

P&C ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

Date: 23/8/21

Venue: Online zoom meeting (COVID lockdown)

Attendance: Jackie Reavie (JR), Cathy Butler (CB), Matt Soltea (MS), Jude Nicoll (JN), James Brisebois (JB), Jennifer Jones (JJ), Deborah Howard (DH), Teresa Burgess (TB), Michelle Hofmann (MH), Jenni Davies
Principal: Justin Hong

Apologies: Aaron Holborow, Kathie Palamara, Neva Imbs, Jocelyn Huxley

Principal's Report:

Well done to everyone supporting their children at home.

This week has been one of the most difficult weeks of JH's time at Cromer, with the loss of our year 8 student Josh Gill. JH wants to thank everyone for their messages of support. He is proud to be Principal of this amazing community. At the wishes of Josh's parents, there has been a website set up as a place for messages of support/condolence and for uploading memories of Josh. This will be sent out to the school community when this is received.

During normal school operation, school would have provided onsite Counsellors for the students to access as needed. Unfortunately with lockdown this hasn't been possible, however a list of support options has been provided within emails to the school community and there is access to school counsellors if needed online. JH encourages everyone to use this support as needed.

Since lockdown, the school executive has continued to work hard to balance the workload for the students – providing enough work without overloading them and causing anxiety. The wellbeing of the students continues to be the primary focus. There has been an overwhelmingly positive response to the wellbeing day held last Wednesday, both from students and parents. JH has discussed with the executive and floated the idea of continuing to hold wellbeing days every 2nd Wednesday throughout lockdown.

Assessments:

Year 12 - JH met with all the year 12 students to map out the rest of term for them so that they have as much certainty as possible moving forwards during this difficult period. At present they will be doing modified assessments and trial papers. The last 2 weeks of term 3 will be spent getting ready for HSC.

Year 11 will do yearly exams in weeks 9 and 10 of this term. These will all be open book tests to minimise any malpractice. The weighting for these exams has been dropped, with a subsequent increase in weighting for the assessments to minimise the effect of the changes to the exam process.

JH acknowledged that some students may have difficulties with internet outages for example, and stated that these problems will be taken into consideration on an individual basis.

For the younger years in the school, up until now, teachers haven't been doing any assessments. However, as time goes on in lockdown, with no end in immediate sight, to keep on top of the workload, the teachers will be restarting them. However, they have been instructed to only assess information that has been taught within lessons and only to assess within class time. If students want to do extra study then they can do, but it's not expected. All learning will be covered within class time.

The yearly meetings have also restarted.

Invitation to parent community:

An invitation will be sent out to the school community to register for a broadcast that's happening at 7pm on Tuesday 7th September about the state of public schools in the pandemic and moving forwards. It will be hosted by Tracey Spicer for the parents of public school students and will be 30 minutes long. The Head of Council for Secondary Principals, Craig Peterson, will be talking together with the Head of Council for Primary School Principals, and a rep from the NSW Teacher's Association. JH will send the flyer out that has a QR code to register. Everyone is encouraged to watch this broadcast.

Treasurer's Report (Matt Soltau):

Balance brought forward	\$160,245.34
Income	\$0.00
Expenditure	\$2,612.50
Total in Bank	\$157,632.84
Girls Programme	\$11,330.29
Band	\$4,731.60
Committed Expenditure	\$45,000.00
Available Funds	\$96,570.95

There have been no significant changes to the funds. A small invoice has been received for the International Garden project and the P&C Membership has been paid.

The P&C is still in the process of moving the Credit Union account to the Bendigo Bank, Freshwater Branch. Matt and Jackie just need to sign off on this.

Job Saver has been applied for the canteen employees. So far \$3000 has been received. Any out-of-pocket difference for the canteen staff will be made up by the P&C.

The COVID Disaster Relief Payment has also been applied for from the State Government.

CBA may also waive their fees.

President's Report:

JR extended condolences to the Gill Family and said thank-you to JH for his communication with the students and school community. This open dialogue has been really important. JR also offered support from the school community, via the P&C, for the Gills as and when it is needed.

JR also thanked JH and the school staff for the well-being day held last Wednesday.

Signage – This project is underway but still waiting to be completed. JR asked JH to take the measurements for the size of sign when he is on campus. JH noted that construction is once more allowed on school grounds and, with the students not currently being on site, noted that this is a great time to complete building projects.

Year 7 seating – Unfortunately, due to COVID, this project has been delayed, however, JR will follow-up with the company to see if we can it completed before the students return.

Parents of Cromer Campus Facebook page – Unfortunately there have been some offensive/inappropriate comments being made on the page. As a result a decision was made to put a system in place so that all comments need to be approved before being posted. JR has currently taken on this job but cannot do it long term and is therefore asking for 2-3 parent volunteers to help moderate the posts. Please get in touch with Jackie if you could take on this role.

Fundraising – At this point we still have no fundraising manager, however, due to the ongoing COVID lockdown and hardships being faced by many families at present, it is deemed inappropriate to be asking families to donate money at this time.

A discussion following this decision raised the possibility of how those more fortunate in our school community could help those less fortunate. The following options were discussed:

1. MH suggested an online market where parents with small businesses could post/advertise their products and services. JR will post on the Parents of Cromer Campus Facebook page to assess whether this would be supported. If it is, then a new Facebook page will be set up with the idea that all business posts will be contained within this new page. A link to this page would then be posted regularly on the Parents of Cromer Campus page to encourage people to access it. In this way all parents will have the opportunity to support the other families of our school community. JR will liaise with DH and MH about the logistics of setting this up.
2. DH suggested having advertising slots at the end of the school newsletter for parents with small businesses to use. JH agreed that this was a great idea and is happy to integrate this into the next newsletter later this term.
3. At present the school Deputies are in regular communication with families that are struggling within the school community. JH will talk to the Deputies about reaching out to these families informally, to see what assistance is needed. He will then let JR know as and when needs arise so that P&C can support these families.
4. MH suggested adding a 'pay it forward' option to Flexischools. In this way parents, as able, could donate small amounts of money each time they use Flexischools. This money would go into a separate account to create a fund that could be used to support families in need, for example, with food, school excursions etc. This is an idea for the future, once the students return to campus, but would be a good ongoing way that the school community can help support each other in times of need.
5. JB suggested using an online fundraiser, similar to last year that raised \$10,000, to raise money to go towards helping families in need with food vouchers etc.

Other Business

1. **Grants** – JJ continues to develop the application for the Sustainable Schools Grant for the bins in the new COLA area. JJ will discuss previous suppliers and quotes received with JR and JH. Adding a new bubbler in this area was discussed as an option, but, unless there is pre-existing plumbing, the expense of adding this would be too high at present.
2. **Golf Fundraiser update** Tuesday 19 October has been confirmed. Unfortunately, due to the current lockdown, this is unlikely to go ahead.
3. **Dance Fundraiser** – this has now been postponed from August 11th until late in term 4. There is nothing new to report at this time.
4. **Thanks to the school** – numerous members of the P&C said an individual thanks to the school for all they are doing for the students to support them during this lockdown. It is greatly appreciated by the parents and noted that the school is doing an excellent job.
5. **Positive Incidents** - JJ asked if it was possible to have more detail available on the school portal with regards to the positive/negative incidents so that parents could give more specific feedback to their children. JH noted that unfortunately this information cannot be posted online in that format. However, parents do have full access to their children's school file and just need to contact the year advisor to access this information.

Close:

The meeting was officially closed at 8.40pm

Next Meeting: Monday October 11th, 7.30pm