offer a property assessment report. It is reasonable to assume that drilling will occur 3-5 months from that notification.
- viii. Melinda Bright – School will commission a second independent assessment/report to ensure quality and appropriate corroboration. Stage 3 has an Independent Complaints Assessor unlike Stage 2 (if contractor denies they are responsible for any property damage).
- ix. RMS currently saying that tunnelling noise and vibrations will have "virtually no impact" on the school due to the depths. But given work will take place at least 4 times under the school over a 2 year period (2 initial tunnelling i.e. for each phase, plus 2 fit-outs, it is reasonable for the school community to place and keep the issue of avoiding any disruptions firmly in RMS and contractor gaze. Westconnex rep will focus on pinning down detail on depths and noise histories elsewhere, plus protocols for ensuring appropriate procedures in place to ensure NO noise or vibrations affect the school in school hours, and that they are clear that it is not in anyone's interests if every i and t not dotted and crossed in relation to ensuring this and establishing appropriate communication lines with the principal.

4. General Business

- a. **Parent asked about Mobile Phone Policy particularly in relation to Yr 7's using phones rather than making real connections (Melinda Bright responded)**
 - i. Usage declines over the year as most kids get used to it
 - ii. No device free recess organised this year- will do it again this year probably. Was a pilot. Should get feedback
 - iii. A few weeks of grace at the moment
 - iv. School tends not to ban things, but set expectations about use

5. **Next Meeting:** Annual General Meeting (AGM), followed by the usual general meeting:
Monday 4th March at 7pm in the common staffroom.

6. **Meeting closed** 8.45pm

