

P&C ASSOCIATION AGM and MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 12 May 2020

Venue: Online Meeting Via Zoom (secondary to social distancing measures for Corona Virus)

Attendance: Mel Saunders (Mel S), James Brisebois (JB), Aaron Holborow (AH), Matt Soltau (MS), Rob Feltscheer (RF), Karena Comber (KC), Kim Feltscheer (KF), Ada Lyras (AL), Nick Davies, Jenni Davies, Rob Nicoll, Karen Whiley (KW), Principal: Justin Hong

Apologies: Fiona Aldred, Keith Howard, Debbie Howard, Jude Nicoll,

Welcome

The meeting was officially opened by the P&C President (Mel Saunders) via zoom at 6.30pm on Tuesday May 12th 2020. Attendees and apologies given.

Principal's Report:

Mr Hong thanked the P & C and all the parents for their assistance and messages of support during the current crisis.

Phase 1:

Emails sent out to the community explaining the process. 2 emails received not approving the plans, but both contradicted each other! Otherwise overwhelming support. Keeping everyone safe is the prime concern. JH visited every class today, everyone working well and a positive experience. Not normal schooling, but they are learning and progressing. Year 12 different in that it's business as usual. Concern from Yr 12's about HSC but reassured them that the opportunities will be plentiful for Uni places due to lack of overseas students.

JH then discussed computers in school. Not everyone has a laptop computer and this is a problem as they ran out. Some students were moved to the computer room as a result. Computers have been ordered for students but none have been delivered as yet. Staff laptops arrived Monday but student models not available.

Students are getting valuable socialising time by being in school. Statewide Principals meeting on Thursday to discuss the next phase. Mr Hong will report back early next week.

JH thanked Mel and the P & C for the look of the school re. bubblers, murals, etc. Great response from students. Additional work done (basketball courts, backboards), landscaping and staff rooms renovations. Positive result from a negative situation.

School Planning: Cromer is due to put together its next 3-year plan. However this will be pushed back due to Coronavirus but discussions will take place in due course.

The focus for staff remains numeracy, literacy, visible learning and 'direct instruction'. This is vital in the remote learning environment. Writing is the central premise at this time.

Reports/Parent Teacher night. Reports will come out staggered through this term dependent on year group. One difference is the syllabus dot points will be wound back somewhat due to how difficult things are at this time. Focus will be on key learning rather than the less essential subjects. So numeracy, literacy, technology. This means the reports may be slightly less detailed as a result.

Parent teacher night cannot happen while adhering to social distancing rules, so any parent teacher interaction will be done remotely. Details to be determined in future communications.

Questions?

Jenni: What's the issue with computers? Do you want old computers?

JH: No. There's a protocol in place to deal with students who don't have access to computers, so not required right now.

Treasurer's Report (Matt Soltau):

EXPENDITURE: \$25k bins, \$6k mural and scaffolding

REMAINING: \$112k currently, \$30k set aside for bubblers, so \$68k left in the bank.

President's Report (Mel Saunders):

Thanks to Mr Hong for his words on the look of the school.

Due to school opening up, the canteen is open again and doing well (\$500/day). Recycling bins in, wall art done, bubblers ordered. However need to vote on extra cost on plumbing for bubblers.

Damon Bird (plumber) has quoted for 20 bubblers: \$10,000 to install. 2 more referrals to compare which were half that. Dr Drip was \$6k and can complete in 3 days. Cheaper by combining drainage for the bubblers. Dr Drip a team of 3 so could be quicker to install.

Are we happy to go with Dr Drip? Should we wait for the 3rd quote?

Karen notes it's an estimate not a quote. However she noted that with current trough bubblers they can't be used due to Coronavirus which is another incentive to install ASAP.

The consensus among members was to go ahead.

Karen also noted the downpipe outside the canteen might need to be examined as it is damaged. Mr Hong queried whether it was sufficiently damaged to repair. Concluded no work required at this stage.

Plumber Vote – All agreed to install using Dr Drip, so Mel will go ahead accordingly. Aqua bubblers on order. Mel will advise when it is proceeding.

International Gardens update – not sure how to progress due to current situation. Quotes coming through are expensive, maybe need to do the gardens in smaller sections. Primary thought is the steel frames with wood on top. Mr Hong would prefer Plasti-wood. This would require extra framing to support it.

Aaron: it will need getting the old timber off to see what's required. One plan is to make another frame to go around the existing frame

Mel mentioned the company Outdure who can advise. Will investigate further. Aaron happy to take that on.

Further discussions on the gardens, but purchasing furniture needs to wait until how the end of the year is looking regarding cashflow.

Jenni: Is a working bee an option? JH: Not at this stage regarding distancing.

Canteen is the biggest income source for P & C and whilst it hasn't been a major issue to date, it's unlikely the P & C will make the same amount as last year. Although there's an amount that comes from fees (\$13k last year) and the fundraiser (\$15k last year), any events that involve large numbers are an unknown quantity at this stage. Therefore can people go away and think of solutions to fundraising to replace these alternatives.

Front of school upgrade update - Quotes have been obtained. Around \$10k to complete so maybe it might be worth pushing that plan back to next year. To be considered further. However it is a focus for Mr Hong.

Other issues -

There is a soft play area with rubber base which is being removed and replaced, and Mr Hong would like to focus on prioritising this area regarding furniture etc.

Mel will look into options for improving this area and also look at the cost of solutions to see if we can afford it.

Mr Hong: Could the P & C consider the inequalities that are clearly emerging as a result of the Corona crisis. There is real evidence that there are issues around some families struggling to keep up in the current climate. Is there something the P & C can do to alleviate these issues?

Mel: All the P & C Presidents get together from time to time to discuss common issues. Mel will discuss with this team to see if there's something that can be done across the campuses.

Karen: Do we have percentages of people with limited/no broadband or lacking laptops?

JH: Year 9 & 10 are a problem because kids with computers they got in Year 7 are no longer working and need replacing. Also wifi dongles are running out of data.

Computers in libraries are an option but not necessarily a solution for all students. Concluded by saying laptops and dongles are tools that every student definitely needs.

Other Business

James: Can we get the water grant of \$4k from Sydney Water arranged?

Mel: Yes we should try to apply for it ASAP for the installation of bubblers. Mel & Karen will investigate.

JH: Can hold up charging the P & C for installation until the grant has been awarded if necessary.

Close:

The meeting was officially closed at 7.33pm on Tuesday 12th May 2020

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, June 16th 2020