

Meadowbank Public School P & C

P&C Meeting : 20 June 2023

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Venue: MPS School staff room

Meeting commenced (time): 7:30pm

In Attendance:

- Cecilia Parada
- Alexandra Crawford
- James McCullough
- Jemma Rollo
- Craig Elliot
- Laura Taylor
- Oyu Tsengel
- Alison Weirick
- Caetano Mantovanni

Online:

- Thi Anh Thu Tran
- Maryam Goodarzi
- Richard Ford
- Che Tran
- Kim Houghton
- Danielle Michaels
- Amirida Sukhbaatar
- Anissa Kam
- Ye Kim
- Sanjidmaa Batmunkh
- Catherine Chan

Apologies: Angela Inman, Eiad Yafi

Welcome: *James*

- Welcomed all and acknowledgement of Country

Minutes of the previous meeting accepted:

Correspondence: Mark Sze

- Jordan Lane's office - offer of his attendance at a P&C meeting
 - James to contact Jordan to organise his attendance
- Email from May - re the Dymocks Childrens' Charities fundraiser. In 2022 we raised \$433.35 worth of new books for our school through the Dymocks Childrens' Charities fundraiser. Through the charity, Dymocks matched our funds and donated \$433.35 worth of new books to a school in need. Is there a book week parade this year, can we run it at the same time? With advanced notice we could get more participation and donations.
 - Kim Houghton: Three upcoming book-related events - Book Parade / Book Fair / Book Week. May has discussed this with Ms Grassi. Exact dates to be finalised. We can push forward with it as the school is fine with it.

President's Report - James McCullough

- Zone BBQ – big thank you to Angela for organising it. We made \$3,000, which is \$1,000 more than last year.
- Hermitage Rd – progress being made, they have started looking at the trees. Darius is the new community engagement person that James is talking to and James is pushing for dates.
- Parent-Teacher communications – Jemma/James/Mark have been working with Cecilia and the school executive. Cecilia to provide more details.
- Constitution – James can provide the constitution.
- Audience question:
 - o Tree section will that be changed. School confirmed no plans to update the

Treasurers Report:

Notes / Highlights / Actions

- \$100K in savings – option to put that into a term deposit – James will talk to the bank to see what options are available.
- Profit margins are as expected and we are about \$6K ahead of where we were last year at this time, primarily due to the fund raising and increased canteen and uniform activity.
- Question from Danielle Michaels: Asked about whether we could transfer to the Term Deposit account. James noted that the savings account is our higher interest account, but it's only 1% interest.
- Note from Darren Davies: A note was made that ANZ have a high-interest account, ~4%, that we could consider.

Treasurer's Report was accepted by: Laura Taylor and Jemma Rollo

Principal's Report: Cecilia Parada

- Communications – Working with the staff and P&C to finalise what communication will look like. Next week the school anticipates a lot of information being sent out to parents regarding the communications policy, how to contact teacher and other reasons. Open to feedback from parents.
 - o Richard Ford: Raised in the WhatsApp class group that there are multiple versions of the same information being sent out across different channels. For those that read all the information there is a lot of duplication. Asked whether there's a platform that parents could opt-in to specific channels so they don't have to see too many duplicates
 - Cecilia noted that they are working towards a single source of truth while noting there may be other platforms that have some of that information. The Newsletter is the main source of truth.
 - Richard noted paper, email, Sentral are examples of the multiple channels where information is being disseminated. Would like a single source of truth, even if it covers all classes. Considered that this could include opting in to extra-curricular, opting in to specific class notifications.
 - Ally Crawford noted that some information is already specifically targeted. Ally noted the calendar on Sentral has some key dates.
 - Richard noted that education for parents on how to use the platforms.
 - Cecilia noted there are a lot of applications, and the school is hesitant to add more platforms. She noted that Sentral has more modules that could be added.
 - James noted that the P&C are working with the school executive team to chip away at this.
 - Ally noted that the Community Hub in the new term could be used to address communication and platforms. This could be face-to-face and online.
 - James noted that the parent-teacher communication, now that we no longer use Seasaw, is being worked on with the school's senior executive so that parents can have a clear view of how to communicate with teachers.

