

P&C Meeting 1/2015 DRAFT Minutes

MEETING: TERM 1 WEEK 2
Date: Wednesday 11 February 2015
Time: 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Location: Forrest Primary School

1. Welcome, introductions & apologies

Chair

Welcome was made to the new attendees and the two representatives of the ETD, Mark Neathercote and Mark Bennett, as well as the returning P&C members.

In attendance: Amanda Hill, Tui Davidson, Janelle Tennent, Leah West, Ali Kobal, Jemma O'Brien, Hayley Singh, Nicole Richardson, Michelle Bourdet, Perdi Mitchell, Jenny Bramley, Yasmine Gray, Kate Hambly, Chris Pilgrim, Robyn Calder, Louise Youngman, Simone Mills, Samantha Neal, Jarrod Fitzgerald, Surya Dharma

Apologies: Ro Mitchell, Melissa Turner, Sally Troy, Karen Gardner, Belinda Fitzgerald, Raeline George, Samantha Reid.

a. School Fence

ETD representatives

Mark and Mark, representatives from the ETD, came to discuss and present their plans and ideas for a fence surrounding the school.

Fences have been installed in other schools primarily for vandalism. They are also useful for managing students, especially with children who are "runners". High priority schools were done in first few years and schools saw benefit of containing the student body for safety and keeping children off roads. More schools are now keen on having a fence. The program has been extended and rolled out much faster than expected.

The current plan showed two layers of fencing. The fence would enclose the small areas at the front of the school between the older sections of the school and the Year 6 building. On the oval side of the school the fence had an inner layer at the level of the end of the asphalt/trees and then the outer fence would be near the perimeter of the oval (allowing for trees and the current embankment). There were multiple gates planned for the fence, both single gates and two double gates for student movement as well as for mowers and service vehicles. The exact fence siting would depend on the trees and their root line. The carpark at the front of school would not be fenced - a carpark in use gives a level of security.

The fence itself is a specific security fence - so can't change the design but the school can select the colour. The fence is 2.1m high - 1.8m is ineffectual for security; 2.4 m is too imposing. It is designed to be hard to climb. just limits ease of access to vandals.

It was thought that the fence was going to definitely be erected but Mark and Mark indicated that it was up for discussion which focussed on the community feeling and ideas and whether there was actually a need for a fence at all. If the community doesn't want the fence - the risks and benefits need to be weighed up.

The funding for the fence would be from the ETD and will not reduce the funding for other areas of the school. The fences are now a priority for the ETD.

Discussion:

Positive notes if a fence is installed:

Channelling the people walking around the school - at Mawson the public would walk into school from the boundaries and use toilets. Playground at Mawson closed in but can access at all hours.

Gates can allow access to the Forrest playgrounds with the inner fence securing the school.

Vandalism at Forrest - broken windows, chooks let out - fence cut over the holidays. Cubby house in Afters. Burning things on the asphalt.

Gates - even when open, they are locked in that position, so safety issues addressed.

Some Forrest teaching staff commented that they liked the fence idea. Will keep the staff safe - too many entry points into the school. Especially after hours - perimeter more secure.

School staff like the fences - keeps the children safe.

Fence - to funnel people out through the front doors (and improve the security with doors not being left open, particularly after hours).

Fence limits ease of access to vandals.

Concerns, Comments and Questions:

Some compromise at the front of the building where the fence is more visible.

Difficulty crossing the grass to take your kids to school.

Can't use asphalt on the weekends.

In 19 years - no child taken or injured on National circuit.

?Lower height for outside fence.

Consult with the children. - Chris says the children will be involved with this (information - pictures, excursions). Some schools have discussed after the fence went in - some good feedback from the children of feeling safer and knowing the boundaries, etc.

Mark - worked in special needs school - the runners still found a way to escape.

Chris discussed that she would speak to the ETD, as she had thought that the fence was going to be built but now it seems that it is still in the phase of discussion and consultation.

ACTION: Is the fence a done deal or does there need to be further consultation with the community? Chris to speak to the ETD.

Thanks to the ETD.

2. Standing items

a. Minutes of last meeting

Secretary

The minutes from the last meeting of 2014 were approved. Proposed Kate; Seconded Simone.

b. Action list review

Jenny Bramley

Currently a very short list - well done to those finalising the actions.

c. President's report

Perdi Mitchell

Rental agreement being revised with the school. The agreement is close to completion. It will probably be bought back to the next meeting for sign off.

Strategic review - outcomes still very overarching - need more specifics which will be sort.

The Out of Hours Childcare was assessed under the National Quality Framework - report due this Friday. Helps by indicating any deficient areas and useful for continual improvement.

Junior hall - newly painted and sanded and polished. Also provision of new hot water system - to be used for cleaning. As part of the rental agreement - needed good base level. Noticeboards still to go up. Considering where to put the bags and also security for devices.

Toilets - have had to redo some work so nearly finished.

ACT P&C council requested an article for their newsletter about our service, which has been drafted and will soon be published.

d. Principal's report

Michelle Bourdet presented. As PYP coordinator she attended a network meeting yesterday with other schools and more experienced teachers. Plans for visits to classrooms to see PYP in action.

Specialist teachers - especially teacher librarian - links to inquiry and learning. Library will need to meet the requirements of the students.

RTI (response to intervention) - helping those with low literacy (Belinda Gough). Currently with the year 1 students. Belinda is also leading the gifted and talented students' program.

PE - now have a dedicated PE teacher who teaches the students once a week for one term of the year. She will also devise programs for the teachers to follow, depending on the units of inquiry. The class teachers will be leading the PE on the other days of the week. The other programs are Japanese and Library - so 13 weeks of these specialist teachers/programs

Parent staff interviews - good feedback for the online booking through www.sobs.com.au.

