

MINUTES
Mount Stromlo High School
Parents and Citizens Association meeting
7 June 2021

Meeting opened: 7:15pm

Apologies: Nigel Webster

Attendance:

Tina Tilley	Julie Williams	Kylie Kynaston	Tammy Sattler
Anita Mack	Nick Potter	Marina Spurgin	Patrice Higgins
Peter Radford	Sue Cooper	Bronwyn Madge	

Acceptance of previous minutes:

May 24 GM and special meeting May 28, moved by Kylie, seconded by Julie.

Business arising

New President Tina Tilley

Anita thanked everyone who came to the extra meetings over the last couple of weeks to get Tina into the president role. Tina will put together a P&C calendar to share.

Correspondence

from ACT P&C Council - **cleaning contractors** A number of schools have raised cleaning as an issue - Council have raised it with the Directorate and have requested feedback from schools. The Directorate organises the cleaning contractors in schools so please report any problems.

Encouraging more parents to P&C meetings

Anita suggested a short talk from teaching staff at the end of meetings (approx. 10 minutes). Topic 1 mathematics, the homework software for years 7 and 8 (mathspace is for yr 9 and 10).

Someone from the maths department to talk about why and how it's used, the benefits, how to get the most from it, and have time for some questions. Starting next meeting week 3, term 3.

Tina flagged homework details ie What assignments are, how google classroom summaries work – to provide clarity around the summaries from a parent perspective.

President's report

Inquiry into the management of infrastructure and ACT schools submission. The P&C has made a submission to this inquiry re our Home Economics rooms (which are dated), outlining the need for upgrades to the ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee.

Journalists from the Canberra times, ABC and 2CC radio, contacted the President for interviews regarding the inquiry, all declined. The standing Committee on education and community inclusion have invited members of P&C to appear as a witness at a public hearing on the 13th of July from 1.30 to 2.10. Tina will attend.

Term 2 Workshops

yr 10 workshop is Jun 8 for year 10 students and parents.

The Principal and staff will talk about the rest of the year for yr 10, ie graduation, formal, certificate. Richard Johnson from Canberra College, the transition and careers officer TACO, will talk about

going to college next year. 149 Bookings received.

Term 3 eSafety workshop

As *Think You Know* isn't available, Nicole ?, Assistant Director of E-safety in the Education Directorate will present to parents on E-safety and cybersecurity. She's going to meet with Tina and Peter to discuss the content

Julie treasurers report

Nothing in or out of the bank since last meeting.

Waiting for information re the **insurance fee**.

The **P&C bank account** is still a checking account. Commonwealth have not been helpful about resolving the problem. Julie motioned that we move the accounts from the Commonwealth Bank to St George. Seconded by everyone.

Kylie, P&C Council Delegate report

Presentation on complaints handling procedures by Kristen Laurent from the Education Directorate. Currently acting executive branch manager of the governance and community liaison branch (including feedback and complaints team). Kristen talked about the current approaches to managing complaints.

...the evidence is that when families and schools work together, children and young people are more likely to build good relationships and do better at school. In any good partnership, there will be times that there are disagreements and issues of concern that will need to be resolved.

Parents should be encouraged to raise their concerns with the school through a process that is explained clearly, and schools should respond in an open and consistent approach that is courteous, efficient, and fair. To best address parent concerns and provide the opportunity to build and restore relationships between schools and families.

- encourage parents to start with the child's classroom teacher.
- then go to the school executive if not achieving a resolution,
- then to the principal unless that creates a conflict of interest.

There is a poster in the foyer about complaints procedure.

Reconciliation week.

website has 20 actions to consider what reconciliation work is and ideas to participate. Cultural integrity training is available for P&Cs.

board report

Update on what happened with the grant proposals from last year, a couple of grants went by the wayside because of COVID - ie the quiet program, grant proposals approved for this year:

- Camera purchase of mirrorless camera.
- The pumptrack.
- Lights for theater production.
- Raspberry Pi - no stem teacher this semester, so they haven't been used, but the new steam teacher next semester.
- The microscope

Principals report

staffing

There are very few relief teachers in Canberra and days where between five and 20 staff are away. Difficult to get relief teachers. Have had to collapse some classes. For next term a number of teachers are starting though steam is still difficult to fill. Will have two deputies for the next six months. Kim Smith is on higher duties for next semester - in a student

wellbeing, student engagement type role. This may involve changes to Student Services structure.

Girls excursion

Very successful event - ice skating and documentary *girls can't surf*.

NAPLAN

Held early this term - a significant administrative and time requirement to implement.

Still some problems with connection issues. Naplan has its negatives and positives and is just one piece of data among others that we use.

Positive feedback

Parents are invited to provide feedback where teachers were going above and beyond in any way – it's a great way to celebrate our teachers.

Futsal court

The upgrade is happening these holidays.

Kitchens

Infrastructure review money for kitchens, outcome as yet unknown.

The courtyard has a pizza oven like an outdoor café and passage goes from the kitchen to the outdoor café with a ramp. A previous grant was for a coffee machine for hospitality instruction. we need the kitchen upgrade to do that.

information night

Another successful event with 600 people.

Speeches were videotaped because of COVID, and played on repeat with four groups on rotation so not too many people in the hall at once.

Next Meeting

The next general meeting is July 26

Anita thanked everyone for coming and wound up the meeting.

Meeting closed: 8:10pm