

**Lane Cove Public School
School Council Meeting
LCPS staff room - Tuesday 5 March 2024 at 6:30pm**

Attendance: Terry McKinnon, Kylie McKeon, Sally Robertson, Louise Green, Rebecca Lynch, Caleb Taylor, Trent Gardiner, Emma Sorensen, Mairead Ennis, Ian Bao

Apologies: n/a

Meeting opened: at 6:33pm

Agenda item 1: Acknowledgement of Country - Emma Sorensen

Agenda item 2: Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting held 7 November 2023 Accepted by Sally Robertson, and seconded by Trent Gardiner

Agenda item 3: Principal's Report – Terry McKinnon

- Welcome Kylie McKeon as the newly appointed deputy principal, and other new teachers' smooth transition into their new positions;
- Further staff movement expected including 3 teachers going for maternity leave;
- Music or performing acts, mandarin class and multimedia subject also carried out smoothly, providing a good coverage to student population - 80% participation rate is the generally expected benchmark for sustainability;
- A massive IT equipment upgrade, thanks to P&C, students and staff really appreciate the contribution of new devices;
- Explicit teaching on anti-racism program headed by Kylie McKeon, have provided a lot of training, and, aim to have more staff involved;
- The HPG Committee, proposes to survey parents about this cohort of highly gifted students (based on staff learning and development program completed in 2023);
- The school is choosing priority and appropriate focus to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts:
- ICAS assessment will be discontinued as a School activity from this year –
 - Parents can still take their kids to take the assessment individually;
 - The School is also considering alternative approaches to support those individual students and their parents;
 - Committing school hours to take the assessment is not generating sufficient benefit to justify the cost;
 - It is understood that some parents may recognise the assessment as a standard test to serve as an industrial benchmark to compare different schools. However, the assessment does not form part of the formal curriculum, and due to the limited participation rate among schools, the assessment result is not indicative and should not be deemed as a benchmark.
 - Early notice will be provided to the parent community through the weekly Loop newsletter. Additional information can be made available to assist parents to make alternative arrangements.

- Dancing and other performance art activities remain strong, however, the Wakakirri program is being considered for discontinuance.
 - Appox. 80 kids were involved in the program in 2023;
 - Members of School Council discussed other possible arrangements, but all options require school teachers to be involved, rather than relying on volunteering parents;
 - When final decision is reached, notice will be circulated in the weekly Loop newsletter.

New opportunities

- civics and democracy tour to Canberra – a possible camp option for 2025, will communicate to year 5 committee;
- exploring and building up new relationship with a Gunnedah Public School with 180 kids – 60% indigenous, marginalised but enthusiastic to exchange ideas, including online collaboration among both kids and staff, and site visits;
- Timer to be installed on some lights in the netball area after discussion with the Lane Cove Council;
- Naming the new School Hall involves considering local indigenous wording such as 'open the door', 'music on hand', or 'friend of comrade'. A selection will be made and stakeholders, including the children, will be invited to vote on the final choice.

Agenda item 4: P&C Report – Caleb

- Welcome BBQ in week 2, many sport groups (ie jiu-jitsu; taekwondo etc), and other diversified community groups attracted;
- World Food Fair is getting close; great 2023 and look forward to 2024. It is a community event, will charge a modest fee, which will be used to subsidise the participating stall;
- Working Bee for Term 2 has been planned;
- Invitations from the Lane Cove Council: -
 - Environmental Officer of Council proposed to P&C, to bring back the 'bush experience' program. Council funding for transportation suspended in about 2015 can be made available again, which may suit year 4 classes;
 - Career Development Officer advised that taking care of youth will be the focus for this year – inviting proposals and applications for grants to bring kids out of school. Possible ideas are not limited to Mini Olympic; disco event, etc;
 - Terry/Kylie will follow up with the Council.
- P&C and Sports – a lot of enquiries from parents, no decision has been made -
 - bus transportation cost is still the main hurdle (including the costly cancellation charge which can happen from time to time) – privatisation of the bus services about two years ago left the Friday afternoon sport competition among local schools very difficult to manage;
 - the impact of increased transportation cost may not be limited to sport programs, but also music programs and every proposed excursion;
 - Not being able to pass all costs to parents, the School can not afford to subsidise these programs;
 - Federation of P&C is expecting to give a press release to call for government funding in order to address this common issue for schools;
 - P&C will write separately from the School Council, lobby the relevant government officeholders and politicians for financial support at system level;

- At the same time, P&C is exploring other options, such as off peak timing, cost sharing with other public schools etc, but challenges may remain;
- P&C will continue to support fund raising activities, and work closely with the newly appointed Lane Cove Fun Run program director;
- There is still no update on the completion date for the new school hall and surrounding landscaping. However, there are positive aspects to consider. The hall is anticipated to be spectacular, and staff are keen to organize a grand launch and open day.

Agenda item 5: President's Report – Emma

- Re-emphasizing the commitment to support the school's operations and the action points discussed earlier in the meeting.

Agenda item 6: Any other business

A few School Council Members raised issues regarding to the adoption of white shirt as uniform. These concerns extend beyond the colour of the shirt to its affordability, durability, and difficulties in keeping clean.

The School Council noted the pros and cons observed from the 2019 change of uniform rule, which underwent a strict process that must be revisited for any new approach to be considered.

There is no other business raised.

Meeting closed at 8:05pm.