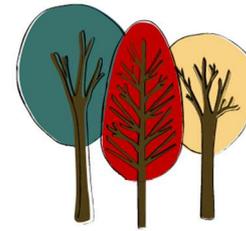


FORREST P&C Meeting



FORREST
P & C

Meeting: Term 3
Date/Time: Thursday 2 September - 7.00pm
Location: via Zoom

1. Welcome & apologies

Chair

Attendees – Belinda Fitzgerald (President), Zoe Pleasants (Vice President), Jarrod Fitzgerald (Vice President), Perdi Mitchell (Secretary), Sky May (Public Officer), Rebecca Kirkwood, Matt and Christine Gustafson, Sarah Hope, Anthony Jones, Nastaran ?, Cameron Bowles, Lucy Clynes, Mao Sopheak, Navin, Saroeung Kem, Ishani Weerasinghe.

Apologies – Tui Davidson

1. Welcome & apologies

Chair

2. Discussion items

a) Lease agreement for FOOSCH

Jarrod Fitzgerald

P&C runs the after school care program. ACT govt moved to tender process to contract services. Already been through stage 1 and submitted stage 2 documentation yesterday. Offered a lease until January 2022. Spoke to the ACT govt about short length a time. Holding over a month to month agreement until Jan for a possibly two year lease. Thanks to Ali for all the work she had done. Now a matter of waiting and seeing. Last documentation took three months to get a response. Rebecca - Big thanks to Ali and Jarrod for all the work they have done. Ali – most OOSCH services run by P&C has stopped. Used to be 50 and now there are only 9. Rated Excellence.

b) FASA activities in term 4

Jarrod Fitzgerald

Made the decision to suspend activities for term 4. Going to undertake a review of the service. Very frustrating trying to organise classrooms with the school. Children do sometimes destroy things in the classroom. Also the amount of time and energy spent on organising the activities. The difficulty if children not being picked up on time. And lucky to break even – mostly runs at a loss. Undertake a review of the activity over term 4. Ali – background of why we are doing it. Some children don't really benefit from a structured class afterschool. But kids sometimes just want to run around and relax. Causes lots of tension with school. Outdoor activities generally go well. But lots of costs and minimal benefits. Been trying to make it work for three years.

Rebecca – new to FASA. Fully appreciate the complexity but daughter really likes dance class.

Cameron – does like FASA activities but also loves going to afters. If can't continue FASA but still love afters so still great.

Ishani – two children at Forrest. For her daughter not been able to get into afterschool program but activities have been really good alternative. Owners of a small business that engage with other

public schools in the ACT. Son loves the robotics program. There might be other ways of doing it to support the community.

Ali – school actually talked about providing these activities directly.

Zoe – good points all around. Thought the activities were covering off on things that the school couldn't do. Such as music lessons and language. Robotics.

Jarrold – difficult thing to review. Could form a subcommittee to undertake the review. Volunteers to work with Jarrod - Zoe Pleasants, Rebecca Kirkwood, Ishani Weerasinghe.

c) Community events for 2021

Zoe Pleasants

All events for the year have been cancelled. Any virtual events that people are interested in?

Could do another scavenger hunt, or step challenge. Other options if looking at funding is just give them money. Put together a virtual payment sheet. Discussion around not really needing to raise funds especially in current economic circumstances.

d) FOOSHC update

Ali Sewter

FOOSCH is going OK. Caring for 2-4 children max is 7 kids. Putting all implementation plan in place.

Children want to go home. Lost lots of staff who would prefer to be stood down. Lot of them are young and were caught up previous hot spots. Also don't want to put themselves at risk. Have a team red and team yellow. Lost lots of money as refunding all fees. Worried about people's wellbeing. So, staff constantly called at hot spots. Have been making dinners for families – trying to keep the cook employed and also keep connected with families. Also sending home sensory and craft packs to families. Had good meetings with school about how to help families. Its stressful and trying to get lease agreement. School holiday program about to go out but only for essential families. Only one of the staff is immunised and worried about protecting children. Will cap numbers at about 7 students as can't get staff to look after more. Ali missing the children and wakes up the night and worried about the kids coping.

