

P&C ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

Date: 14/3/22

Venue: Library, Cromer Campus, 7.30pm

Attendance: Matt Soltau (MS), Jackie Reavie (JR), Aaron Holborrow, Jenny Jones, Rob Feltscheer, Teresa Burgess (TB), Jenni Davies, Heidi Hendry, Siobhan King, Darlene, Christine Pike, Andrena Kenneth, Roberta Sawden (RS), Julie Roper, Paula Cowan, Jake Krausmann,

Principal: Justin Hong (JH)

Apologies: Juanita Teofilo

Principal's Report (JH):

1. It's been a difficult start to the year with COVID cases, then the more recent flooding where the school had to close down for the safety of the students. Through all this the students have been amazing.

Although I can't apologise for the pandemic, I feel that the situation has significantly altered the school community for new school parents and I apologise for not being able to provide the usual service of holding information evenings, meetings with teachers, inviting speakers in for presentation assemblies etc. Because of COVID restrictions it was not possible to hold the usual open night for prospective students this year either.

However, now restrictions are lifting, school life is beginning to return to normal with musical and dance events, Duke of Edinburgh and excursions all restarting. Tomorrow night (Tuesday 15th March) school is hosting a Year 7 Parent Night, with a Year 8 Parent Night to follow next Tuesday (22nd March). Principal tours of the school will also restart, with the aim to run them every fortnight.

2. On another note, there has been some tough news with negative media articles about the school:
 - i. The first one was about the early finish on Thursday afternoons. A lot of information in the articles was true, including the comment about a state wide teacher shortage, however the reporter took a statement about budget constraints to mean that the school doesn't have enough finance to fully staff the school. This was a mistake. The school has plenty of funds to fully staff the school for the necessary teaching hours. The confusion has arisen in that in previous years the school has been providing more than the mandatory teaching hours. Due to the growth in the school these extra hours are no longer possible to staff and the extra time has been consolidated into one zone in the timetable – Thursday afternoon. The positive aspect of this is that all the teachers in the school can now meet as a team each week, which is vital for the leadership of the school and saved funding 2 whole extra staff positions. Many other schools have already implemented this approach before Cromer, including Freshwater Campus and Narrabeen Sports High School.
 - ii. Another article, not specifically about Cromer, was about the locking of school toilets during lesson time. This is a common practice across schools, both public and private, to maintain cleanliness of the toilet blocks and also to limit students taking advantage of having different teachers each period and asking each of them if they could go to the toilet, thus losing a lot of learning time. At Cromer, there is always one block of toilets open in the Admin Block by the Deputy Principals' Office which the students are able to use at any time of day. In order to use them they do need an 'out of class pass' from the teacher. No child is denied access to the toilet.

3. Unfortunately, there is still damage to the front of school (the fencing, downed trees, damage to the signs) from the storms before Christmas. As this is an insurance case they can't be repaired just yet, however I have been calling weekly to try to push this forward. Hopefully the repairs will happen in the next couple of weeks.
4. The most recent wet weather event resulted in leaks in nearly 40 classrooms. Most were minor issues, but there are some areas within the school with more significant damage that is in the process of being remediated and repaired.
5. Teacher shortages: School continues to grow. In each of the last 3-4 years, I have needed to add another 12-14 teachers. This has not been an issue until this year when the field of applicants had significant shrunk. It is now a challenge to fill the last 3-4 vacancies, however I'm confident that they will be filled by the end of term.
6. When interviewing prospective teachers, we have a panel of 4 that includes a parent. If you would like to volunteer for this role, please ask to be added to the list of parents and I will contact you when the need arises. It's an approximate 4 hour time commitment.
7. There seems to be a rolling number of 3-4 teachers who are COVID positive at any one time, mostly picked up from their own children/families. This has been disruptive for school however all staff have free periods scheduled into their time tables. This is purposely done so that they are able to cover for other teachers if they are away or sick. The advantage of this over bringing general casual teachers in, is that we aim to use teachers from the same faculty to cover classes to minimize the disruption to teaching. It is a challenge though and unfortunately there have been, and will be times when students are in a minimally supervised class in the library. We are trying to minimize this, but unfortunately it is going to be inevitable, especially if the case numbers do double again as the Premier is predicting.
8. The work on the new COLA project that was due to start at the end of this month, has unfortunately been pushed back for approximately one month due to the wet weather
9. Work is expected to start soon on upgrading the Admin Block

Overall, through all the challenges that this year has already presented, I would like to thank the parents and students for handling it so well.

Treasurer's Report (Matt Soltau):

Total In Bank	\$72,466.74
Girls Program	\$11,330.29
Band	\$4,731.60
Committed Expenditure	\$0.00
Available Funds	\$56,404.85

President's Report (JR):

With no specific agenda for this meeting as it's only 3 weeks since the last meeting, the aim was to increase the social aspect of the P&C and encourage more parents to join, not necessarily to hold positions on the committee but to take part, raise any concerns, join the discussion and contribute ideas for ways to improve the school.

As the P&C we would love to see more parents involved, and restart the school community after the last 2 years of very limited interaction.

Due to COVID restrictions last year, we were unable to do any fundraising, however we did complete projects such as the working bee and installing new seating in areas of the school.

This year, the goal is to fundraise once more and work on more projects to improve the school:

1. More seating areas for students (currently waiting on quotes)
2. Buying a sound system for the new COLA
3. Adding an indigenous based mural to the front of school
4. Restarting the Dream Big Programme to support girls, with the money that was previously bequeathed to the school
5. Working Bees to 'beautify' the school

As a group, the leaders of the Northern Beaches College Campus P&C's are meeting, together with the Principals, to start a College P&C. The aim of this is to share ideas for fundraising, such as running events with guest speakers or organisations that would be open to parents from all campus'. RS suggested that linking with Man Cave would be an excellent option. JR will speak further to RS about this and get contact details.

Other Business

1. Working Bee, this will be planned for early in term 2
2. Canteen Representative Update (JR) – the canteen is running really well and is busy. They are currently looking for another 2 part-time canteen assistants to help out.
3. Easter Eggs for teachers – as is standard practice, each teacher will receive an Easter Egg before the end of term. TB is organizing this and will consult with MS regarding funds.
4. Government Grants Update (JJ) – nil to update at present
5. Fundraising Update – with the view to restarting our fundraising effort, we are looking for volunteers to take part in the fundraising committee. With a number of people on this committee, the workload will be easily spread around. If you are interested in taking part in this committee, please get in touch with JR via president@cromercampusandc.org.au

Close:

The meeting was officially closed at 8.55pm

Next Meeting:

May 2nd 7.30pm in the school library. This will be the AGM that was delayed from the start of term 1.