

## **P & C Minutes, Elanora Heights Public School Wednesday 10 June 2020**

**Attendance:** Leesa Martin, Jono Rosconi, Cassie Hotchin, Janine Ralston, Carly Skeers, Jade Browett, Allison Salmon, Anna Davis, Lauren Sciacca, Cecilia Ruiz, Deb McBurnie, Renae Godden, Ro Brazel, Linda Smith, Mel Cunningham, John Drake, Michelle Clark, Rebecca Schnabel, Jade Fernandes.

**ITEM 1: Welcome:** AS opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

**ITEM 2: Apologies:** Sue Garrity, Lee Milligan, Suzy Gilbert

**ITEM 3: Review and accept previous minutes, 13 May 2020:**

Accepted by CS, seconded by JRa.

**ITEM 4 & 5: Principal's Report and Work, Health & Safety Report, LM**

### **Phase 3 Continues**

We are currently still in phase 3 of the return to school, with many restrictions still in place. (Parents on site, no extra-curricular, no excursions or camps, no assemblies etc). Whilst this is frustrating, it is giving us a golden opportunity to settle all students back into their routines and maximise our teaching and learning time with a focus on literacy and numeracy. We are hopeful that activities may resume next term, but will await advice from the NSW Premier, Department of Health and Department of Education.

As a staff, we have all realised the time we often lose due to an overcrowding of our daily timetable and we will be reflecting on what activities we could potentially cease to maximise learning time and allow staff time to prepare lessons and provide quality feedback. We will also be seeking suggestions from our parent community with regard to these activities. Which activities value-add to our students and which are nice, but add little value?

We will also be looking at the new ways of delivering learning or school programs and seeing if we can maximise time by adjusting our mode of delivery – the whole school zoom assembly was a stunning example of this last week. We delivered all messages in 15 minutes, where we would normally spend at least 45 minutes bringing all students into the hall etc.

### **Parent Interviews and Survey**

Thank you for participating in the recent parent phone interviews – this process was highly valued by our teaching staff as they gained valuable information on how to best support students moving forward as they returned to school.

We are trying to capture the learnings which occurred during the period of learning from home and as such are currently surveying staff, students and our parent community to gain their insights into what worked, what didn't and what they learnt about themselves and how they would like our school to be. Please encourage as many people as possible to complete the short survey.

This reflection process will give us important information as we move into the next planning cycle for school improvement. We will also be seeking input from our community via P & C meetings in Semester 2.

### **Student Reports for Semester 1**

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, the Department have authorised an adjustment to student reports for semester 1 due to the interruption to learning caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our reports will contain a 3 point achievement scale (Working Towards/Achieving/Working Beyond) for outcomes covered in English and mathematics, along with a learning goal for semester 2 in each of these subjects. Outcomes delivered in Creative Arts and Science & Technology will also be included, graded against the 3 point achievement scale.

Attitudes to learning and a general comment will be included, which will reflect the application to learning during the online period, along with how the student has adjusted back into the classroom setting. School activities will be included in the semester 2 report.

This year, we will be emailing the reports to you directly. Parents have been asked to ensure their current email address is correct and to provide an additional email address where families have dual dwellings.

The Semester 2 reports will be as usual. We thank you for your support of this new reporting format and process.

### **School Drop Off and Pick Up Congestion**

We are still experiencing high levels of congestion at key drop-off and pick-up times and again ask parents to not only obey the road rules, but also show consideration to other parents. Council rangers will be spot checking and issuing infringement notices to cars breaking road rules – see newsletter this week for the list of fines.

As a school we are looking at potential ways we could streamline the process to maximise student safety. I have also re-engaged with the Department's Infrastructure Team with regard to a solution for our driveway and school entrance situation. I am hopeful that this process may commence again in Semester 2.

We are considering introducing a staggered school departure time to assist the congestion situation at the end of the day. Potential thoughts involve a A-K (280 students), L-Z (282 students) pick up situation. We may also consider 'single' students departing first whilst siblings find each other within the school grounds, then siblings exiting the school together at a second pick up time. We will discuss this with staff to develop a plan for a potential trial at the end of this term. Punctuality is also a frequent concern. We are asking all families to make sure their children are walking down the path by no later than 8:45am to address this problem. Please assist us in promoting this important aspect of the school day in the broader community.

### **Cooler Classroom Update**

Good news arrived last week in the form of an email advising that work on our Cooler Classrooms Air-conditioning program was due to commence in Term 4 this year!

The first part of the program will involve a significant upgrade of our power grid, with new cabling required throughout the school. This program will represent a saving of several hundred thousand dollars for our school, so we are very grateful. I have requested that the electrical upgrade will also support additional units being added to the school site (additional classrooms not included in the original scope of work and the staffroom) and will fund these independently.

