Wahroonga Public School

P&C Meeting

7pm, Wednesday 25th March 2015 in the staffroom.

1. Present
John Benton, Anne Seage, John Fogarty, Nicholas Fiennes, Tanya Sandoe, Janine Feurstein, Kate Barclay, Elizabeth Amvrazis (Asquith Girls High School Principal), Kerri Cooley, Ghretta Smith, Liz Rees.

2. Apologies
Derek Lightfoot, Linda Russell, Tracey Haynes.

3. Previous minutes from February special meeting accepted (proposed NF, seconded JF).

4. NEW ITEM - Visit from Asquith Girls High School Principal, Elizabeth Amvrazis.
Elizabeth addressed the meeting for a few minutes, leaving material on Asquith Girls High School for parents to read. She wants to improve her partnership with the local community, and is introducing herself to local P&C committees. Asquith Girls High provides an emphasis on becoming global citizens, and educates girls for their careers. Discussion about gendered outcomes. NF thanked Elizabeth for attending.

5. Principal’s Report
JB spoke to his written report. Attached (Appendix A). John announced his retirement, to commence at the end of term 2, 2015, after five years at the Bush School. The P&C thanked John for his service to our school.

6. Treasurer’s Report
DL absent due to a last minute work trip, so NF provided an outline of the cash position on his behalf. P&C currently has around $90,000 in the bank after paying for and fitting out the bandroom, and committing to the new AV system. Detailed financial reports to be provided next meeting.

7. Band Report
AS spoke to her written report. Attached (Appendix B).


9. Other business:
(a) BANDROOM – installed but electricity not connected yet. Approval for expenditure for fitout of internals required. (see attached list, Appendix C). P&C approved spending up to $15,000 for equipment such as chairs, desk, bookcases, acoustic batts, shelving etc (proposed NF, seconded KC, unanimously carried).

(b) DISCO – held last week, 18 March. Thanks to Christina Loebel and her team. JB thanked the disco committee for leaving the school so clean after the event. Best ever. GS advised that disappointingly, only half the parent volunteers turned up for their rostered duties. Lots of work for a few people. Next year we will have the same DJ, and the same organising team have committed to run the 2016 disco. Christina Loebel is still to provide her report on the event, including any profit made.
(c) **STATE ELECTION DAY** sausage sizzle/cake stall – 28 March 2015.
Janine Feurstein reported that 475 cake boxes/wrapping items have gone home with students for supply of cakes on the day. Meat and bread have been ordered. Organising team of Janine and Jo Jeffcoat have struggled to get parents on the roster. They think parents are feeling bombarded. Our thanks to Jo and Janine for organising. Expecting 2000+ adults to pass through the school on election day. Worth doing.

(d) **SCHOOL FAIR** update – 5 Sept 2015
Kerri Cooley and Ghretta Smith reported that they had 20 people at the last school fair meeting, with 10 people apologising they couldn’t make it. A great response after their email to parents pleading for help. In summary:

- Every stall / event at the fair now has someone in charge of it
- Organisers have met with former organiser Clair Scott: they are eliminating things that didn’t work / weren’t worth the effort at the Fair two years ago
- Increasing price of ride armbands by $5
- Removing $800 hire of jumping castle (can be hired elsewhere for around $300. Suggestion to contact Beatrice Hofmeyer who has experience with this)
- New feature: rockclimbing wall, not included in armband price
- Aiming to do more food stalls ourselves. International.
- Our five bands, choirs, Dance Max to perform on the day
- Received feedback to provide more for little kids to do, eg a younger ‘kids’ zone’
- Kiddie farm will be sponsored
- Telstra will sponsor $1000 (to donate face painter and iPad for raffle)
- Still to approach other major sponsors, suggestions welcome
- Kate Barclay suggests parent Andrew Larrett from Australian Rugby Union for sponsorship opportunity.

(e) **AV UPGRADE** in the hall – no update

(f) **PEDESTRIAN CROSSING** at Wahroonga Ave proposal – JB still to write to St Edmunds School.

