

Mount Stromlo High School - Parents and Citizens Association

General Meeting, 9 May 2022, 7.15 pm

in-person and online

Please [email the secretary](#) to comment

Meeting opened 7.15 pm

P&C President, John Wellard opened the meeting – his first as President – and welcomed participants.

Acknowledgement of Country

1. Apologies

Julie Williams, Council Delegate Jo Foster, and Treasurer Jaron Bailey

2. Attendance: 9

John Wellard	Marina Spurgin	Deki Pemo	Nicholas Potter
Peter Radford	Ange R	Tammy Sattler	Gracie Urbien
Donna Campbell			

3. SRC Presentation from Ash and Quinn

Overview of the SRC by Ashton Martin, school captain and Quinn SRC member. Followed by questions.

- SRC is almost a fully student led group with established roles and jobs for each person,
- Recently have been planning for how we want the SRC to run,
- developed voting systems, time schedules and open communication. hope to soon present this knowledge to the broader school community, as well as inform students who their SRC representatives are. We've organized for a public announcement regarding this information at the middle school assembly later this week,
- The SRC meets Wednesdays. 16 members - four year reps from yrs 10, 9, 8, 7, and the school captains,
- Seeking ideas, and proposals from students,
- some current projects underway, as well as some for the future, two proposals in progress, the unisex bathrooms and a handball competition,
- Aiming for cohesive meetings,
- Updating policies, student communication organization, helping to develop the school newsletter, creating more job opportunities for students, climate change, education and resources, and a student's survey regarding SRC representation,
- different groups of students focus on different projects.

John thanked Ash and Quinn and asked if a representative from the SRC could be invited speak more regularly to the P&C, and ways in which the association can assist the SRC.

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4. Previous minutes (attached)

The previous meeting's minutes held March 21 were circulated by email for confirmation. Comments received 26/3/22.

5. P&C Reports

a. Treasurer away due to accident – no report

b. President Report

John said he did a handover with the previous president Tina Tilley, and thanked her for all her efforts. He acknowledged the last two years were particularly difficult because of COVID. He's received the President's Bible, and thanked everybody for their patience. He's focussed on the next six months, and what the P&C can do to clarify and support the P&C strategy. John called for conversations and feedback regarding what we can do in terms of supporting the school.

Treasurer's role for the next couple of months, until we know what Jaron wishes to do as treasurer (after his bicycle accident). Potential for Julie, the previous treasurer and current public officer, to take on the role temporarily. JW to confirm as Jaron may be back in June.

Changing over signatories on the bank accounts. Anita might still be one of the signatories (Tina's predecessor). Keep Jaron in the loop re changes. John W. to talk to Julie.

John is investigating **Square Reader POS** for the bbq. Preference for cashless while maintaining the option of cash transactions. Also useful for uniform sales. Will cost the P&C \$50 for a device and approx. 1% of every sale. Other P&C's have done this, John to check whether we can register a square reader with associations.

Uniform Stock and Sale

John has received enquiries about the 2nds uniform stock and availability. Scheduled a sale after the election day bbq. Discussion about process and documentation. Items are to be requested pre-washed. Stock is dropped at the office and then gets put into the storeroom in tubs.

John to have a look at the storeroom to assist those who have been in touch about uniforms.

c. P&C Council Delegates

No report from delegate, Marina outlined Council's general meeting Mar 22.

Guest Speaker: Maree Wright, Past President North Ainslie outlined how the NAPS P&C committee has reinvented itself over the past three years to become a thriving and efficiently functioning association.

New Delegates' Briefing - to welcome new delegates to Council and outline the roles and responsibilities of this role. Delegates are an important conduit in gathering the views and concerns of parents from their school communities and bringing these to Council. They also share information and actions from Council General meetings back to their committees.

Council online training sessions available: Treasurers and insurance workshop 7pm 12 May, and Constitution workshop 7pm 7 June.

RAP Update of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan. The theme for Reconciliation Week 2022 (27 May – 3 June) is 'Be Brave. Make Change.' P&Cs are invited to share how they are marking this week.

COVID-19 management in schools beyond term 1. Members expressed concerns about restrictions on parents being on school grounds, teacher shortages and impact on class sizes, managing ventilation during cooler weather, the inability of some schools to live stream school assemblies, how changes to restrictions are being communicated to school communities, and the risk of mosquitos entering classrooms as windows are opened.

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Canteen review and viability (Canberra HS). Traffic management and parking.

6. Principal's Report

The Principal congratulated Brian Downton, Stromlo's deputy principal is now, the principal of Deakin high school.

NAPLAN starts this week.

