Wahroonga Public School P&C Association
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday 3rd September 2014


Meeting opened 7:04pm.

1. Welcome JH, chairing the meeting in lieu of CS, welcomed everyone and invited new members to join.

2. Apologies Clair Scott, Mark Rudlin, Jo Wilbrandt, Tracey Haynes, Derek Lightfoot.

3. Minutes of previous meeting 4th June 2014 accepted. (Proposed LR, seconded VG.)

4. Principal’s Report
Lots of positive feedback about the school is coming in at the moment. JB spoke to his written report. (See Appendix A)

Also:
- JB & CS have done road safety audit with Council. Council have agreed that the No Parking zones out the front of school should be 2.30pm-4pm, in line with school zone times. Railings have been passed in principle, at school’s cost. Re Wahroonga Ave proposed pedestrian crossing, Council is in the process of writing to St Edmunds School for their opinion. JB asked Council ranger if we could extend the double white lines in front of the school so that people don’t do U-turns into the driveway.

- Use of online payments by parents are gradually increasing. ACTION – JB to indicate on future semester term fee bills that online payments are possible, and include details.

- JB spent $7000 on interactive TV in music room. Requests P&C pay for this, out of dedicated technology fundraising money from Trivia Night. ACTION – JH to request a ‘round robin’ agreement on this instigated by CS

- JB circulated school’s Cashflow Budget – Term 3 Monitoring Report. Budget projection is that school will end the year financially ahead.

5. Treasurer’s Report inc. summary of half-yearly financial position. Deferred as DL absent. JB says he hasn’t seen a full Treasurer’s Report in the four years he’s been here. Requests printed info for transparency.

6. Band Report
AS spoke to her written report (see Appendix B).

- New Bandroom Project Update
Matter carried forward to next meeting as DL absent. JB confirmed that letters have been delivered to neighbours advising them of the new proposed location of the Bandroom.

7. Events and Fundraising
Trivia Night – profit $20,000, on target. Good fun.
Bush Dance band fundraiser – 250 tickets sold. JF advised this is less than expected, but perhaps sales of food and drinks on the night will make up for it. Also expecting last-minute ticket sales on the night.

8. Uniform Shop Report
Stock take last week; over 30 new fleeces sold this winter.
Summer uniform pricing agreed for kindy starter packs but Uniform Shop needs more help on kindy orientation days, Tuesday 4 and Tuesday 11 November.
**ACTION** - VG to put out request to class coordinators re volunteers for these two days.

9. Revision of school creed
Deferred to next meeting as Jo Wilbrandt who requested the item not present.

10. Interrelate 2015
Michelle Lightfoot is organizing with school for years 3 / 4 and 5 / 6. No dates in calendar yet. Carried forward to next meeting when we have more info.

11. Correspondence
P&C membership & insurance renewed to 31/07/2015 – total cost $1,015 ($30m public liability, cash $500 & $1k property cover adjustable for events).

12. General Business
(a) Front of school drop off zone – JB already advised in his report
(b) Tree update – JB – no update. JB has been chasing arborist but no response, considering going straight to Council. Problem in getting them cut down is that the arborist has already labelled them a ‘minimal’ hazard threat.
(c) Ped. Crossing Wahroonga Ave – see JB’s report.
(d) Other matters

**CAPS update?** – forum tomorrow night at Barker College re health issues. No CAPS reps present at our meeting. JH to ask CS to request update at next meeting from school CAPS reps, Jonas Ball and Elizabeth Johnson.

**Technology**
Deputy Principal Debbie Evans updated us on technology issues.
- Remaining wireless internet access to be installed during next school holidays. Users will have to authenticate to the Department of Education’s portal and it is highly secure.
- 10 laptops currently get loaned out to classrooms; we have ordered 20 more.
- We are working towards a ‘bring your own device’ (BYOD) micro-trial (ie in one classroom, then one grade). It won’t be mandatory to bring a device, it won’t get used by anyone other than the child who brought it. It would involve contracts to be signed by parents, children, a management plan. These devices would go home at the end of the day where they would require charging. This pilot project
is in response to teachers’ desire for flexibility for kids to work on projects using devices they are already familiar with. No requirement for new software on devices: they might just need a productivity tool or a free app, or maybe even just start with web browsing.

- The aim is for kids to create their own content, not just internet surfing.
- 15 classes have created a website. KC, 2C, 5C and 6S have gone live. Class website maintenance requires a lot of extra time. DE is running training sessions for teachers.
- LR asked re work schedule of wireless installers during the holidays – would be helpful for Vacation Care program to know of works going on around the school so they can avoid those areas. DE to advise Vacation Care.

After-school activities
JF asks, is there a list of after-school activities that take place at the school? **ACTION - JB to put a master list together.** Will include tennis, marshall arts, dance, soccer, swimming, netball, keyboards, Chinese, French, Greek. They all advertise in the school newsletter.

Do we need an October date for next P&C meeting?
JB says that the next scheduled P&C meeting is not until Wednesday 5 November 2014, due to October meeting date falling in school holidays. Thinks we need an October meeting date. **ACTION - JH to ask CS and Executive Committee for an October meeting date.**

*Meeting ended 8.15pm*

Next meeting TBC.

Encl. Appendix A (Principal’s Report), Appendix B (Band Report)
Art show 2014
The Art show was an outstanding success. Everyone did a great job especially our curator, Gordon Carmichael.