(g) **POOL CHANGING ROOMS** – JB reports he has spent maintenance money on upgrading pool changing rooms. Tiling starts next week. Walls are to be ground back, waterproofed. New hooks, benches to be installed. Leak has been sorted. He is negotiating with the swim club re removing the leak tray for water overflow.

(h) **NEW ITEM - SCHOOL CONCERT** – will be held in term 3, week 9. Ticket price will be included in Semester 2 fees.

(i) **NEW ITEM - TOILETS** – Janine Feurstein concerned with the various states of poor cleanliness / vandalism in the student toilets. Discussion over how to deal with this ongoing issue. JB to initiate a campaign with laminated posters etc, to encourage children to treat these facilities with respect.

(j) **NEW ITEM – ONGOING FUNDRAISER** Ghretta Smith made a proposal on behalf of her employer, Just Snacks: 10% of all Bush School orders could go to P&C. Discussion over this. GS to put together a formal proposal for P&C Exec approval.
10. Correspondence

- School Global Funding letter from NSW Dept of Education and Communities
- Students have written to P&C with a petition about lost balls on the roof. NF to put P&C response into the School Newsletter
- St John’s Ambulance have approached re running First Aid Skills course for years 3-4 and 5-6. NF to follow up for more info as immediate feedback was keen
- La Stazione re Hot Cross Bun fundraiser – no thanks
- Donation of $20 received from a parent in lieu of baking for the cake stall.

11. Any other matters

- Kate Barclay raised issue of parent fatigue and how to combat this. Eg a suggestion for year 4 parents to run the disco, and have no other commitments that year. Put onto agenda for next meeting. JB suggests we raise it in the newsletter – be part of the conversation.

- Feedback from parent who attended first P&C meeting for 2015: not excited about how we go about our meeting. JF suggests the parent wants us to ‘make the P&C sexy’. How to do this?

- Ghretta Smith asks re funds for the Fair – where will they be allocated? Discussion on this. Agreed to be earmarked for “technology in the school” – an ongoing need.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday 6th May 2015
My thanks goes to Mrs Zorain for organising today’s School Photo timetables and groups. As usual Mrs Zorain did a great job.

SCHOOL BUDGET
I am well behind in setting the school budget. 99% of the budget sets itself as our costs are pretty well set for running the school. Casual teachers, professional development, utilities, paper, photocopying, art supplies, library books, etc. I am happy to give it out as soon as I have done it.

SCHOOL PLAN 2015 -2017
I gave out copies of the draft school plan at the last P&C meeting. We are nearing finalising it. Parents gave us great input last year to the plan. We have three focus areas for this triennium.

- Student Engagement and Learning
  To develop the students’ skills and understandings of the 21 century fluencies, especially literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology (ICT) capability, critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability, ethical understanding and intercultural understanding.

- Quality Teaching
  To develop teachers pedagogical practices as reflective practitioners implementing the NSW Quality Teaching Framework at a deep level.

- Student Well-Being
  To develop students skills and understandings in facing challenges, ethical practices and the well-being of themselves and others.

If you have any feedback on these focus areas I would appreciate you contacting me. The overview of the final version of the plan will be published on our web-site in Week 1 of Term 2.

MY SCHOOL WEB-SITE
The Federal Government has release school data on the MYSCHOOL web-site. Our NAPLAN results are on here.

THANK-YOU PARENTS
Thank –you the P&C (and all parents who fund-raise to the school) for agreeing to fund the new AV system and new AV control booth in the School Hall. The work will be done in the School Holidays. The new P&C funded band room is also well underway and Derek Lightfoot is doing a marvellous job in leading this project. It is a great addition to the P&C’s Band program. The company said its costs have increased because of the falling Aussie dollar from their original cost last year. The new quote is $80 000.

CHURCH ON SUNDAYS AT SCHOOL
A Christian Church, C3 – Church in the City, will be renting the School Hall on Sundays commencing Sunday 3 May 2015. I am expecting to sign the rental agreement soon. There are a number of small issues needing ironing out.