While there are pros and cons to NAPLAN, it's just one test on one day, that provides information, which we're able to use, and like it or not, we are also judged on it. It is not the only thing used to assess learning programs at the school. Rod Grieves and Sam Holmes have done the organising.

COVID restrictions softening

A welcome change to mask restrictions for staff. In line with the community which makes a big difference being able to see facial expressions. Cohorting is gone, excursions return, plus performances, clubs ie the writing club. Athletics carnival went ahead - a really successful day - the PE department and all the teachers were fantastic in organizing.

Workload and staff

Impact of Covid where students would get it then parents/teachers have to isolate with their kids, and then they would get it. So teachers would be out for a good 10 to 14 days, which is difficult to cover. Most of this year has had 20 to 25% away every day. Principal did a lot of relief but the team tried not to collapse classes. Or collapse as few times as possible.

Isolation rules changing will help. The Directorate is under pressure, it is very difficult to find staff. As the term progresses, we'll, we'll see a few more staff coming on, which should ease that pressure. The first priority is to get teachers in front of classes.

That's where the planning days come from. We don't get a choice as to whether we have them or not, teachers are grateful, but we acknowledge the pressure on families as well.

Information night

Most high schools aren't having the in person information night. We're having an online event similar to what we did a couple of years ago, and do a Q&A session with parents. This allows us to put as much of our energies into focusing on our core business, and what matters most.

A question was asked about the mobile phone policy How's implementation going? The Principal said he couldn't be happier with it, they were good at reminding staff. Over time the kids will get used to that.

John thanked Peter for his report

School board report no meeting since last report.

7. Correspondence

[Order of Australia Student Award](#) Nominations open

8. General business

[P&C Strategy and survey](#)

John raised the need for broader conversation about the P&C and role. A survey may pick up and engage with the broader community. People who otherwise wouldn't normally engage with P&C. Discussion around what we do as a high school P&C, what's our core mission? is it around community engagement? supporting the students? fundraising? it can be many things. Explore ways

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use the limited resources and time that we have in the most effective way. Start with a survey first and then move to further discussions.

JW commented it's important to get the survey out to the broad community. What would we be asking, and how do we get it out as broadly as possible?

MS said the anonymous survey can be distributed via link and she will have draft questions ready for the next meeting.

Sausage sizzle 21/5/2022

Democracy Sausage Sizzle – spots to fill via the SignUp app

Organisation status for the election day sausage sizzle fundraiser.

Fri 20 May

Onion choppers (or Thu)

Sat 21 May

Setup crew (coffee supplied)	6:30 – 8.30AM
1st Shift Sausage Sangas	8:00 – 11.00 AM
2nd Shift Sausage Sangas	11:00 AM – 2.00 PM
3rd Shift Sausage Sangas	2:00 – 5.00 PM
Clean-up Crew	4:30 – 6.00 PM

With a few unknowns, we're being modest in terms of supplies, and also in terms of expectations on the day. Supply of school barbecue equipment via Sue Scott. Majority of organisation has been finalised

Lyra and Badgers not running their own fundraising activity, Saturday's always difficult.

P&C ABN

The ABN is still linked to the P&C canteen (ceased 2014, no longer viable). 82 139 388 735 is active. 'Stromlo High School P&C Canteen'.

John asked do we want to keep the ABN, is there any benefit to it? if we do, do we need to change the name? Is there a cost associated with having an ABN again? Marina and Julie to check the process/form required.

School fundraising via recycling

Students are raising funds through recycling. Bring in all those drinks containers that have the 10 cent sign on. We've got the purple bean and are getting the stickers.

Feedback

Positive feedback was provided in relation to inclusion and adjustments made by teachers.

9. Meeting closed 9pm

John thanked everyone for attending and contributing

Next meeting: June 6 – in person at the school and online.

Action list 9/5/2022

Item 21/3	Person	Action	By	✓ ?
5	Marina	Email Shannon Carnovale, Melrose High	24/3	✓ response received
7a	Marina	Add the constitution to the school's P&C webpage and update the membership form	9/5	✓ In progress with Kim Smith
7c	Julie	2nds Uniform sale: Sue, confirm date for sale term 2, week 1 or 2 Marina to do the Ads for Facebook, Scope.	26/4	✓ Jun 24 ✓ Sent to Sue
7d	Marina	Bunnings BBQ potential date.	9/5	✓
8	Marina	P&C feedback poll	9/5	✓ draft
Item 9/5				
5	Marina	Draft letter to invite SRC to speak to the P&C and outline ways the association can assist the student council	20/6	
5	John, Julie	Change signatories on the bank accounts.		
5	John	John is investigating Square Reader POS . Check whether we can register a square reader for associations.		
8	Marina	ABN, change name. Process/form required.	20/6	