

Minutes — BBPS P&C Meeting — 23 February 2016, 7pm

In attendance: Rob Keldoulis, Debbie Evans, Andi Breslin, Olivia Wright, Ellie Waddel, Taminga, Kylie Biddle, Fiona Kowalski, Jo Stein, Kimberly Johns, Antje Hofmann, Sarah Hatton, Wayan Arnup, Jo Sharp, Olivia Fairless, Mim Stacey, Susie Seybold, Belinda Toward, Carol Wiley, Fran Vivieaere-Bates, Elli Criddle

Apologies: Kath Cara, Justine Bennett

Business

Rob Keldoulis gives a background about the P&C and welcome to the new people.

Fundraising

Antje Hofmann gives a background on the Fundraising Committee. The fundraising committee would like to connect with kindergarten parents to hand over organising the Welcome Barbecue. Mother's Day Stall is very popular, encourage people to please help. City to Surf is run by Kimberly. Father's Day Shootout needs new coordinators, we have notes and would like some dads from years 1 and 2 to organise. The big fundraiser which happens every second year will be in 2018 and will be looking for new faces to help. City to Surf organiser Kimberly is looking for help with the admin part, happy to coordinate on the day but would like help. It can be a great social fun event while raising money for the school.

School Moonlight cinema event coming up at the school as a fundraiser and social event.

Canteen

The canteen makes about \$200 per week profit. Aim is to cover costs with a focus on great healthy food. The canteen is run by the P&C.

OSHC – The Hive

The Hive generates quite a bit of profit. Run by the P&C, the proceeds go back to the school. It's challenging to find the balance between OSHC needs for classrooms and teachers after school time in their rooms. Running a lot of extra programs plus unstructured play in the chill out zone.

Uniform

Jo Stein and Caroline would like to give the old yellow uniforms to a school in Vanuatu. Jo Stein has organised this and we need to let parents know to bring in the old the uniforms.

Principal's Report – Debbie Evans

There are 647 children enrolled at the school this year. 26 classes. Debbie says thank you to the P&C for helping with the Tea and Tissues event. Thank you of organising the Welcome Barbecue — it was a wonderful afternoon. Debbie is enjoying the school and community. Thanks to those who helped with the Swimming Carnival, it was a great day. New furniture has arrived in the Learning Centre, it looks great, and has been a great opportunity for the teachers to be involved in the fit out. However noise is an issue, looking at solutions to reduce the noise.

We are in the third year of the School Plan, Debbie is working with staff, finalising and evaluating the school plan. Then we have to write the next three-year-plan, written by the end of this year. Debbie is working on the community part of the plan, such as a database of parents skills, so they can help at the school. There will be an external validation process that the school has to go through, probably next year.

Need to have effective communication to enhance community engagement. Will not use the Skool Bag app. The school will use email and Mail Chimp, as this is most effective. Will start charging for advertising at the bottom of the newsletter. Will put in community events once for free. The school website and Google Community Calendar will be the main place for parents to access information, dates, forms etc.

There have been school grounds security issues. The school gates are now locked at certain times, this creates a lot of work for the staff to keep unlocking. Security companies have assessed the school, and hopefully will be installing security cameras and electronic gates, so the office staff don't have to walk and open them regularly. It will take awhile. Can we get the department to pay for the security requirements?

Debbie sent an anonymous survey to all the staff before starting this year. Teachers said that disruptions to the classes were a problem. Not giving teachers enough time to teach the core curriculum. Class disruption was so extreme in recent years that Debbie has made significant changes. Some classes (such as art extension) have been stopped altogether, others modified or timetables changed (such as dance ensemble rehearsal program) to limit the disruption. Teachers are generally very happy with the change.

Technology is a serious issue at this school. Debbie has conducted a network health check and an ICT audit and results demonstrate that the LAN requires remediation to fully comply with DEC guidelines. This means that DEC IT support cannot be effective if the LAN is non-compliant. P&C/The Hive have made some contribution to hardware in classrooms in recent years but none of this is worthwhile if the network/wifi cannot handle the devices effectively. Advice is that we will have to remediate the infrastructure. A scope of works is underway and Debbie anticipates this will be completed for tender (3 tenders will be required) before the end of Term 1.

Debbie has advised that no more P&C funding to be spent on small ticket items like the Teacher's Wish List. Would rather focus funding assistance on big ticket items, like security or LAN remediation. Learning Support is a serious concern as the school currently only has 3-4 people in Learning Support roles – way too few. Only three children in the school currently qualify for Dept funding for LS but Debbie has identified others who need constant support. This aspect of the school program will be developed over coming terms and P&C may be asked to contribute.

Band – previously Alexia Duncan was spending considerable time administering this, a waste of a valuable resource. Debbie has employed Roxanna (front office) 1 day/week to take this work on so that Alexia can return to her duties as AP. Possible that someone from the parent community could volunteer to carry some of this workload. Where do band fees go? Can some of these be used to cover admin?

ICAS Parent Volunteer – Debbie will put a call out for a parent volunteer to administer the ICAS test program. Approx 5 hours work in total.

Bellevue Hill Primary School boundary changes – due to imminent opening of new high tech BHPS campus (increasing student population there from 450 to > 1000) the Dept of Ed is proposing significant boundary changes to a number of schools in the eastern suburbs including BBPS. While changes would potentially decrease our student population and thereby reduce strain on our school – it would also impact significantly on a number of current BBPS families who live in the areas marked for re-zoning.

Debbie proposes to hold an information night – inviting Dept of Ed rep to present – for parents to hear more and raise concerns or provide feedback on proposed changes. P&C has concerns over the impact it will have on our school community as current families will be zoned to BHPS. Likelihood is that after 2018 BBPS would have very little flexibility to offer out of area enrolments. There would be an opportunity to present an alternative proposal to the Dept if that was what we thought appropriate.

Next meeting 7pm Tuesday 23 May