Two staff with Downs Syndrome. Challenging staff bias work has been undergoing. Had a few bumps including a staff member who didn't want to leave the staff room. The children have not batted an eyelid and embraced them like a friend. Families of new staff have been attending as well. Also, fire drill in the middle which was a learning experience. Thinking about all varying abilities staff on the books. A bit of extra work but everyone is getting lots out of it.

Excellence rating due for assessment early next year. Need to get paperwork in by October. Need to demonstrate that you are continuing to grow and develop. There are 2* three-hour session to interview the service. Lots of the evidence about how we are leading and being a light house service within Australia and also around the world. Have lots of good evidence and just need to demonstrate that. And mentor and lead other services – doing a community of practice to help other services through.

e) World Teachers Day

Perdi Mitchell

In past have done meal vouchers, keep cups, something individual that they can utilise in their own times. Uber eats voucher. Not force anyone to go somewhere. Do something around \$1600 in budget. And approximately 35-40 staff in total approx. \$35 per person. Also got a coffee van last year and maybe back for next year.

3. Standing items

a) Minutes of the last meeting

Moved by Sky May. Seconded by Jarrod Fitzgerald. Carried

b) Action list review

Chair

- Deakin Preschool subcommittee does not exist. One parent (Amy) is actually doing some fundraising for the Preschool.
- Community events – already done
- Teachers can park behind the Art room no concerns at this stage
- Spare parts rating as high risk is still an issue. Ali – background that lots of school have similar programs and not a problem for a specific focused risk-based program. Jarrod – Ali and Jarrod meet with school twice a term with Renee (and not Chris as on a Monday). Last meeting Renee confirmed that happy with Loose Parts program. Feel that should be addressed at a P&C meeting to explain that it is not a problem.
- STEM program going to STEAM with addition of Arts. Principal asks that anyone who is concerned take this to Jemma O'Brien. Still calling the program STEM and lent on Arts program while there was not a permanent teacher. Should wait until Mr Brompton has longer in the role to determine if still a concern.

c) Principal's/School's Leadership team report

Tabled by School Executive

President read through leadership feedback.

Online learning

Only having classes once a week. Year 1 and 2 are having a daily catch up along with Kindy. Year 5 is doing class twice a week and small group once a week.

d) Deakin Preschool liaison report

Preschool liaison

Nil

e) Parent Rep Liaison report

Parent rep

Nil

f) Board report

Simone was expected to join the P&C as the Board rep. Cameron will provide a summary of recent interactions. Cameron – had a meeting with Chris and Angela a few months ago. Was seeking a way to improve communication between the Principal and the Board. Good to get feedback on whether this working.

DISCUSSION FROM P&C MEETING ATTENDEES -

Pre-P&C meeting to deal with any issues before catch up with the school. Been railroaded into shutting down any conversation that might be uncomfortable. President and Vice President to discuss with the Board chair. What is the process that parents should raise an issue with the school? Then the P&C is not the right forum. But from feedback that they have heard is that this might be only forum to get response to any issues. Directorate has requested that any feedback goes directly to the school. Some parents can't get any visibility about issues that need to raise with the school. Any other items to be raised with Action item list. Other school - Use to have Principal come to meeting but come do Principal's report and then just leave. Also had families that had a particular axe to grind and not always a good forum for those discussions. It's hard to get feedback on some joint initiatives with the school.

ACTION: President - Need to have a clear communication process.

g) P&C Council report

Nil

4. Any other business

Chair

Changing teachers quickly without any forewarning. Would hope that could do things better next time and to bring the children's voice into the decision-making process. Not complaints process at P&C meeting but still need a forum where can discuss a bigger strategic issues. Not change management process to be able to pick up on process improvements. Similar to issue around STEAM vs STEM.

Thanks & Conclusion

Chair

Meeting closed 8.26pm.