



Term 1 Week 5 P&C Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, 22 February
TIME: 7pm – 8.55pm
VENUE: School Staffroom

Present: Lisa Phillips, Jono Rosconi, Jade Browett, Allison Salmon, Linda Smith, Emma, Lauren Sciacca, Janine Ralston, Mandy Parkes, Nerida, Simon, Susan, Kim, Jasmine McEvoy

Welcome- Allison

Allison welcomed every to the start of a new year. She thanked everyone for coming and was appreciative of the time given up. A brief explanation of the P&Cs role was given to the new attendees including an explanation of P&C fundraising and the running of canteen and uniform shop.

Ethics- guest speaker Jasmine

Jasmine addressed the P&C regarding the need for volunteers for the Ethics Program that runs alongside scripture. She noted: ethics started 9 years ago. Normally 100 children go to ethics. There is currently 1 parent volunteer and the rest are retirees. Jasmine plans to retire as coordinator soon and is concerned the program will collapse without volunteers who are connected to EHPS. J.R commented that a call for volunteers has gone out to the parent body and LP remarked that Catholic volunteers are also needed. The programs can only run if there are enough volunteers for all the sectors.

Training is provided. It is 2 days and can be face to face or virtual. The commitment is for 30 minutes a week. The teaching is scripted. It is a rewarding experience for the volunteer.

Lisa's Principal Report – refer to end of minutes

Jono's Deputy Principal Report

JR stated that the PSSA bus issues discussed at the previous meeting continue. EHPS has fortunately secured buses but schedules and venue changes are to be expected.

JR continued that NAPLAN has moved earlier this year and that the reporting has changed too. It should now be clearer for parents and more usable for teachers.



Finance report – Linda

Bank account looking good. There is \$20 000 readily available. LP mentioned if the playground grant is unsuccessful, she may approach the P&C to consider funding some of the playground replacement.

Social committee Report- Susie

Susie reported lots of planning is taking place to streamline the committee yearly plan including Eventbrite for tickets, online volunteer roster and fundraising calendar. Discussions about events and timings ensued. A draft Semester One plan was decided:

Term 1- 5 March Kindy Meet and Mingle

-25 March Democracy Sausage

Term 2- Mother's Day breakfast

Canteen and Uniform Update- Janine

Janine reported the new reusable cups are doing really well. There have been increased costs to increase in supplier costs. The Back to School vouchers are being well used at the uniform shop.

AOB

Janine mentioned Working Bee dates need to be organised.

P&C Principal Report Term 1 Week 5 2023

The year started extremely smoothly with 18 classes. We welcomed 44 kindergarten students, who completed their Best Start Assessments, and now already seem to be attached to their kindergarten teachers and learning routines quickly. The start of the year is always a transition period with staff changes and students in newly formed classes and we are proud of the collective efforts to make this happen like a well-oiled machine.

I would like to personally thank the P&C, with special mention of Emma Dacker, for helping with the Fun Run prizes. The amount of prizes links back to the huge success of the event and the money fundraised. Thank you, Jono and the Committee for organising an event the students absolutely loved.

Starting the year with a major event puts a lot of pressure on the staff team and we were so pleased with the Swimming Carnival and its success. Mr Tier and the Committee did a wonderful job. I would like to pay tribute to the students who competed at the event as competitors or for fun and contributing to their School Sports Houses. Carnivals are official school days where attendance



is expected, and I congratulate non-competing students who attended to cheer on their peers and be an important part of a significant school event. We had a ribbon assembly run by our House Captains and Vice Captains to acknowledge the carnival place winners. We had several records broken and it was a wonderful celebration.

Last night our teachers welcomed parents into their classrooms as an initial Parent Information Night. Our Senior Executive discussed having the option of a Zoom link for parents who could not attend, and after further consultation with our classroom teachers, it was decided that this is cumbersome for teachers to navigate but that the purpose of the event is to be an initial 'face-to-face' meeting with the teacher and familiarisation of the classroom surroundings. The presentations and handouts are available for parents who could not attend, and we completely understand it is not always a possibility to have 100% attendance at parent-teacher events.