Swimming carnival March 12 to be held at CISAC - for students aged 8 and over who can competently swim 50 m. There was discussion about involving all the students in the swimming Carnival as other schools do this. There are now new rules which require testing of the children's swimming ability. It was noted that Garran primary does it very well and Jemma O'Brien comment that she would be interested to go and see how this works. Currently it is run as a structured event with no free time and it requires the parents to sign that the children can swim. If at the pool the child can't swim well - a yellow wrist band is placed on the kid and they are told not to swim.

It was suggest that the venue of the Swimming Carnival be advertised in newsletter - the parents of the younger children would like to go to the venue beforehand and let their child practise the longer distance and see the venue. Some of the children did not want to participate as they were thought to be concerned about a new venue and the crowds.

School will send out voluntary contribution letter next week.

ACTION: Email Jemma O'Brien and ask that the venue for the swimming carnival be included in the newsletter.

e. Deakin Preschool liaison report

Preschool - hand over next week at AGM.

f. Board report

Board - vacancy for parent and teacher on the board for 2 years.

3. P&C members' discussion items & updates

a. Homework Club - funding of afternoon tea

Perdi

There was consensus about supporting Homework club by funding the afternoon tea.

The Homework Club is run by Kylie Dorsett - excerpt from the request - "established last year and been very successful in creating a more equitable school. It helps students complete their homework, but it is much more than this. It has helped families improve their basic skills, given them a voice, and fostered a sense of belonging. The first hour of homework club is about

supporting parents to understand their child's homework, with the help of a tutor. The second hour sees the students complete their homework with parents as tutors, and various teachers and others supporting both parents and students. This model works well to empower parents, and has a benefit of improving the numeracy and literacy skills of both parents and students. Kids love the homework club. One key aspect of its popularity is that we provide afternoon tea. Each week, students eat a balanced snack including fresh fruit. There have never been any left overs.

Unfortunately our funding for afternoon tea came to an end in December 2014. I am wondering if the P and C would be interested in funding the afternoon tea this year. The cost of the afternoon tea is \$1 per child, which works out at \$30 a week".

Other ideas for donations;

Jenny had suggested that school uniforms or book packs be given to disadvantaged families and it was also noted that this could occur in situation such as bush fires and crises. Tui raised the situation of Mr Fluffy families - many had to leave their homes and leave behind their belongings with the need to replace clothes. There was discussion as to what the P&C should offer and how to identify these families. It was thought that Raeline may be able to make this judgement.

Michelle Bourdet noted that the school did have an equity fund for disadvantaged students (to cover excursion and camp costs etc). Perhaps some will ask the P&C members instead of school.

There was consensus that these were good ideas.

b. Storage for the Uniform Shop

Perdi

Uniform shop storage will be moved to an office like "shed" to be sited in the Afters area. The cost of hire for a year was discussed - it includes siting and removing and levelling etc. It was thought worth trialling for the year, despite that you could buy a container/shed for a slightly greater amount. There was consensus for year's trial. Other ideas were floated including outsourcing the uniforms or taking the business offsite. These could be thought about further but the immediate need was to relocate the stock to free up the room for school use.

c. Welcome BBQ - Thursday 26 February

Perdi

Discussion on the Welcome BBQ included that more food was required. Jarrod and Belinda have offered to help with BBQ. Also more people needed on the day and Ali Kobal volunteered.

Last year - provided sausages and people bought drinks. The Afters staff who would be helping would be paid for their time.

Letter drop into Kindy bags - to encourage any new parents to come and meet others at the school.

d. Trivia Night - Friday May 29 - preparation

Perdi

Trivia night - notice in newsletter next week. Ask for donations sooner.

e. P&C survey

Perdi

P&C survey - usually run in the last 4 weeks of term 1. Draft presented to meeting.

4. P&C members' questions

a. PE - interest in the program with dedicated teacher

Secretary

See Principal's report for further information. A PE audit was run last year (health and PE) and scoped against the Australian curriculum to assess for any gaps etc. There were no gaps here over that 2 year interval. The school continues with Blue Earth and also with essential skills lessons - rolling, catching and throwing before games.

Programs and ideas for teacher to lead the PE/Health lessons with their own classes were available. Having an essential agreement with each class - safety and playing fair. Available to all teachers. Games - to fit in with various activities such as getting to know you games - throwing ball and saying child's name. Renee would also be going to the preschool - one day a week.

b. Committees - ? parent representatives needed

Secretary

The welcome BBQ will have P&C helpers, Afters staff and P&C funding. A brief discussion was held about Shivoo and why it had defaulted to the asphalt, rather than the suggested trial on the grass/oval.

g. Any other business

President

Ali Kobal - Car parking and traffic are an issue again. People are parking in the central island and also leaving their cars unattended in the drop off line. Polite notices are being placed on their windscreens. It needs to be placed in the newsletter again (as per a previous action item).

ACTION: Have traffic protocol added to newsletter.

Kate Hambly - Approval was sought for the employment of an auditor - amount of about \$3,000. This was approved by the meeting.

Chris Pilgrim –confirmed school's preference to ban juicy cups.

Tui Davidson - With the expansion of the child care centre there will not be enough car parking. The original plans did not consider the more recent building of the public service departments nor the restrictions on parking in the surrounding streets.

Thanks & Conclusion

President

Meeting closed at 9.51pm

| The next P&C meeting will be in Term 1, Week 8, on Wednesday **25 March 2015** at 7:30pm.
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