



CHATSWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL

PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Pacific Highway
CHATSWOOD 2067

GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 25 August 2015 MINUTES

Attendees:

Su Hill – Deputy Principal	Lee Hughes (Imogen 5/6D)
Alison Currie – Class Teacher	Nick Moore (William 3D)
Robyn Kneebone – Learning Support Teacher	Matthew Wood (Lucas 1H)
Ezia Cimillo - OSH Primary Care	Sue Low (Calleigh KA)
Michelle McDonnell - OSH Primary Care	Joe Grundy (Cassandra 4BT, Adrian KS)
Brett Backhouse (Ed 3P)	Rosie Trindall (Kyan 5H, Meka 4S)
Mark Twyman (Sophie 5, Harrison 3, Annabelle 1)	Carilee Hicks (Sam 6S, Amelia 3D, Ethan 1G)
Sally Sternecker (Liam 6B)	Aileen Rice (Scarlet 4C)
Melinda Holmes (Alexandra 4C, Matt 1S)	Ellen Bischoff (Euan 6S, Liam 4R, Katarina 1B)
Robert Alt (Alexandra 4C, Matt 1S)	Angela Todd (Nic 3P)

1. President's welcome

2. Apologies

Tim Dodds, Terry McKinnon, Maria Ferreira, Andrea Austin, Rachel Johnson-Kelly, Deborah Bodger

3. Confirmation of previous minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the previous general meeting on 28 July 2015 be approved.

The motion was deferred, pending an amendment from Tim Dodds. Those minutes will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

4. Principal's report

Su Hill provided information, on behalf of Tim Dodds, about the following:

- CPS students in Years 3 and 5 have received excellent results in this year's NAPLAN. The Year 3 results were especially strong, and likely reflect gains associated with the introduction of L3 (Language, Learning & Literacy), which these children have been receiving since kindergarten. Year 5 results are also strong, although slightly lower in Numeracy compared with last year. The school continues to perform well above the state average.
- The school is keen to introduce a Bilingual (Korean-English) program next year. Tim Dodds will provide more information at the next P&C meeting.
- Some teachers/classes in kindergarten and Year 1 around NSW (including CPS) are trialling a new student assessment system (PLAN) that is intended to be embedded into the current reporting system. The new system is detailed and somewhat time-consuming (although this may improve as teachers become more familiar with the system). It focuses on literacy and numeracy.

5. OSHC report

Ezia Cimillo introduced Michelle McDonnell, who has replaced Bethany Lyman as the OSCH Care Coordinator for the school. Current enrolments are strong, with 35 children attending before school care and 110 after school care (maximum capacity is 122). The Vacation Care Program for the Term 3 break was distributed to parents this week. Approximately 40-50 children are expected to enrol.

6. Correspondence

Nil.

7. P&C Treasurer's report

Mark Twyman presented the report (attached). The following motion was proposed:

Motion: That \$2,611.56 from the main account, as listed in the Treasurer's report to the meeting, be approved for payment.

Moved by Mark Twyman, Seconded by Lee Hughes, motion passed.

8. Sub-Committee updates

Canteen report

Nil to report.

Uniform Shop

Sally Sternecker tabled a 'Return and Exchange Policy' for the Uniform Shop, that had been prepared to address some problems with attempted return of items. It was suggested that the Uniform Shop accept other forms of 'proof of purchase' (e.g. credit card statement) if a receipt is not available.

Grounds report

(see President's report below, item 11).

Class-Parent Co-ordinator/Fundraising

Sue Low reported that Trivia Night, held on 8 August, had been a very successful night. Some new approaches were introduced this year. The number of prizes and the attendance numbers were lower than last year, likely due to major sporting events competing on the same night. Nonetheless, organisers were very pleased with the overall profit (\$5,725). A silent on-line auction was also tried this year, particularly for parents who were unable to attend, and 7 items raised approximately \$300. The organising committee will update the procedures document that is passed on each year to assist parents coordinating fundraising events, regarding any suggested changes. Sincere thanks were extended to Sue who contributed an enormous amount of time and effort in assisting with the Trivia Night.

The next events are the Father's Day breakfast on 4 September, the Moon Festival on 10 September, and the Mahjong and Karaoke night on 17 October. There was some discussion about the lack of response from parents to calls for volunteers. It was suggested a brief description of the tasks/time involved may help.

9. Master plan

Lee Hughes advised that a structural report for the hall floor had still not been received from the Department of Education. It was agreed that Brett Backhouse (President) re-contact the Honourable Gladys Berejiklian to seek her assistance to progress this issue with the Department.

10. Outstanding items

Bubblers for the Lowers

Bubblers have been ordered and plumber is organised. Installation is expected by the commencement of Term 4.

Slippery paint in playground

Quotes have been obtained for the application of thermal plaster. The work will be completed by the end of Term 3 (awaiting dry weather).

11. President's report

Brett Backhouse provided a brief update on Grounds. One of the planned developments at Bush Campus was the installation of a chicken shed. Terry McKinnon is keen to progress this project, and has offered to use school funds. Further landscaping will also be undertaken around the new high school bus shelter. The old shed that is in the neighbouring area will not be removed. The Department of Education is looking to repair it for storage use. There has also been some developments regarding upgrading the high school oval, with a number of local sporting clubs (led by Northbridge) uniting to lobby local parliamentary members for action.

12. Other business

Enhanced Learning Support

Melinda Holmes gave a presentation about the challenges for children who have dyslexia, dyscalculia, ADHD, autism, language difficulties/delay, intellectual disability, anxiety, and/or behavioural difficulties (attached). It is estimated these children represent approximately 20% of a school population. Early intervention, through learning support teachers and special programs (such as Multilit, Minilit) have been shown to greatly benefit these children. It was suggested that current learning support resources at Chatswood (0.5FTE, temporarily boosted to 1.2FTE to end 2015) are insufficient for a school of Chatswood's size and the estimated number of children in need (possibly ~150-200). Examples were given of other P&Cs on the North Shore that have funded learning support teachers. Alison Currie (CPS teacher) supported Mel's argument that children with additional needs do not always receive the necessary support in mainstream classes. Mel presented 2 motions (previously on notice):

That \$19,000 be allocated for "Enhanced Learning Support" for Term 4, 2015.

That the P&C budget for 2015-2016 include \$76,000 for "Enhanced Learning Support" for the 2016 school year.

Extensive discussion ensued. Key points were:

- The size of the financial commitment merited wider consultation
- The size of the financial commitment represented approximately 80% of available P&C funds (after the school's annual allocation), impacting funding of other projects, particularly major capital works (e.g., retractable seating in the hall; connecting passageway to Block E)
- The proposal required sustainability through ongoing annual funding which was a difficult commitment for P&Cs whose members change annually
- Direct input was needed from the school principal
- Further information would be helpful about how the other P&Cs are meeting this funding commitment
- Further funding models could be explored (e.g., shared funding with the school)

Brett suggested that the motions be deferred pending wider consultation with the school and parent communities. This would include providing information on the P&C website and weekly school newsletter about the proposal; giving parents an opportunity to submit questions; and

canvassing a wider range of views. It was agreed that the matter be reconsidered at the next P&C meeting (in October).

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.00 pm.