

Wahroonga Public School P&C Association General Meeting

Wednesday 19th June, 2019 in the Staff room

1. Acknowledgment of country, welcome all attendees and President's address

Present: BC, IF, AS, DM, SG, RL, VH, AB, TC, LS, MF, LK, HG, AF.

RL opened the meeting at 9:32am.

2. Apologies – Nil.

3. Previous Minutes

General Meeting held 13th May, 2019

Accepted as a true and accurate reflection. Proposed: AS Seconded: DM

4. Got it! Presentation

Presentation coordinated by CF about the Got It (getting on track in time) program being trialled in public schools, supporting emotional and social development in children. Focus is on stage one (K-2) and will run in the school for 3 terms and will be run in a small group for kids. There will be voluntary parent seminars on emotional coaching running on the 13th and 20th August. The program aims to make sure school caters for whole child development, not just academics. WOOSH also doing the training.

5. President's report

Seats are currently being installed in the Ampitheatre, remembering it is a "rustic" area. The project will be finished in the next few weeks. RL to discuss with CF about the grant process and apply for 2019 grants, including for the swimming pool because it is a community resource.

WWCC: draft completed; RL to circulate. Awaiting copy.

6. Principal's report

Thank you to the P&C for running a wonderful Movie Night for the students last week. Thank you also to the P&C for their help with the Wahroonga Music Festival on Sunday. Both events were fantastic and showed the strong community spirit that is present at Wahroonga PS.

Grounds and Buildings

Recent Maintenance Works

- New roofing on L, B and A Blocks
- Painting on exterior of B Block, K Block, H Block and After School Care buildings
- Painting on interior of Water Street Band room, Uniform shop and H Block
- New carpet in two rooms in L Block and the Band room.

Trees: An arborist has inspected all trees at WPS. We are hopeful that any work that needs to be completed will occur in the next holiday period. The cost will be about \$80 000. I have asked the DoE to help with this expense. Normally schools fund their own tree work but as the amount is so high I have asked our Asset team to assist.

Mulch Area: The Mulch area will have new mulch laid soon. It is quite dusty at the moment.

Amphitheater: Work is nearing completion, new seating looks great and contractors have done a fabulous job in utilising the existing seat brackets to keep costs down.

Pool: We are currently looking at options to get solar and electric heating for the pool. The pool is currently heated by gas. We have turned the gas off due to 4 identified gas leaks. Future gas leaks are envisaged due to old piping and tree roots issues. Due to this, solar panels would be a jointly funded project between the school and DoE. Electric heating would be funded by the school and used as a back up if solar panels do not heat pool sufficiently on some days.

Fencing: Fencing near Burns Street entry will undergo some works due to the potential for a person to gain a foothold on the handrail along the walkway and use this to climb the fence. Assets team are currently looking into solutions.

Staffing

Interviews for the vacant Assistant Principal position will occur tomorrow. Panel members are Aimee Durrand (Teacher rep), Sian Gipslis (Parent rep), Evan Gibbons (Director's rep) and Alison Filipic (Convener).

Student numbers have fallen below 701. As a result we have one Deputy Principal position on review. Review process is until the end of 2020. If student numbers do not reach 701 or above the school will lose one Deputy Principal position.

WPS School Promotion Plan

Aim is to further promote WPS in the local community. Some ideas to date:

- Contracting School Photographer to take a set of professional photographs of school and students that highlight the many opportunities and programs on offer for students.
- Updating of School Website
- Promotional Banners, postcards, brochures
- Development of a WPS Information package
- A possible Facebook page
- Revamping Kinder Orientation
- Working on Year 6-7 transition program
- Asking key stakeholders for feedback and using this information to inform future directions.

Parent/ Carer Survey Results

Please find following a summary of the main themes/threads obtained from the recent Parent/ Carer Survey:

Do you believe that your child's teacher knows your child well and understands their current needs?

- Yes = 75.5%
- No = 11.6%
- Other = 12.9%

Comment Summary: Lots of positive comments. Some comments regarding teacher absences impacting on some classes and Parent/Teacher Interviews in Term 1 not being useful to parents for gathering information on their child's progress.

Is your child happy to come to school each day?

- Yes = 84.4%

- No = 8.8%
- Other = 6.8%

Comment Summary: Lots of positive comments. Main reasons for students who are not happy to come to school appear to be around friendship issues/ issues with other children.

Does your child talk about what they have learned at school on a regular basis?

- Yes = 51%
- No = 34.7%
- Other = 14.3%

Comment Summary: Students often don't talk about what they have learnt in class with parents but may chat about extra-curricular activities/ opportunities. Parents do not appear to have a clear idea about what their children are learning each week at school.

What do you believe are the greatest strengths of Wahroonga Public School?

Comment Summary: The school community, extra-curricular opportunities for Years 2-6, teachers/ staff, culture in school, friendly school atmosphere, welcoming school, music program and the band program.

What do you believe are the areas for future development / improvement at Wahroonga Public School?

Comment Summary: Various one off comments, Communication (lots of last minute), need space for children to run and play games like soccer etc, sun shade in kindy area, Kooki pins (the fairness of this system), access to teachers (some parents feel that current systems make it difficult to informally chat to their child's teacher about day to day issues and how their child is progressing) and homework.

In ranking the overall effectiveness of Communication, Reporting to Parents, Staff, School Wellbeing Systems, Extra-curricular opportunities and Teaching and Learning programs areas identified as most in need of review were Communication and Reporting to Parents. Areas identified as strengths of Wahroonga Public School were Staff, School Wellbeing Systems and Extra-curricular opportunities.

Wish List in regard to possible P&C projects/ support

\$30 000 to upgrade the home readers K-4 (\$10 per book)

\$20 000 Student Learning Support officer

Shade sails over the Kindergarten playground – this was requested by parents via the recent parent survey

Shade sails over the swimming pools.

7. Treasurer's report

Unanimous approval for the following expenditure:

- Fathers Day Stall, \$2500
- T3 BBQ, \$350

Discussion around document processing and control moving forward.

8. Uniform Shop Committee

Unanimous approval for casual staff member while a new Uniform Shop Manager is recruited.

Question regarding girls summer shorts.

9. Events and Fundraising Committee

The Spring Fair Committee having their first meeting next Tuesday during the day to discuss what needs to be organised.

10. Correspondence

N/A

11. General matters

Smoke Stack Filtering

- RL to draft a letter to the P&C Association raising concerns about the unfiltered stacks.

P&C AGM

- Date scheduled for the 24th July at 7:30pm

Meeting closed at 10.38am

Next meeting: Monday 5th August at 7:30pm