- Cecilia noted that the K-2 morning routine was put in this week's newsletter, providing students with a variety of engaging activities based on feedback from parents. In Term 3 they are considering trialling allowing the kids to sit and interact with their friends up to 8:30am before sitting in lines.
 - o Laura Taylor noted that she's quite happy with this change and it's nice to see kids having more fun in the morning, there may be room to do more. As the school grows perhaps the year 2 could move to their own space. She would like to see the kids be able to mix with students in other classes. Laura noted that other parents are happy to see their kids chatting with other kids.
 - o James asked and Jemma noted that emailing the P&C is a good method to get feedback and suggestions.
- Reports are coming out next week, final date TBD, usually Wednesday or Thursday. Likely to be out Thursday morning. It will all be available online through Sentral.
- Friday this week is the Community Hub and it will be about how to read and interpret the reports. Explaining the grades and how they are derived and how they compare across the grade and across the state.
- One of our teachers has been nominated and received an award from the Metropolitan North Directorate Report. It will be accepted next week. No name was provided.
- Community use of the school facilities: Cecilia received an email about it this week. It's with Ryde Council at the moment – an example that they have put in place is that no speakers are allowed. The school is responding to try and work it out with them. Nothing has been confirmed yet.

General Business:

<p>a) Treasurer and Auditor position updates <i>James McCullough</i></p>	<p>Caetano Mantovanni noted that he may not be able to fulfil the Treasurer position with events that have recently occurred, and he will be away for 6 weeks.</p> <p>Oyu Tsengel expressed interest in the treasurer role. Oyu noted that she would be happy to get trained and will attend the meetings in order to be able to qualify.</p> <p>The Mongolian community is getting larger and she thought it was suitable for members of the Mongolian community to join.</p> <p>James noted that Oyu will need to attend the meetings before she can be voted in.</p> <p>Caetano will be kept in the loop and he's happy for that.</p> <p>James noted that we have an Auditor that is open to doing it – Jun Huang.</p>
<p>b) Parent-teacher communication <i>Cecilia Parada</i></p>	<p>See Principal's Report above.</p>
<p>c) Science Academy incursion - funding approval <i>Jemma Rollo</i></p>	<p>Jemma noted that Cecilia has been liaising with the Science Academy and it will occur next week.</p> <p>There are 657 students.</p> <p>\$13,200 for an allowance of 670 students.</p> <p>Vote for approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Majority voted "For" the spend and it was approved. <p>Separately:</p> <p>Richard Ford asked if we could use this forum to discuss proposals, such as coding classes. It was confirmed this is the case and Richard will look to propose at future meetings. Richard asked if companies could sponsor events – James noted that this would be assessed on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Cecilia noted that the two programs P&C have sponsored have involved calibration between the P&C, the school, and the programs.</p>
<p>d) Swimming program update <i>Cecilia Parada</i></p>	<p>Cecilia noted that for this year we've already committed to the Swimming Scheme (school sports unit coordinates this), which is 50 Year 2 students, and it will be opened to other year students if we don't get the full 50 from Year 2. It is over 2 weeks and is a 9-day program at Ku-ring-ai.</p> <p>Last year we couldn't fulfil 100 slots across the whole school.</p>

