

**Lane Cove Public School
School Council Annual Public Meeting
Minutes of meeting held: via Zoom 6:30pm 18 August 2022**

School Council members present on Zoom: Victor Tan (Relieving Principal), Grace Lattuca (Deputy and staff representative - part of meeting), Darshini Heaney (P&C President), Tony Nolan (Vice President), Sally Robertson (staff representative), Corey Tasker (staff representative), Emma Sorensen (Secretary), Nathan Griffith (staff representative), Sarah Smyth (President), Hajar Torkaman (parent representative)

Apologies: Frances Christie (community representative) - Sarah advised that Frances has tendered her resignation.

Agenda item 1: Sarah - Acknowledgement of Country

Agenda item 2: Sarah proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting on Thursday 9 June 2022 be accepted. Darsh seconded this. Minutes accepted.

Agenda item 3: Principal's Report: Victor presented his report and update.

1. About to run 3 positions at the school:

- Merit selection to begin shortly for one full-time and one part-time (one day per week) position as Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction. This position is a leadership role dedicated to ensuring that literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills are embedded in curriculum and assessment; high quality teaching practices are enhanced; and the capabilities of middle leaders are strengthened in literacy and numeracy instruction. It shares the broader educational imperatives of the Assistant Principal position but with an explicit focus on the leadership of effective, evidence-based literacy and numeracy teaching and assessment practices for improved student learning outcomes across the curriculum. The Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction provides high support and guidance to enhance teacher growth and development in literacy and numeracy and strengthens schoolwide instructional capabilities across the curriculum for middle and senior leaders.
- A second merit selection will begin for a "SAO" School Administration Officer. This front office role is an important position requiring good people skills and a wide range of other attributes.
- Teachers Megan Anderson and Stephanie Goodman have already been through the merit selection process and are now permanent members of Lane Cove staff and The Department of Education. This is a great Investment in our future. We are gradually filling those positions and building capacity for years to come.

2. There have been a number of wonderful opportunities for our students this term including - music performances, steam displays at Open Day, Tournament of the Minds team, spelling bee, debating, public speaking, currently holding ICAS, girls chess, visit from Swans players, netball, Wakakirri dance last week (thanks to the talented 6 teachers involved), the Art Show currently running, and girls basketball goes to state comp next round next week, all alongside a focus on academics.

Next Tuesday: we have the first of two student leadership days - looking at leaders of the future (see more below).

Next week we also have the book parade, parents welcome in the afternoon for K-2.

3. **This week is wellbeing week** - for both staff and students. Relaunched player cards, based on respect, responsibility and excellence. Points are now being collected for their house. Staff activities included a photo in the new Kindy playground and coffee breaks.
4. **Building projects update:**
 - The Longueville building has been painted
 - Kindy playground delivered
 - Netball lines finished shortly
 - Hall - ongoing.
5. **Student voices are important: Students proposed looking at introducing a school cap.**
 - Victor presented a snapshot of the student survey data (see attachment 1).
 - Grace added that championing student voices is important in matters that pertain to them. This happens in many ways throughout the school, and one example is that she meets once a week with SRC.
 - The P&C has already discussed the idea and a Parent Survey will be circulated in the future.
 - Sarah proposed that the School Council support further exploration of the idea of adding a school cap as a uniform option for the school. Motion unanimously supported by all present in a show of hands.
6. **Year 5 leadership days.**

Developed a process leading up to their election for leadership positions.

What are we aiming for:

 - 2 school captains
 - 4 vice captains
 - 8 sports captains
 - 2 music captains
 - Possibly librarians

Process:

 1. Leadership Day 1 (Term 3)
 2. Leadership Day 2 (Term 4)
 3. Nominations made to do speeches for School Captain (Term 4)
 4. Nominations are discussed with staff (Term 4)
 5. Nominations go to DP and Principal (Term 4)
 6. Selected students to present speeches (Term 4)
 7. Leadership speeches (Term 4)
 8. Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 and staff vote.

Agenda item 4: Discussion topics

- **2021 School Annual Report review: Sarah**

Sarah: Discussed student survey results at the end of the report.

Tony: Questioned why no volunteers are tallied in the report.