MID YEAR STUDENT REPORTS
We sent home mid-year student reports on Wednesday 25 June 2014. I think these reports are very valuable and of a good standard. The teachers do find them time consuming. I read about 200 of them, some from very grade.

Road Safety
Clair and I met with Council officers about our road safety proposals and they seemed very receptive.

ONLINE PAYMENTS FROM OUR WEB SITE
We now have an online payment system. If you have a Visa or MasterCard you won’t need cheques or cash anymore unless you prefer to pay that way. There is a button on our web-site and instant receipt generation for those who care to use this system.

Coffee with the Principal
I re-introduced an opportunity for parents to meet with me informally. Twice a term, in weeks 4 and 8, I have been hosting a coffee morning in the staffroom at 9:20 AM. I will give a very short address and have a Q&A session. The first of these was on Wednesday 18 June 2014 at 9:15 AM. So far they have not been well attended but I will continue to do this in term 4.

Trivia Night
The Disco Trivia night was a great success. Thanks everyone involved, the organisers, the sponsors, and the parents, teachers and friends who attended. Thanks especially to Clair Scott, our P&C President. I have ordered an interactive monitor for the music room which is a way of providing a IWB in that space and this will cost $7,000 all up. I would not have been able to do that without the support of the P&C fund raising.

New three-year plan
We will soon be writing our new three year plan. I send a survey home recently and we received a lot of great feedback. Thanks very much to everyone who responded.

Town Hall meetings
We had 130 responses to the survey about what you want from schooling and what you like about our school. These are very helpful. I am categorizing the responses and I want to have town hall meetings about them in Week 1, Term 4. These will be on Wednesday 1 October 2014. One meeting will be from 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon and the other 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM.

**Australian Curriculum**

This year we are using the new Australian Curriculum in English and mathematics. Next year the new Science syllabus will be introduced and the year after the new History strand of social studies. Although there are only modest changes they harmonise the various state curricula.

**Kinder 2015**

If you have a younger child starting school here next year please enrol before the end of August to help with our planning process. The NSW Department of Education and Communities requires my best estimate of numbers for 2015 by Wednesday 3 September 2014.

**New North Shore High School**

The inaugural principal of the new government high school serving Sydney's North Shore will be Kathy Melky, the current deputy principal of North Sydney Girls High School. Ms Melky is a highly experienced educator who has taught and held executive positions in a number of schools in the greater Sydney area. She was selected on merit from a field of highly qualified applicants and will take up her post from the start of Term 4 this year. Her experience will be critical in establishing the school's ethos of delivering excellence and innovation in education, and opportunity and success to its students. The comprehensive, coeducation high school will open in Term 1 2015 in refurbished facilities on the site of the current Bradfield College in Crows Nest. The high school’s name is yet to be determined. Another high School will be opened in the grounds of the old Ku-Ring-Gai teachers college.

**Ethics classes at Wahroonga Public School- Volunteer Teachers Needed**

I have advertised in the newsletter for volunteers for ethics classes during scripture time. Primary Ethics provides the opportunity for NSW public school children to participate in philosophical ethics classes as an alternative to non-scripture. We need volunteer parents to be trained so this can go ahead. Please contact Robert Lang at rlang@pobox.com if you want to do this. We will be offering ethics as a choice to families if we have volunteers to undertake the necessary training to become ethics teachers. Ethics classes teach children how to approach ethical issues and develop their capacity for considered moral judgement, which will enable them to respond more thoughtfully to many of the problems and issues they will face in their lives. Our age-appropriate curriculum is approved by the Department of
Education and covers topics like Being an Ethical Consumer, Bragging, Sharing, Teasing, Disagreeing Respectfully, Empathy and Homelessness. For more information about Primary Ethics, the curriculum and becoming a volunteer, please visit our website at www.primaryethics.com.au or contact the ethics coordinator, Robert Lang at rlang@pobox.com

**Book Week 2014**
Thanks you to those parents and friends who were able to donate a book to the school library. There were 176 books donated work about $3 400. We had a book swap and author talks during book week making it a great week.

**Science**
I am very proud of the science teaching and learning here. You may have seen our promotion of Science for science week in the newsletter.

**Students with disabilities**
More and more we will see students with disabilities enrol in local schools. A mixture of best practice research, government policy regarding anti-discrimination and economics is driving this change. I welcome this and these students who teach us as much as we teach them.

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P & C MEETING: 4 SEPTEMBER, 2014

BAND REPORT

Congratulations to all Bands on their brilliant performances at the NSW Band Festival. The children played beautifully. Concert Band, Stage Band, Intermediate Band and Beginner Band all won Gold Awards and Junior Band won Silver, against a number of senior bands, which was quite an achievement. Well done to all the children.

All bands and recorders have performed in assemblies, with Stage Band performing at the Education Week assembly.

The Band Tour to the mid-North Coast is booked out with performances for a range of schools over the 2½ days.

Bush Dance: Saturday 6 September. The committee is working on this wonderful event for all the family. A team of dedicated organisers are working hard to make this a landmark event for the Bush School.

Stage Band has been invited to perform at the St Andrew’s Church Christmas Party on 18 November.

Concert Band has been invited to perform for the children at Pinjarra Preschool.

Diary Dates:
Bush Dance: 6 September
Stage Band Performance for St Andrew’s Church: Tuesday 18 November at 1:00 pm
Band Committee ‘AGM’: Thursday 13 November at 7:30 pm
Band Tour: 26 - 28 November. To Taree and Forster
End-of-Year Concert: Thursday 4 December. 5:00 pm in the Hall.