	<p>Cecilia noted that there is a myriad of reasons why parents may not enrol their kids into swimming lessons with the school.</p> <p>The P&C will promote swimming lessons and the importance of learning to swim.</p> <p>Cecilia noted that the school is considering offering swimming as a school sport. This would therefore be done during sport time and not impede on learning time, as questioned by Alison Weirick.</p> <p>Richard Ford asked whether we should survey the parent population to understand why they may not want to take lessons. Jemma noted that we are looking at the education aspect of letting parents know more about what swimming options are available to them in the community. The P&C is considering getting an organisation like Surf Life Saving Australia to come into the school to talk about life safety. Oyu noted that her child was in it last year and when the information was received there was very little information on the impact to their school time / class time – more information would have been necessary going forward. Ally noted that she will talk to Oyu about translating the information.</p> <p>Richard asked whether it's the school responsibility to teach parents about water safety. Ally noted that we're a community and it's somewhat a responsibility of the school to educate them on this topic.</p>
<p>e) Sustainable Art Incursion update <i>Alison Weirick</i></p>	<p>Alison showed a presentation of the Sustainable Art Incursion program which showed the amazing artwork.</p> <p>It is essentially finished, with the teachers having a week or two to finalise the projects.</p> <p>The projects will be displayed as part of Education Week, which is the third week of term 3.</p> <p>Alison noted that the students had fun and learnt about the benefit of using recycled materials.</p> <p>James confirmed the invoice was received.</p>
<p>f) Canteen update (incl. purchase of freezer) <i>Craig Elliot</i></p>	<p>Craig noted that the canteen has been busy and the volunteer numbers are steady.</p> <p>There have been challenges due to the workers in the canteen having to take days off and the need to get coverage for those days.</p> <p>A new freezer is required to support the increasing student volumes and the delivery window. This would allow food to be stored for longer and help manage the volume.</p>

	<p>Craig is proposing a new freezer and will get 3 quotes for the same product, as required. Next meeting, he will seek funding approval.</p> <p>Laura noted that the Butter Chicken is a hit but sometimes out of stock. Craig confirmed that this is primarily due to availability of the paid staff in recent weeks.</p>
<p>g) Options for K-2 before school <i>Laura Taylor</i></p>	<p>See Principal's Report above.</p>
<p>h) Trivia Night <i>Renata Tusa</i></p>	<p>Renata noted that Trivia Nights were carried out before Covid and would like to run one this year.</p> <p>It would be a fun, BYO food and drinks, social event.</p> <p>Ally noted that our previous principal was very keen on winning.</p> <p>Danielle noted that the last Trivia Night we ran had low numbers and the current demographic may prove challenging due to the non-English speaking parents.</p> <p>Renata noted that the questions will be on international topics so it would cover more of the school population.</p> <p>Alison asked whether it's parent only. Yes, parents only and alcohol can be consumed (can't have children at the event if alcohol is available).</p> <p>Richard asked about whether parents could be online. Jemma noted that the in-person aspect would be important.</p> <p>A question was asked about where it would be held. This needs to be determined by the school.</p> <p>Renata noted there would be prizes and gimmicky questions.</p> <p>Renata discussed the target of a table per class as a rough guide to the number of attendees. The majority of in-person attendees thought this would be achievable but would require a concerted effort to get the school community to come.</p> <p>Teachers are invited, though it was noted they are very competitive!</p> <p>Likely to be a Friday night, perhaps from 6:30 with trivia starting 7pm-7:30pm. The school will provide some suggested Friday dates in Term 3.</p>
<p>i) Update on Maths Space subscription</p>	<p><i>Question was from Eiad on whether we've changed our subscription.</i></p>

<p><i>Cecilia Parada</i></p>	<p>Cecilia noted years 3-6 have Maths Space. Our original basic plan was upgraded by the provider for free. They have stopped providing the upgrade and teachers noted that they didn't think it was necessary to have the extra extension homework options. Other subscriptions are already in place for mathematics.</p> <p>Cecilia noted that the extension is only for homework and not all teachers do homework. Ally noted that teachers are looking to use Google's platforms to create homework.</p> <p>Cecilia noted that the impact on the students was low and there was no impact on teaching programs as they were not using it in their programming. The assessment capability of Maths Space was good but other assessments are being used instead.</p>
<p>Additional questions</p>	<p>Danielle Michaels asked about the Jordan Lane visit and James noted that he is going to engage him to organise a time. A date hasn't been confirmed for when Jordan will visit.</p> <p>She also asked about the footpath and whether we have spoken to Marsden P&C. James noted that he's talking to Schools Infrastructure about the footpath and will engage with Jordan as well.</p>

Meeting closed (time): 8:55pm

Next Meeting date: Tuesday 18 July 2023