Sarah: Raised communication concerns. Activities like TOM and PSSA teams should be communicated widely - termly or annual checklist for parents? Also extra curricular activities, from other providers.

Victor: The weekly newsletter, The Loop is the single source of truth for what's going on at school. Lots of parents aren't reading it.

- **P&C restructure & outsourcing the Music Programme: Darshini**
- Darshini: outlined plans to vote on restructuring the P&C at the next meeting by disbanding three P&C sub-committees (Canteen, Uniform Shop and Music Program sub-committees) and to outsource the music programme to an external provider.
- Darshini explained the background to this is in part due to a long term decline in volunteers, creating difficulties in getting people to take on roles in committees and as volunteers.
- **Canteen:** proposed that it will run with a paid canteen manager + one paid assistant Mon-Fri. Parent volunteers are welcome in addition to this. Executive (Caleb and Darsh) will meet directly with staff over canteen decisions.
- **Uniform shop:** Similar to the canteen, it will run in conjunction with the exec and current uniform shop coordinator.
- **Music program:** Darshini outlined her plans to put the music program out to tender for an external music provider to run it from 2023. To date it has been run successfully by the P&C for many years. Public liability insurance providers have removed sexual abuse cover and while the P&C found provider who could cover this 12 months ago, this year, the P&C discovered they don't have this included in their insurance as of 1 August 2022 (ie: for the remainder of term 3&4 in 2022). There is one insurer who may be able to provide it, but Darshini believes onerous legal requirements would be required, and discussions with the school and Dept of Ed reveal that to comply the P&C would need policy and procedures and training that are not currently in place, and would increase costs. Uncertainties remain around providers, structure and costs (which will likely increase for parents). In the meantime, to attempt to mitigate risks Darshini has re-implemented a rotating roster of parent volunteers to attend group lessons.
- Sally Robertson: Historically the music programme has been a strength for the school. Sally offered any assistance required to the Music programme, and also raised concerns over a change to an external provider, particularly given the longstanding, loyal, and exceptional tutors who have been integral to the music program and LCPS's reputation. If an external provider is introduced Sally is happy to offer her expertise in the process.
- In separate news: \$30k from the Premier's Office has been secured for the Kindy playground - thanks to Tony Nolan's application. This means \$60k gained from the State Government overall, and some will be used for resurfacing Basketball Courts.

Agenda item 6: Any other business

None.

Sarah closed the meeting at 8:28pm

Future School Council Meeting dates:

Term 4 : 6.30pm Thursday 10 November (week 5), in the School Library

Attachment 1: School Cap survey results

School Cap Proposal – Student Survey

What grade are you in?	Year 5 = 79 Year 6 = 53
Do you support the introduction of a school cap for Year 6 students?	No = 10 (8%) Yes = 122 (92%)
Do you own a school hat?	Yes 108 (82%) No= 23 (18%)
If you do own a school hat, how often do you wear it?	All the time = 26/120 (22%) Most of the time = 16/120 (13%) Sometimes = 34/120 (28%) Hardly ever = 44/120 (37%)

COMMENTS

- I really dislike hats that aren't caps because they're floppy annoying and I just never wear them
- I cannot wear a hat during the time we should wear them during recess and lunch, most students and me spend their time playing sports during breaks and remove their school hat because it is hard to wear while playing sports. The introduction of school caps would improve school hat percentage drastically because students will wear them because it can be worn while playing sports.
- I think the year six's should have a cap so the teachers can distinguish us easily and so we can feel pride wearing a hat.
- I think this would be good because a lot of people wear caps but they are not Lane Cove colours.
- I really don't like the bucket hat. I understand that it provides protection from the sun but it is so daggy and old fashioned. It's okay for the younger kids, but not cool for older kids. Caps are cool, it's what we wear on the weekends and when we're on holidays.
- I think the cap is a good idea and I would wear it when I become a year six. I would definitely look forward to it. I would like to see that at the school. it would be a nice idea.
- I think that we should not add a school cap because they hardly protect you from the sun and it's not very useful.
- I think introducing school caps would encourage more students to wear hats as it is better than nothing. In fact most of the external hats worn are caps.