**TEST DATES FOR NAPLAN**

12 May Test day: Language Conventions and Writing  
13 May Test day: Reading  
14 May Test day: Numeracy

**OPPORTUNITY CLASS PLACEMENT TEST**

Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2016. The application website for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2016 opens on Monday 27 April 2015 and closes on Friday 15 May 2015. Late applications will not be accepted. All applications must be made online.

| Opportunity Class Placement Test | 22 July 2015 |

**CAMP**

Most of our Year 5 & 6 students are in Canberra experiencing a great three-day long excursion. They will be back around 7:00 PM tomorrow evening. I thank all the teachers for organising and leading this excursion as this is a lot of work and involves very long hours.

**EASTER EGGS FOR MEALS ON WHEELS CLIENTS**

Friday is the last day for students to donate an Easter treat that will be distributed to the Hornsby Area Meals on Wheels clients with their Easter weekend meal. Please bring to the office and my apologies for the short notice.

**HARMONY DAY 2015 & VANUATU**

Thank you everyone for your donations to our Vanuatu Cyclone Relief appeal. We donated $909.90 to the Care Australia Appeal. Harmony day was a great success.

**AUTUMN SCHOOL VACATION**

Thursday 2 April 2015 is the last day of this term. Students return to school on Tuesday 21 April 2015.

**RETIREMENT**

It is with mixed emotions that I wish to inform you I plan to retire at the end of Term 2 this year. I have had five wonderful years here. I want to thank all my staff for working so positively with me on our continuous improvement journey. Wahroonga students and the families are part of a great local community and it has been a privilege to lead this school. There are too many people to thank then all individually. I appreciate so many people’s help and support. I will miss working with the students most of all.

Ms Janet Wasson who is the Director of Schools for this area will manage the process of selecting a new principal. The parents and the staff will have a representative on the selection panel.

I am moving onto new and exciting part-time work as an independent education consultant specialising in primary school mathematics. I will be helping those schools who hire me to assist teachers to achieve their learning goals in this area.

John Benton, Principal
APPENDIX B

BAND REPORT

P&C MEETING  25 MARCH 2015.

All bands are doing well. Approximately 187 children and 27 tutors attended the Workshop last Saturday, which was very successful.

The new band room should be ready for handover this week. Approval is sought for purchases of equipment necessary for the bands to move in (see attached).

The Wahroonga Band Festival is completely full with every slot filled. Deb Dietz has been booked as the adjudicator and trophies have been organised. We have two sponsors for prizes: Turramurra Music and Tom Sparkes Instrument Repairs. Details of sponsorship will be confirmed at meetings this week. We Wahroonga’s bands will perform at the end of each section for entertainment only. We are hoping to organise a raffle if appropriate prizes can be found. A wonderful team of parent helpers is organising this event.

Outside of the band festival, the paid work commitments of parent helpers is becoming an increasing problem. The parent who had volunteered for the workshop handed it back 10 days prior having been too busy at work to manage it. Louise and I worked many extra hours to be able to book tutors and organise it in time. There were plenty of parents helping on the day, but getting volunteers taking on the responsibility for the organisation of activities is becoming more and more difficult. The following day, the parent organising the band camp said she had the same problem, so would be unable follow through with any of the organisation.

The bands have been eisteddfods in terms 2 and 3.

Anne Seage
## APPENDIX C

### EXPENDITURE FOR EQUIPMENT FOR NEW BAND ROOM:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laptop Computer</td>
<td>1,328.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 Chairs @ $65</td>
<td>4,290.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Stands + Cart 20 Wengler</td>
<td>2,655.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desk - Office Works - Tyson Corner Workstation</td>
<td>199.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>275.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Floor Mat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Cases</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ikea Hemnes (white) 49 w x 37 x 197</td>
<td>149.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy Book case (white) 1600 x 28 x 202</td>
<td>138.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Filing Cabinet - 3 Drawer</td>
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<td>Whiteboard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cupboard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acoustic Absorption Battys</td>
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<td>Installation</td>
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<td>Shelving for Store Room</td>
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