

Wahroonga Public School
P&C General Meeting
Wednesday 7th October 2015 @ 7pm – staffroom

1. Meeting Opened: 7.15pm

Present:

Tom Moth, Nick Fiennes, Katie Toomey, Judy Hibbert, Laurence Hibbert, Julie Granville, Jennifer Kind (Paid) George Mendria, Vanessa Hodgkinson, Ghretta Smith, Ingrid Van Loon, Kerri Cooley, Janine Feurstein, Linda Russell, Kate Barclay, Jo Jeffcoat, Adrieane Pegler (paid)

2. Apologies:

Tanya Sandoe, Derek Lightfoot, Anne Seage

3. Previous minutes:

The minutes of the last meeting held 5th August 2015 need to be agreed and accepted at next meeting to be held 11th November 2015.

4. Principal's Report:

TM's report is attached, including items:

- Mrs Upton is leaving which means a new full time teaching position is available and will be advertised. Nick Fiennes and Julie Granville are qualified to go on selection panel. TM will organise training prior to next P&C meeting and prior to new teacher appointment for any parents that are interested in becoming qualified.
- Working Bee being organised for area around Kindergarten room (on the way to band room) on Saturday 24th October – all parents invited to help.
- TM's policy for this term is Student Welfare
- KT wanted clarity around what is expected from teachers and children in regard to the homework for her child. TM advised KM to speak directly with her teacher and if there were still issues, to inform TM.

NAPLAN Review

- TM provided a briefing about the school's NAPLAN results. This was extremely informative and helpful for parents to understand how these results reflect on their own child plus the school overall. The results showed areas where the school excels in plus areas where the school is behind ie creative writing is a problem across the school. TM is already working on addressing this problem for next year. Also, the teachers use these results extensively. We thank TM for his time and patience in explaining how NAPLAN works – all parents most appreciative.

5. Treasurer's Report:

- NF advised that DL and Jane Ford (paid book Keeper) are still working through the accounts to have them in order to be audited. NF is impressed with the progress being made. Accounts were handed out and attached.
- Questions raised from GM asking if teachers get paid for extra work such as attending the disco/school fair. TM advised no as the school is not given the funds to do this and teachers volunteer their own time. TM said many teachers go 'above and beyond' what they are required to do.
- TM also outlined how the government allocates money to schools. As Wahroonga is classified as a high socio-economic area, our school is only allocated an extra \$15,000 loading. (Some other schools are receiving around \$700,000). Therefore Wahroonga School relies heavily on funds raised by the P&C. It was agreed overall that this message needs to be communicated better to all school parents. TM stated that he plans to do this.

6. Band Report:

- Report not provided at meeting – now available and attached.
- NF said that 3rd reminders were currently being sent to the remaining families that have not paid their band fees. If monies are not received by a set date, their children will not be able to continue in band. It was suggested that a phone call be made to let parents know they will be receiving this letter, plus ensure that the parents had also received the previous 2 warning letters.

7. Events and Fundraising:

- A suggestion was made that perhaps fund raising could be done within the community so school is not always relying on parents to contribute. A suggestion was holding a Bunnings Sausage sizzle. To be discussed further at next meeting.
- Discussion also on parent fatigue and suggestion again raised about having each Year to volunteer for only one thing per year. To be discussed further at next meeting.
- GM enquired how many parents do not pay fees. TM replied between 5-8%.
- KB will draft a survey to be sent to all parents to ascertain why people don't volunteer. Suggested survey be sent in both paper form and electronically. KB to send draft to TM for approval/review.

8. Correspondence:

- None received.

9. General Business:

- It was proposed for the P&C to extend its financial support of the school's learning and support programs by increasing its commitment from \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the 2015 school year in order to engage School Learning and Support Officers for the whole of term 4. Proposed NF, Seconded IVL, passed unanimously.
- The P&C is also considering committing \$50,000 to the school's ongoing improvement of technological infrastructure and hardware, to be spent on 10 new interactive projectors for classrooms where old technologies need replacing. This item needs to be advertised for 14 days to allow parents to comment.
- GS asked what is amount that should be held in the bank as a safety net. NF said DL would answer this at the next meeting.
- A general discussion was had whereby it was agreed that money raised by parents should be spent whilst their children were at the school.
- TM will have a 5 year plan of what he anticipates will need to be bought at the next meeting. He will ensure all requirements are looked at, not just technology requirements.
- KT asked about having an app for the school newsletter. TM was looking into this and wants this to be available from 2016. He will trial current apps available with KT to see which is best.

Meeting closed: 9.10pm

Next Meeting Wednesday 11th November 2015 @ 7pm in Band Room

P&C Principal's Report – Term 4 Week 1

STAFFING UPDATE: There is currently a full time permanent classroom teacher position being advertised on the jobs.nsw feed. This position has come about due to Ms Debra Upton's cessation of employment from the Department. Nick Fiennes, Felicity van't Wel and I have formed a selection panel to consider applications. Training session for parents who would like to be available for future panels to be held prior to next P&C meeting.

COMMUNITY GARDEN WORKING BEE: The student environmental group (ERC) led by Mrs van't Well and Mrs Voysey is leading the construction of a community garden in the space between the B block verandahs. They have already compiled a significant list of ideas about how the garden might look and be used for learning across the school but your help is needed! On Saturday 24th October I will be coordinating a working bee to clear the area, shift soil, erect a fence, setup garden beds and lay some pavers.

2016 ENROLMENTS: High kindergarten numbers for 2016 so far with 108 as of today. Out of area enrolments so far have not been considered. I am aware we have a drop off of enrolments from year 4 to 5 as some decide to enter the independent school system. At this stage if we were to lose less than 5 students we would require an additional class, if we lose less than 5 which is likely, then we would retain 28 classes in 2016. A survey about families' intentions of returning to the school in 2016 will be sent out shortly.

VISION SCREENING: Year 1 and 2 students have the chance to have their vision screened free of charge thanks to Specsavers who will be visiting in the week of 19th October. This is an opt-in service with notes previously sent out in newsletters.

COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLS PROJECTS: Schools are now encouraged to support one another in the delivery of educational programs and sharing of expertise and resources. We have joined a new community of schools called the Hornsby Central CoS alongside Waitara, Normanhurst, Normanhurst West, Hornsby South and Clarke Road SSP.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM: I am working with Hilary Hutchinson to make appropriate changes to the enrichment program for 2015 to maximise the use of her expertise and so all students can benefit – e.g. through up skilling of all classroom teachers.

WELLBEING POLICY UPDATE: This term's policy review is our Wellbeing Policy, which will bring into line our student welfare practices with the Department's new Wellbeing Framework for Schools. Ingrid van Loon is the parent representative on the committee. There will be some community consultation before the policy update takes effect