

**Mount Stromlo High School  
Parents and Citizens Association  
Annual General Meeting  
3 May 2021**

**Meeting opened:** 7:40pm

**Apologies:** Jo Forster

**Attendance:** Sue Cooper, Brian Farrelly, Patrice Higgins, Kylie Kynaston, Anita Mack, Bronwyn Madge, Peter Radford, Marina Spurgin, Julie Williams

**Acceptance of previous minutes:** Moved by Kylie Kynaston and seconded by Julie Williams.

**Business arising**

**College workshop.** The president has confirmed the workshop arrangements with Canberra College teacher Richard Johnston. 91 people have already registered for the event, capped at approximately 300 attendees by public health guidelines.

**President's report – Anita Mack**

The president thanked the school for a very successful athletics carnival. The principal agreed that it had been a good day with excellent participation.

The president had tried to arrange a cyber safety workshop for Term 3 without success. The Think U Know program has not resumed after the 2020 lockdowns. The president then contacted Victorian cyber safety expert Susan McLean but she charges \$2500 plus travel expenses, which would be very difficult to recoup. Consequently, we may end up asking Headspace to give another presentation on an aspect of mental health, as their previous talk was very successful and they are keen to speak again.

The president had also made a submission to the ACT Legislative Assembly inquiry into the management of school infrastructure on behalf of the P&C, suggesting it was past time the kitchen classrooms were updated.

The P&C was also contacted by a journalist who was canvassing many schools about vaping. The president refused to be interviewed because the P&C has no information about or position on vaping at the school. The meeting noted that the article had been published in the *Canberra Times* yesterday, and that all schools had refused interviews.

## **Treasurer's report – Julie Williams**

There has been no income or expenditure since our previous meeting.

The financial statements were audited for the AGM.

## **P&C Council representatives – Jo Forster and Kylie Kynaston**

A previous meeting was cancelled, and then our representatives were unavailable for the next meeting and have not yet received the minutes from the P&C Council.

Marina reported that the previous meeting had been about how the P&C Council could support school P&C's. School capacity was also discussed, as demographics suggests north Canberra schools in particular will be over-enrolled in the foreseeable future.

## **Principal's report – Peter Radford**

Another busy report from the principal.

**Staffing.** Laura Simpson has now left Stromlo, with Matt Sandeman acting deputy principal. And Cherie Wilkinson has taken up her secondment with Questacon. A new science teacher, James Hall, has been selected but will not be released by his current school (Erindale) until next term. In the meantime, Leonie and Penny George are covering these classes.

**Girls' camp.** The girls' camp was very successful. As noted previously, this camp had a different focus to the boys' camp, targetting well-being rather than participation. Originally imagined as being for around 60 girls, there was such strong demand that over a hundred attended. Thanks to Bree and Kate for a very successful camp. It is hoped that there can be some major activity each term.

**Parent-teacher interviews.** A successful evening.

**Athletics carnival.** As noted in the president's report, a good day with excellent participation.

**Information night.** The information night on 13 May has had to be redesigned around health advice. It will be a ticketed event with multiple tour groups and no major assembly. There will be a cap of 240 students for Year 7 in 2022.

**Vaping.** Smoking has generally been declining in popularity for many years, so the principal doesn't see that there is a lot of interest in vaping. However, he does agree that vaping is replacing smoking to a degree, and notes that it can be more discreet and easier to hide.

**Secretary.** The principal thanked the secretary for continuing in his role after his son graduated last year.

## **Other business**

**Ski trip.** The principal was asked about rumours of a ski trip. A ski trip has been pencilled in for early September but has not been formally announced pending some details.

**Road Ready.** The principal answered a question about the timing of the Road Ready driver training program, which is a 3-day program run Wednesday to Friday.

**LEX@S.** The learning extension program is being changed to give greater emphasis and opportunity to students with particular aptitudes, rather than to hard-working students. The program will resume in the second semester with students who have topped aptitude testing.

**NAPLAN.** NAPLAN testing will resume in 2021 after being cancelled in 2020. There will be a gap in the results next year when then Year 9 students are tested without having any 2020 Year 7 results available.

**Reward system.** The school is developing a new reward system to replace Bronzes. The principal hopes to offer an excursion to Jamberoo for the winning house and top earners as the incentive.

**Next meeting:** Because a president was not elected at the AGM earlier tonight, the P&C will have a special meeting on 24 May to elect a president. The next general meeting is planned for 7 June 2021.

**Meeting closed:** 8:30pm