

Kogarah Public School P&C Association General Meeting

Wednesday 26 May 2021 – Minutes

Present: Jude M, Lyn S, Nitsa C, Mamta T, Shivani V, Liana, Rehan S, Anna H, Nirmala J

1. Welcome

Welcomed all attendees. Meeting opened at 7.03pm.

2. Apologies

Apologies from Johnny C, Iwona U and Habiba K

3. Minutes

Overview of minutes provided by Anna. No-one had any issues with the minutes. Minutes accepted as an accurate record of the previous meeting.

4. Correspondence

The P&C received a letter from the Teachers Federation. **Anna H to circulate to members.**

The letter relates to Teacher shortages and an independent report that has been commissioned by the Federation. The Federation is going to start a new campaign about higher salaries and more preparation time so more people are attracted to the profession.

Nitsa advised that she has offered an invite for Paul Robson from the Teachers Federation to attend a P&C Meeting. She thinks he will probably attend when the P&C is meeting in person.

5. Reports

5.1. Principal's Report

- Nitsa provided the Principal's Report which is attached to these minutes. The following additional matters were discussed:
- 150th celebration
 - The school would like parents' perspective of 2020 and impact of covid. It doesn't have to be long – **any contributions would be appreciated.**
 - The school would also like to have memorabilia for sale online in the lead up and at a stall on the day. **It was agreed the Events sub-committee could take responsibility for that.**
- Level 33 donation – suggestions from parents
 - Could it be used on books or the library? Nitsa said we get quite a lot of new books and the library has just had new furniture put in.
 - Could we spend it on musical instruments or something similar. Nitsa said this could be good and she will ask the children.

- Jude asked whether all of the playground work has been completed – Nitsa said it is all complete and includes improved seating, garden bed edging and new signage.

5.2. Treasurer's Report

- Jude provided an overview in Iwona's absence. We have transferred the \$20,000 grant to the school. We also need to pay some fees shortly. We will need to carry out some fundraising to replenish the account.

5.3. Events Sub-committee Report

- Shivani said the first event was walk safely to school day. P&C organised stickers and a piece of fruit for every child. Thanks to Woolworths Rockdale for donating \$100 to buy the fruit.
- Next event they are looking at is Father's Day which is 5 September (around the same time as the 150th anniversary). This might be a stall or a breakfast, but if anyone has ideas please pass them on.

5.4. Development and population pressure sub-committee report

- Anna provided a re-cap about meeting with Chris Minns (see previous minutes).
- There has been some media about the issues with space at Kogarah Public School and this was also mentioned by Chris Minns in Parliament – links to both have been posted in the facebook page.
- Jude sought an update from Chris Minns's office about what they have found about Kogarah (if anything) but has not received one yet.
- The committee will continue to communicate with Chris Minns and also monitor for any new developments that might affect the school.

6. General Business

6.1. **Communication** - what is the best way for casual communication? Nitsa said she will look into whether there is a parent part of Class Dojo that the P&C could use. Otherwise a whatsapp group might be good. Facebook not used by many parents but still useful.
ACTION: Agreed to also change facebook page to a group. Nitsa to advise about Class dojo.

6.2. **Kensington Street Crossing:** Jude hasn't had luck getting information. She missed the meeting of the project group but will try and go to the next one. Community Liaison Officer said we are number 8 out of 30 projects.

6.3. Ms Vandermaal is back at school 3 days a week doing covid intensive learning this year.

7. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be at **9am 24 June** at school.

8. Close

Meeting closed at approximately 7.55pm.

Principal's Report

150 Year Celebrations

The date for the 150th celebration is September 9. We have almost completed the final chapter which is about 2020. We would like some parent reflections about how the school and your family managed through the pandemic. If you can write a short passage, it will be very much appreciated. These can be dropped off at the office or emailed directly to the school. We would like to complete the book before the end of the term so it can be sent to the printers.

This will be an opportunity for the P&C to become involved in this event. We would like to sell this book along with various memorabilia both at school and possibly through our website. We are looking for parent volunteers to join our 150th committee.

Technology Update

Mr Karanikolas continues to do an outstanding job at monitoring and maintaining technology available to staff and students.

