

MINUTES

Woonona Public School P&C Association General Meeting

Wednesday 12 May 2021 | Chair: Justin Dixon (President)
Location: WPS Staff Room and online via Zoom | Time: 18.30 – 20.00

In Attendance

Justin Dixon (JD) | Terri Toneguzzo (TT) | Janelle Hickey (JH) | Sonya Kinsey (SK) | Bronwyn Sedgwick (BS)
| Loren Marsh (LM) | Angelina Wachs | Hayley Banzon (HB) | Amanda Bleeker (AB) | Tim Fisher (TF)

Apologies

Kristy Smith

Acknowledgement of Country

Welcome, Introduction, Apologies and Acknowledgment of Country (JD)

“We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands we are meeting on today (the Wodi Wodi people and the Dharawal nation), and pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Elders past and present, and their rich and diverse cultures.”

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the 10 March 2021 meeting were approved by JD and JH.

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

Banking

TT: Still to add SK, KS and JH as signatories to Westpac account and close CBA accounts.

Mother's Day Stall

BS advised the Mother's Day stall a success, with all stock sold out and profit of \$4,454.15 made.

TT advised there is storage available for the P&C if extra stock is purchased so that we are able to promise two gifts per child going forward.

Grant Applications

JD noted that in respect of grant applications for the school, some work was put into applying for a NSW sport grant which proved to be difficult. JD encouraged everyone to keep an eye out for more grant opportunities.

TF noted that an \$11K grant was obtained for STEM project that has now started. Holly Vella had taken on the community to school STEM challenge application and was successful – this was found out a few days ago.

Protocol for communication of P&C messages to the WPS community

JH has actioned week by week on Facebook.

The school has also been putting out a run, week by week, of upcoming events with a weekly timetable issued. For example, messages around NAPLAN, mindfulness program, reminders of sports uniform days etc.

It was noted this item had now been actioned.

Reports

President

JD said the Committee had started to get organized with the agendas and minutes, acknowledging roles of SK and JH and noting we have a fully subscribed committee.

JD acknowledged the role of TT with the uniform shop, noting the second-hand uniform sale was a success. Some clothes racks had been able to be obtained for use and stored in the P&C storage cupboard.

It was noted that the uniform shop was something that the school community values, per a survey from 2 years ago.

JD acknowledged the Mother's Day stall and hot cross bun sale and the efforts of LM and BS in making this happen.

JD noted the P&C meet and greet had to be rescheduled due to COVID but we are looking forward to being able to engage with the wider school community including through some future events – this was a key theme from all of us.

JD said that the Committee met in between meetings to get together and discuss how we want to work to ensure alignment on and that we want to be clear on priorities and what we want to focus on, which is primarily supporting the school and through consultation with TF, for example, supporting school initiatives and directions such as the school's Strategic Plan. At this meeting the Committee discussed issues we see and potential uniform change proposals whereby there were different views on this as to whether we should or shouldn't look at changing the school uniform. JD noted we have put this on hold until we have a clearer picture of what this might look like.

Regarding ramp access, JD encouraged the community to lobby local members, talk to people we know etc and asked TF if these efforts have come to anything as yet. TF said no, however Ryan was aware of it and supportive; has backed a couple of grants we went for and that TF was also happy to support this.

JD said he wants to make sure meetings are productive; we stick to the agenda and if we have time, we can discuss other things.

Principal

TF thanked JD for being a representative on the selection panel for the school's new assistant principal, for which Rachel Brown has now been engaged. TF is looking at getting feedback from Rachel from an "outside" perspective specifically over the next month.

Parent teacher interviews went well and we had a good response. The main feedback received has been that it was nice to be able to meet teachers face to face.

TF mentioned the various events that have occurred since our last meeting in March, including Easter, Anzac Day, Harmony Day etc and thanked those involved. With COVID, some things have tightened up again but haven't dramatically changed things for us at the school, noting perhaps there may be more impacts if there had been large gatherings planned etc. We have been able to commence a bit more (post COVID) including sports, arts, debating team, kids involved in lots of academic activities; they have been able to book excursions again (eg Kindergarten excursion to the farm); Stage 3 will be going away to camp.

TF noted that NAPLAN started yesterday and will continue to Wednesday next week including 4 tests - reading, writing, language and numeracy. Will receive the results in a few months' time and will congratulate all involved students on their efforts.

TF then moved to specifically talk through the School's 2021 – 2014 Strategic Improvement Plan. TF explained that the purpose of the Plan was about improving and being the best we can be from now to 2024 from the curriculum delivery to the quality of the teaching. There are milestones that sit behind the Plan to check we are on track. The preparation of the Plan was a 9-month project, starting with a situational analysis whereby data was pulled from various sources including NAPLAN results, "check in" assessments, attendance and behavioural data, surveys from staff and parents about what we are doing well/not doing well etc.

The plan consists of 3 strategic directions:

1. *Student Growth and Attainment*

- This is given to us by the Department of Education and is essentially what the Department considers the school is capable of
- Some key aspects include a target of 12% uplift in students achieving in the top two bands in NAPLAN reading and 18% uplift in numeracy, by 2022 thereby numeracy being a key focus. 11% uplift and 22% uplift targeted for 2023 respectively.
- Improvement of attendance is also a key improvement sought, with a 6% uplift targeted from a current 90% attendance rate. TF noted the school currently has 94% attendance rate, however there are approx. 50 children under the 90% attendance rate. This equates to missing more than 1 day a fortnight which across the duration of a child's school life, equates to missing 1.5 years of school. TF noted some of these absences are justified, with serious illness as an example, however the school was working to try to get shifts in attendance with some students. JH asked if the data of absence includes partial day absence to which TF advised that no, it is only whole day absences that are counted. TF noted the attendance rate had improved since 2020 due to lack of ability for families to travel and therefore missing parts of the school term. TF said it was about raising awareness.
- Effective classroom practice and data skills and use was about improving ability and results in class.
- TF noted the school gets judged against the School Excellence Framework which is available to the public (can be found online) with the relevant measures including "sustaining or growing" and "excelling". TF said our school has been measured as having 5 areas excelling, 5 areas sustaining or growing and that there are some areas that require improvement. Everything else should align with growth.