Composite classes are a part of every public school and are purely formed due to numbers. Executive and teachers treat composite classes as 'normal' classes because as educators we know that all teachers differentiate the curriculum to support all students in their class. Parents were phoned prior to the K/1 composite being formed last year as kindergarten parents are new to the school environment. This is not a sustainable practice that can be carried out for every composite, every year. Requests to 'not' be placed in a composite will not necessarily be met, especially if the school gets smaller and more composites are formed.

Potential 'Class Parents' completed an Expression of Interest at the Information Night and similar to last year, the role comes with an expectation of parents to attend P&C and support P&C fundraising initiatives. In line with the Department of Education's Collaborative, Respectful, Communication School Community Charter, disrespectful class 'WhatsApp' comments or chats will not be tolerated, and Class Parents will be asked to set up strict rules and monitor these carefully.

This year our Executive team has welcomed some relieving Assistant Principals on board, as the permanent APs are on leave or in other positions, such as Mr Rosconi in the Deputy position. Mrs Cullen is being replaced by Ms Bowra. Mrs Cullen will return in Term 2 on a casual basis to help with her specialised programs. Ms Bosler is being replaced by Mrs Rosconi and Mrs De Paiva, until she returns in Semester 2. It is highly likely Ms Bosler will return in a part-time capacity and we hope Ms Powell will fill the job share position. We will have some staff changes throughout the year, which is common practice. Both, Ms Costa and Mrs Rosconi will leave in term 2 for maternity leave and both classes have been notified of the staff plan we are hoping to implement. Staffing is extremely complex, and we are extremely fortunate to have been able to cover all classes with permanent and temporary teachers, whilst having a group of valuable, experienced casuals.

Mrs Grewal is already doing a fantastic job in leading our Learning and Support team this year. Miss Katie Bosler has returned as our Youth Worker but will take a bulk of time away overseas. Her connection and rapport with students is highly valued. We have welcomed experienced teacher, Mrs Cockerton to the Learning and Support team to provide support to EALD students and to release Mrs De Paiva to support our Aboriginal identified students.



Elanora Heights Public School

RESPECT

ACHIEVEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY

This year, our K-2 teachers are working hard implementing the new K-2 English and Mathematics syllabus documents and Department of Education units of work. There is a strong focus on phonics and early literacy skills. In response to this, we are implementing the InitiLit program across K-2. All K-2 teachers will complete two days of intensive InitiLit training on Monday and Tuesday, Week 7.

As part of the Department of Education's support of teachers to implement the syllabus effectively, the DoE has provided extra funding specifically for Curriculum Reform and Professional Learning to support the new syllabus implementation. All staff are to be given an extra 5 hours a term of release. We are providing this as part of our Collaborative Planning program when students attend SportsPro. All Assistant Principals have been provided with funding to release them one day a week. Mrs Johnston, Mr Bell and a new teacher to Elanora, Mrs Kannard, are teaching on these timetabled days.

Mr Waters has begun to collaborate with Assistant Principal Curriculum and Instruction leaders across our Pittwater Network and is working closely with our years 3 and 5 teachers and students in preparation for NAPLAN, which the test window is scheduled earlier in Term 1, Weeks 8-10.

As always, when teachers are away, we will try our best to find and book casual teachers but may need to 'split' classes on rare occasions. We are thankful for parent understanding.

School finances and permission notes for events have been moved to online platforms. Mrs Zeelie has worked extremely hard to set both of these up. There is always a transition period and again we thank parents for their feedback and patience as we learn and build confidence with new, improved ways of working.

Mrs Zeelie and I have completed a \$25,000 grant submission to have new playground equipment installed and we hope we will be successful. You would have noticed our new driveway and enjoyed the smoother ride. Line marking to highlight the speedhumps and turning circle will be happening shortly. The K-2 toilet block reconstruction is well under way and will be completed at the end of March. The garden bed and railings are also being repaired and fixed. Thank you, for your contribution to 'tidy' Pickle Town. Our students are loving being back in their beloved land. Ms Costa is working with a teacher committee to reinstate our 'Garden Club'.

Thank you to the fundraising committee for organising the Kindy BBQ Meet and Greet. It should be a great event.

Buses and driver availability and bookings across the Peninsula, are already causing a great deal of difficulty and major problems. Jono will discuss PSSA.

Kind regards,
Lisa Phillips

Meeting closed: 8:10pm

Next Meeting- Term 2 Week 5