The school has now purchased an additional 10 desktops (\$7089), 30 iPads (\$13744), 4 charging stations (\$3322), Apple licences (\$1270), additional computer memory (\$1000) and a repair to the existing charging trolley (\$472). This equipment is currently being added to our school Asset register and will be in classrooms shortly.

Playground Improvement:

The school has received the \$30K donation from Level 33 and was published in the Leader today. Feedback will be sought from staff and students as to which area of the playground they want to make improvements on. The options that will be put forward will be a shade sail over the top playground area and a mini synthetic soccer field installed in the middle area. We are open to other suggestions that will fit within this budget.

Semester 1 Reports

Staff are currently working on completing semester one reports. Teachers spend time in stage teams reviews=wing class tasks as well as assessment tasks to determine grades for reports.

Reports will be sent home in Week 10. Student Led conferences will be held in Term 3. This will be an opportunity for students to discuss their learning with parents and share student success and discuss their current learning goals and where they need to go next to improve in their learning.

Mrs Nitsa Comminos Principal



10 May 2021

New South Wales Teachers Federation

a branch of the Australian Education Union
AEU NSW Teachers Federation Branch ABN 86 600 150 697



In reply please quote: 326/2021/AG:vm

Dear President,

Teacher shortages are a growing issue across NSW.

Unless we act, they are going to get worse because enrolments in public schools are set to soar in the next two decades.

The NSW Teachers Federation has become increasingly concerned about the shortages and the lack of an NSW Government plan to ensure we can attract the high achievers we need for the profession. That is why the Federation commissioned the attached report from education economist Adam Rorris, *Impact of Enrolment Growth on Demand for Teachers*.

I hope you will take the time to read this important report and circulate it among your colleagues. Beyond fixing the current shortages, the report states that around 11,000 additional teachers will be needed by 2031 just to meet the growth in enrolments.

Currently NSW has the highest number of students per teacher in Australia. If that student-teacher ratio is reduced to the national average for public and private schools, the report says the number of additional teachers required increases to 13,700 teachers.

This is a **25 per cent increase** on the current number of teachers in NSW public schools.

With rapidly increasing student needs, our expectation is that we will need even more teachers than this. We need government action now to fix the shortages and ensure we can recruit the teachers we need to stop children missing out.

The independent Gallop inquiry warned earlier this year that it will not be possible to recruit the teachers we need or fix the shortages unless we act on workloads and salaries.

The inquiry recommended an increase in salaries of between 10 to 15 per cent for teachers in the next two years, but right now the NSW Government's wages policy is to increase salaries by a maximum of 1.5 per cent a year for the next three years.

If we don't pay teachers what they are worth, we won't recruit the teachers we need.

The Federation is going to launch a campaign this year for higher salaries and more preparation time for teachers to ensure we can retain our teachers in the classroom and attract the high achievers we need for the future.

If you would like to be kept informed about that campaign and how you can show your support, please register your details at nswtf.org.au/signup

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angelo'.