2. Strategic, differentiated and inclusive curriculum

- New policy for high potential and gifted students, making sure kids are catered for with one on one and small group engagements; identifying children who need extension work
- learning support team in place

3. Life long learners

- Focus teams created - every teacher involved, led by Assistant Principal.
- Maths, English, High Potential and Gifted and Learner Dispositions.
- Gifted Education and thoughts about how we are going to lead it.
- The teams in place are currently working independently, then the plan is to roll out professional learning to build capacity of everyone else.
- AB in charge of Learner Dispositions. This is going to overarch everything we do in the school. AB explained in building capacity there is to be a spiral of enquiry and the school would be looking to tap into P&C to promote this in the school community with respect to these learner qualities and the transparency of those to ensure we understand what this is. Once this gathered data is analysed, a framework will be developed and then presented to the P&C for feedback, including core practices and an effective dialogue.
- Next year there will be a shift to soft launches, mascots, graphic designers and launch days spanning over 2 years. The P&C's contribution value will be to promote and launch these days. By 2024 we are looking for it to be embedded in the school curriculum.
- TF said that reports show that these learner dispositions influence a child's success in both school and life in general. Examples of these dispositions including building resilience and collaboration. These impact classrooms and every key area. We are hoping these dispositions will be able to flow through with children being able to identify and articulate these dispositions in the things they are doing on a daily basis.
- AB mentioned costumes and signage that would be involved to demonstrate visible learning and to build the connection between parents and the school.
- TT asked in respect of STEM and gifted program that it seems to be a targeted group, noting it would assist if it was communicated to everyone that these things are going on, even for students who are not included, for example, communicating the criteria for selection. TF said they could look at ways of communicating this. TF explained there are lots of programs within the school including reading recovery for targeted intervention, enrichment program - 2 hours per week, targeted year groups with trained gifted education teacher, funds provided to kids impacted by COVID, etc. JD suggested this be included as a standard agenda item. AB noted the focus group is about growth, with the focus being where there is no traction or movement by the student at an individual level with an aim to ensure each student achieves optimum growth and reaches their potential. TF said he was happy to share insights and provide updates.
- JD noted with school reports that some of the terminology and messaging isn't clear, asking whether there might be a way to better engage parents with the messaging. TF said he has spoken to parents about practical methods such as a workshop on maths for parents. A positive response has been received for this idea. Various attendees noted the school has a highly engaged parent community and would be keen for ways to support kids in their learning.
- HB suggested that Seesaw could help with this and that the Seesaw program is being rolled out to years 3-6 next semester, currently used by K-2.
- JH suggested that an "understanding reports" style session for parents may be useful.

- TF explained that the boxes in reports have been pulled from the syllabus – achieving, etc.
- It was discussed that being clearer about comments in the reports and the overall take home message would assist parents in understanding and supporting their kids’ learning needs. JD suggested this be kept as an ongoing agenda item.

Treasurer

TT reiterated the earlier message that new signatories are to be added to the Westpac account.

There is a need to move school banking (Dollarmites) across.

Weekly banking continuations to Westpac.

Still to close CBA accounts.

TT reported a \$89,879.30 balance in the account with \$70K to spend and that reconciliation reports have been put up on Dropbox.

Uniform Shop

TT noted the upcoming kindy orientation. Last year a wide brimmed hat was donated to each new kindergarten student.

TT showed attendees a sample of the new library bag which is waterproof and can double up as a notes bag. Cost of these is about \$22; we can get them for \$12/\$13 and look to sell them for approx. \$20. In comparison, the hats, we sell for \$12.

The cost of gifting these hats to kindy kids for next year (approx. 80 kids) will be \$1200. It was agreed that we would proceed with this donation and approval was granted.

TT advised the new sports shorts using new fabric were currently ordered and due in August. Will communicate this to parents. The new fabric long sleeved polo shirts are now available.

Events

LM discussed that we need to decide on dates for year 6 fundraising as well as a wider parent event, for example, a trivia night or “colour run”. We could do our own colour run, without using the company as we did last year; supply our own prizes and just buy the colour ourselves. TF said he will chat to the events committee separately about this. We briefly discussed some of the issues with the event last year, which seemed to be mostly centered around online issues and including a paper system for donations which caused difficulties for office staff. LM/BS noted we were not able to assist more with this as we were not allowed in the school grounds (due to COVID). LM noted that a greater lead in time and cut off point may assist with any planned future event.

The Father’s Day stall was discussed, with \$6000 approval sought for this. Approval was granted by JD and backed by JH.

Stage 3 carnival sideshow will be happening end of term 3 week 10.

SK raised reports of there being issues with the bathrooms, particularly the boy's toilets, including reports of broken locks, lack of soap and graffiti.

TF said he hadn't received any reports of any issues with the bathrooms this year and was confident that previous issues with locks had been fixed. TF said that GAs were here at the school every day except Wednesday to rectify most issues and that both toilets were repainted last year. Graffiti gets reported frequently; soap dispensers filled daily in the morning (but not topped up during the day) and cleaners are in there frequently. TF to follow up and advised to let the school know if there are continued issues.

Close and next meeting

Meeting closed at 20.00.

Next meeting: Wednesday 9 June, 18.30.