

**Lane Cove Public School**  
**School Council Meeting**  
**Minutes of meeting held: online via Zoom 7:30pm 17 February 2022**

**Present:** Talia Morgan (Principal), Grace Lattuca (Deputy and staff representative), Nathan Griffith (staff representative), Sally Robertson (staff representative), Darshini Heaney (P&C President), Sarah Smyth (parent representative), Tony Nolan (parent representative), Hajar Torkaman (parent representative), Emma Sorensen (parent representative)

**Apologies:** none.

Sarah Smyth made introductions and outlined the role of, and value in, LCPS having a School Council:

A lot of schools no longer have a School Council, however retaining one at LCPS is important, particularly when a school is experiencing a period of change and transition. LCPS has had four principals over the past 5 years, and there is an element of stability that the School Council has provided over this time. The School Council is accountable to the Executive Director NSW Education and works alongside the Principal to:

- support the implementation of educational goals/priorities
- support student welfare
- support the school's financial needs (budget through to community use of facilities)
- present and promote a positive image of the School in the local community
- support the Principal where required (e.g. sub committee for the school building project)
- provide representation on staff selection committees

There will be one meeting per term with an additional meeting in February for the Annual Public Meeting.

Talia Morgan added that the School Council's role needs to be distinct from P&C - for example, she would like the Council to look at discovering, researching, and applying for school and community grants.

Sarah Smyth proposed two agenda items for the meeting:

1. Nominations and vote for office bearers
2. Broad discussion/tabling of key focus areas for 2022 and any agenda items for the year ahead

**Agenda item 1: nomination and a vote for School Council office bearers.**

- Tony Nolan nominated for President
- Sarah Smyth nominated Emma Sorensen for Secretary
- Emma Sorensen nominated Sarah Smyth for President

A private message vote was counted by Talia Morgan for the role of President: Sarah Smyth was elected President. Emma Sorensen was elected Secretary.

Tony Nolan raised concerns over informal parent Facebook pages and WhatsApp groups and guidance/school/P&C control over these groups and the role of volunteer class parents. Darshini outlined that the School P&C Facebook page and official school communications

are the main source of information for the school community. Other Facebook and WhatsApp pages are unofficial but an informal forum for community building.

7:40pm: Meeting adjourned momentarily while participants re-joined a new zoom link. Tony Nolan and Hajar Torkaman absent.

**Agenda item 2: To confirm key focus areas and any future agenda items.**

Sarah: Suggested the School Council look at the results of the maths specialist investment/maths groups.

Darshini: Spoke of the importance of re-engaging the wider school community post-covid restrictions, after two years of interruptions.

Sarah: Welcomed news from Talia that the school had organised a sub-committee of teachers to discuss school appearance and pride.

Talia: Outlined the new rewards system for students relates to school pride. Also spoke of the enormous effort staff have put into covid-safe procedures and restrictions, both in the classroom and at pickup, and that, while undoubtedly challenging for staff, students and parents, these seem to be having a positive impact. The P&C's music program has been able to proceed with some additional safeguards, and Scripture and Ethics are back in the classrooms. As yet, there is no update on the timing of any future changes to these requirements. School Council appreciates these collective efforts to keep our school community safe. [Note: Premier later announced changes on 23 Feb, emailed to parents 24 Feb]

Talia: No major work needed on the 4 year rolling school plan at this point. Requested future Council meetings are scheduled for Thursday evening. All agreed.

Action: Sarah/Emma to formulate Agenda for the Annual Public Meeting scheduled for **Thursday 10 March 2022.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.