Yours Sincerely,
Angelo Gavrielatos



Fact Sheet

The teachers we need for our future

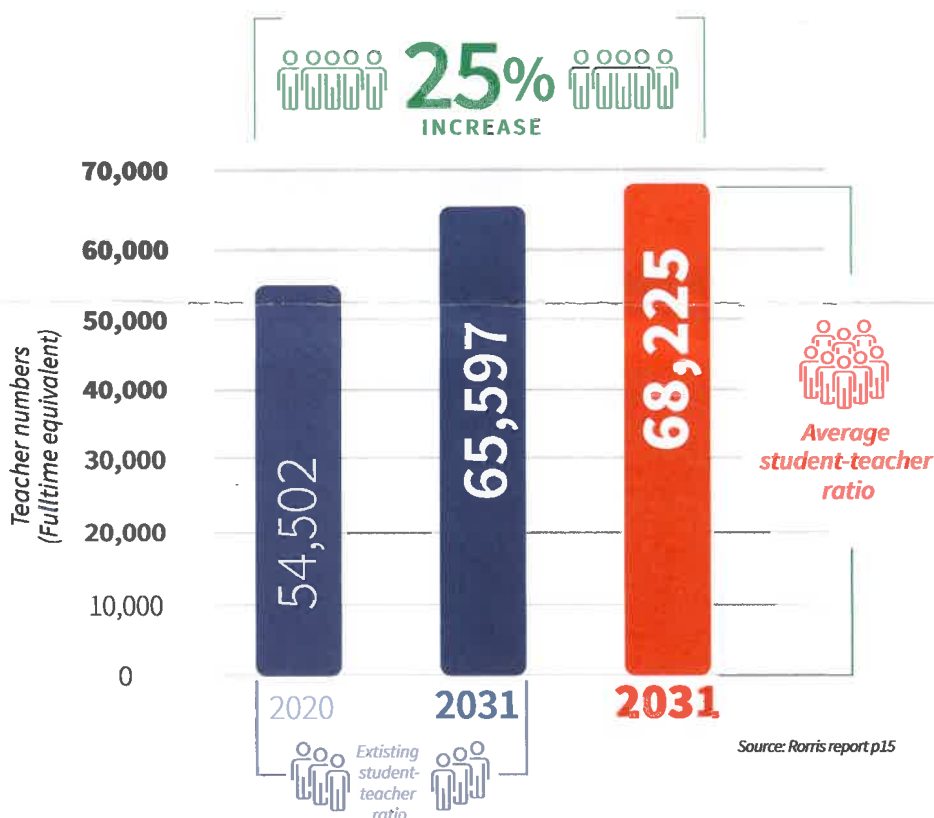
New research released

One of the major challenges facing NSW schools is securing the additional teachers and permanent classrooms we need to cope with rapidly rising enrolments.

Already there are growing shortages of full-time and casual teachers.

New research, commissioned by the NSW Teachers Federation, shows that without major action, the shortages will get much worse.

Teachers required



The research reveals that by 2031 public schools will need:

- 11,095 additional teachers if student-teacher ratios are maintained at current levels (the highest in the nation).
- 13,724 additional teachers if student-teacher ratios are reduced to the national average.

This is a 25 per cent increase on 2020 teacher numbers.

Due to rising student need, the actual number of teachers required is likely to be even higher.

The independent Gallop inquiry warned earlier this year that it will not be possible to recruit the teachers we need, or fix the shortages, unless we act on workloads and salaries.

Teachers and parents need to work together to ensure there is a fully qualified teacher in every classroom and no child misses out.

“NSW has under-resourced its schools in terms of teacher numbers when compared with the national average for public schools over the past 10 years.”

Rorris report p10.

The full report by education economist Adam Rorris is available at nswtf.org.au/files/rorris-report.pdf

Register your support for action at nswtf.org.au/signup

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australiancoupons.com.au



NEWS



DONATION: Charbel Kazzi, Laretta Claus, Nitsa Comminos, Bakhos Azar (back row) Liam, Sayed, Janice and Jenna (Front Row). **Picture:** Chris Lane.

A \$30,000 playground gift

KOGARAH Public School will get an upgrade to its playground thanks to a \$30,000 donation from property developer Level 33.

The developer is nearing completion of its \$175 million Kogarah Central residential community, located opposite the highly regarded and popular primary school.

Kogarah Public School currently educates a community of 485 students and offers classes ranging from Kindergarten to Year 6.

Kogarah Public School principal Nitsa Comminos said the school was grateful

to receive the donation.

"The donation will go towards upgrading an area in the playground, including installing a section of artificial grass and a large shade shelter," she said.

"We would like to thank Level 33 for this generous donation as it will allow our students to enjoy the playground in a wider outdoor learning environment.

"It will be some consolation for the impact that this build has had on our school environment."

Level 33 spokesman Eddy Haddad said that the dona-

tion was the right thing to do for the community school's neighbour.

"We are delighted to receive this donation, we feel it is a meaningful contribution such a valuable educational institution," he said.

"The donation will support the local community. Education and our future generation grassroots level is important to us as a proud business. We're honoured to support the local community and help improve our local school."

— CRAIG THOMAS

HAZELHURST

ADT FEST

Featuring
BLAK
MARKETS