

Kogarah Public School P&C Association General Meeting

Thursday 25 November 2021 – Minutes

Present: Nitsa Comninos, Anna Harding, Jude McCarthy, Shivani Veerappan, Peter Li, Rehan Shaikh, Mamta Thapabudha, Iwona Udigwe, Rupa, Kathy Smith, Habiba Kabir, Matina Kyriakou, Jham,

1. Welcome

Welcomed all attendees. Meeting opened at 7.03pm.

2. Acknowledgment of Country

Acknowledged the Kameygal and Bidigal Clans of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land and pay respect to Elders past, present and future.

3. Apologies

Ken Walsh, area co-ordinator of Primary Ethics, Liana Roze.

4. Minutes

Jude gave a brief overview of the minutes from the August meeting. Anna moved that the minutes be accepted. Seconded by Mamta.

Resolution: The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the August meeting.

5. Correspondence

- Notification of development proposal - to be discussed later in the meeting.

6. Ethics Program 2022

The coordinator of Primary Ethics was hoping to give an overview of the program and ask for volunteers, but was not able to make the meeting.

Action: Jude to ask contact for information that Nitsa can circulate to parents.

7. Reports

7.1. Principal's Report

Mrs Comninos provided the Principal's report. A written copy is attached to these minutes.

These issues were also discussed:

- The bottom playground has a lot of potholes etc and the grass does not do well. It might be good to fundraise to replace this with artificial grass.
- Mask wearing and how the teachers are going. Mrs C said the public health order is that teachers have to wear masks inside. They are finding it difficult. Jude said please pass on from the P&C that we appreciate it.

- Could replace the painted areas in the playground with games etc that can be played by groups of children. Mrs C said the school has large chess pieces. Could be good to fundraise for painting a chess board on the ground, decorations around the library or on the stairs approaching the library.
- Discussed the state of the playground and the need for repair. There are a lot of cracks including from Level 33. We should look at community building grants and also put pressure on school infrastructure/Department of Education.
- Habiba asked about volunteers. Nitsa said they have Learning Support Officers. They also have prac teachers. We could look at involving parents in the classroom when covid settles down.

7.2. Treasurer's Report

Nothing to report.

7.3. Events Sub-committee Report

End of Year event

- Planning an end of year event for parents and children on the second last Thursday of school.
- Will be a simple event at Hogben Park. We could borrow some games from the school and perhaps have some music or dancing.
- Discussed that we might buy some snacks or ice-blocks as a treat for the kids.

Resolution: That the P&C spend up to \$250 on the end of year gathering at Hogben Park. Moved by Habiba, seconded by Shivani.

Transition to Kindergarten

- Also planning two 'meet and greet' afternoons at Hogben Park for next year's kindergarten children and their parents. This will be on two afternoons in the transition week from about 2-3.30.

Bunnings Fundraiser

- We are tentatively booked for a Bunnings sausage sizzle fundraiser on 12 February 2022. We will need a lot of volunteers to help but it is a great fundraiser for the school.

7.4. Development and population pressure sub-committee report

New Build

- Following last month's meeting and the update from Laretta that any new build is on hold the committee (Jude, Iwona, Anna) met with Chris Minns to update him and find out if they can do anything.
- They will try and get information about what is happening with Kogarah and keep us updated.
- Mrs Comminos said the Chris Minns has since met with her. She took the opportunity to raise the need for a Kiss and Ride zone on Princes Highway. She's asked him to look into it (RMS, not Council, is involved because it's a highway).
- Mrs Comminos noted that she has forwarded on our request for an update on the matters we discussed at the last meeting to Laretta.

- It was discussed that we have not followed up with the School Infrastructure directly for some time and need to do this again.

Action – letter to School Infrastructure (Committee)

Action – Mrs Comminos to advise that the P&C want to meet with School Infrastructure ASAP.

Development

- The school received a notification about a new development at 37 Princes Highway, on the corner with Regent Street (on the other side of Regent St from the school). It is for forty apartments and two shops. Overshadowing from the building looks like it could affect the bottom playground.
- The Committee made a submission on behalf of the P&C about our concerns re overshadowing, privacy, parking and noise/dust etc during construction. The submission is attached.

8. Discretionary funding for P&C event - \$250 maximum

Decided to be dealt with on a case by case basis for each event for now. Resolution passed for the end of year event above.

9. General Business

9.1. Update on school zone signs

Anna spoke to Transport NSW again. They advised that there are policies about how many flashing light signs we can have and where. Because we have a long school zone (combined with Moorfield and James Cook) you can miss the school zone if you turn from President avenue heading north, or assume the zone is finished). They can install a sign (without flashing lights) after the President Avenue intersection. This will hopefully happen in January/February 2022.

10. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be next year, date to be confirmed.

11. Close

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Principal's Report

Christmas Giving to the Community:

St Elesa Greek Orthodox Church has a charity group that provide food to homeless, women and children refuge centre and in crisis accommodation. This year we would like to participate in a Christmas Gift Drive for gifts and food hamper items that will go towards supporting this charity organisation who work tirelessly every week to support people in our local community and beyond. Collection boxes will be placed at the gates during week 9 and 10. Our students are also working with Kogarah Community Services to bring Christmas cheer to elderly residents in our local nursing homes.

- Kindergarten students will make Christmas cards
- Year 1 and 2 will make a Christmas craft.
- A small group of 3-6 students will record a video message to be played to the residents.

Presentation Day

This will be held at school in stages under the COLA. The format will be very similar to last year. Unfortunately, parents are not able to attend. We will use Dojo to post photos and video to share with parents.

Year 6 Farewell

The Yr 6 Farewell will now be held at school. Staff will organise the event including food and entertainment. This will be held on Wednesday 15 Dec.

Kindergarten Transition

We will be running sessions this year in week 10 for 2022 students. We have had a good response from parents so far. These sessions will also be repeated in Week 1 2022 Feb 1-4.

It is proposed that a catch up at the local park will be organised as a way for parents to meet as due to COVID regulations, we are not able to invite parents into the school grounds for this event.

Staffing Update:

Staffing has been organised for 2022. At this stage there will be 19 classes. The main changes are as follows:

- Mr Vitale will be taking leave for 2022 and Ms Manalo will be teaching in the library K-6.
- Mrs Peters and Mrs Bertuccio will be job sharing on a class
- Mrs Brown and Mrs Passas will continue maternity leave. Ms T, Mrs Dalling, Ms MacInnes and Mrs Farac will be on maternity leave from T2.

Canteen Tender Update:

There were 2 tenders received for the canteen. Thank you to Iwona who was on the committee. Our decision to remain with the current licensee has been sent to the DET and we are awaiting clearance.

Installation of new demountable:

Work has commenced on the new demountable situated in the bottom corner of the grass area closest to Princes Highway pedestrian gate. This will be a Stage 3 classroom next year.

On our current numbers, we will have 2 empty classrooms next year which will mean that there will be extra space for staff during planning/programming time and an additional office/workspace for our Assistant Principals to work in.

Playground Upgrades

The shade shelter over the K-2 playground and the artificial grass on the top playground will be completed before the start of the 2022 school year.

Mrs Nitsa Comminos

Principal