### **Demountables**

As discussed at the last meeting, the department have redeployed two of our demountables and we are currently awaiting their departure. There has been a hold up due to having to relocate an electrical cabinet in one of them.

Whilst this situation is disappointing for our school, it is important to acknowledge that the buildings will be relocated to schools with a greater need than us – schools adversely affected by recent bushfires or due to undergo a rebuild process. It is also important to acknowledge that we are one of several schools effected by the redeployment of demountables – they are only ever considered temporary structures within schools to accommodate fluctuations in enrolments.

We have relocated the two programs which were running in the demountables – the music program has been moved into the computer lab and the band have returned to running their rehearsals in the hall, as has been the practice for many years. The staff decided these were the best solutions to maintaining these programs. The computer room is no longer as necessary as we have purchased a large number of portable devices for student use. Having the music program now run from the computer lab is beneficial in that students can utilise the technology within the room for music composition etc.

### **Open Day 2020**

The staff are currently considering what this might look like for 2020 – it seems perhaps unlikely that we will be able to host an event for parents and grandparents as has been past practice. We are considering other options which may be able to occur virtually. At this point there has been no advice from the department as to what this event should look like.

P&C supported a trial of staggered dismissal times for students.

### **ITEM 6: Deputy Principal's Report, JRo**

A big thank you to Year 1 parents who provided Thankyou cookies to staff.

The school's Emotional Wellbeing survey is coming around next term – more information will be sent to parents in the coming newsletters.

Playground equipment and ball sports still remain restricted. Winter PSSA is unlikely to go ahead, but hopes are high the summer PSSA rounds will start at the end of Term 3.

### **ITEM 7: Correspondence In/Out, CS**

- Demountables – DMc is disappointed that the two demountables will be removed. An Asset Unit contact informed DMc that our demountables are not necessarily getting reassigned immediately to another school. DMc thinks they are valuable learning spaces that will not be easily won back, and during COVID physical distancing should be prioritised. DMc is happy to coordinate a response to The Dept or local Govt members, for example a template of a protest letter or petition if the community agrees with her view.

CH has written to Rob Stokes already. CH and LS wondered if class parents could send out letter templates to the broader community? Or via newsletter? LM said that it has to come through the P&C not the school and that the school has been able to accommodate the music and band programs in the computer room and school hall. AS said if student numbers decrease, we might actually have excess classroom space in 6 to 12 months.

DMc said she would provide her email ([debfoxau@yahoo.com](mailto:debfoxau@yahoo.com)) to the P&C as a point of contact for any other parents that are passionate to support this cause (and potentially the problematic entry/exit of the school).

#### **ITEM 8: Treasurers Report, LS**

The variance in the committee accounts compared to the same period last year is minimal. The canteen and uniform shop have performed steadily, helped by the JobKeeper payments.

#### **ITEM 9: Business arising from previous minutes**

- **Wind and water proof jacket** – the P&C unanimously agreed in March that a warmer jacket was desired by the community (rough price point \$65-75). After the March meeting the idea was taken to SG. JRa said that SG had reservations that a high cost jacket would sell, particularly if worn just to and from school. She is also worried about stocking another line item. The P&C agreed that they are still behind a warmer jacket to replace an existing line item. AS and JB will meet again with SG.
- **Wellness Hub, JF and JRa** - a webpage has been added to the school's website. It is a one-stop place for resources on Health and Wellness; Household and Financial Assistance; Career and Employment; and Small Businesses. The P&C will launch this resource in the newsletter (and perhaps the app) this week.

#### **ITEM 10: Social and Fundraising Committee Report, CH**

CH proposed a time capsule book for our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Each family could submit a page detailing their experiences over COVID and homeschooling. This resource could then be collated and printed out as a book as a fundraiser, put in the library or used for end of year presentation day. The P&C thought this was a good idea and CH is happy to proceed. Parents will be asked to contribute via app/newsletter/class parent.

#### **ITEM 11: Canteen Report, JRa**

The number of orders has been fluctuating. IT can't wait to get volunteers back!

#### **ITEM 12: Music Program Report, AD**

Zoom band sessions continue. LM said that The Dept continues to resist calls to get bands back face-to-face. There is no further information on when bands can recommence in person.

#### **ITEM 13: Uniform Shop Report, JRa**

The uniform shop has been busy with winter uniform orders.

#### **ITEM 14: Class Parent Report, JRa**

JRa has been checking in via emails – no face-to-face or Zoom meetings have been held.

#### **ITEM 15: Any other business: None**

The meeting closed at 9pm.

#### **ITEM 16: Next Meeting: Wednesday 5 August at 7:00pm.**

**Items to be carried over to the next meeting:** Winter jacket