

Kogarah Public School P&C Association General Meeting

Thursday 14 October 2021 – Minutes

Present: Nitsa C, Anna H, Jude M, Shivani V, Laretta Claus, Matina, Zainab, Hafeez S, Iwona U, Neha

1. Welcome

Welcomed all attendees. Meeting opened at 7.05pm.

2. Acknowledgment of Country

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

3. Apologies

None.

4. Minutes

To be deferred until the next meeting as there was no quorum and insufficient members were present from the previous meeting to consider the minutes.

5. Correspondence

- Ventilation petition
- Complaint regarding prize
- Letter to Chris Minns from Sarah Mitchell (copy forwarded to P&C)

6. Outline of process involved for upgrading of school facilities - Laretta Claus, Relieving Director Educational Leadership

Laretta spoke to the meeting about the school's situation and made the following points:

- Acknowledged the challenges facing KPS - population growth in the area, poor facilities in the schools and lack of space to expand. This is made worse by the high rise buildings surrounding the school and the traffic issues that will bring.
- 3 years ago, NSW state planning demographers could see Kogarah North Precinct and surrounding areas like Carlton and Arncliffe would be a growth areas and that there wouldn't be enough space in schools to meet population growth.
- They started exploring different models to deliver more enrolments to primary schools in the district, including new primary school on the back part of James Cook Boys/Moorfield Girls. There was talk about combining the High Schools and using leftover land or a K-12 Education precinct as well as refurbishing Kogarah Public School.
- Population growth did not occur, largely because of covid and migration. The same issue has occurred at a number of schools in the area.

- However, the demographers projected that growth would still occur in Kogarah.
- It is possible that Kogarah will still be prioritised, but this has been delayed due to covid. There are still a number of steps to carry out before any rebuild or infrastructure work would occur at the school – it will not happen quickly.
- These are issues facing many schools across NSW.
- Any changes at the school will need to take into demographic trends, educational requirements, site options, transport needs etc.
- The poor state of facilities at the school and the lack of facilities like a school hall or OSCH could be pursued in the meantime

Jude asked about whether we could have a partnership with the church next to us. Nitsa said the school has discussed this with the church. They appear to be open to it.

Lauretta agreed she would see how we can go about trying to have use of the church land. It was mentioned by Nitsa that the church had also appeared open to selling some of its land, it was noted as unlikely the DOE would purchase land.

Anna expressed significant concerns that the Department and Planning is not taking account the unique situation that Kogarah Public is in – including that we have used almost all of our space for demountable classrooms, we have no hall, we have significant increase in apartments in our area and migration will increase again. We have had the experience in the past that our children have had to learn in a half-size demountable and we do not have faith that this won't happen again. The parents are becoming very frustrated. We would like this to be passed on to Schools Infrastructure. Lauretta agreed.

7. Reports

7.1 Principal

Mrs Comninos began presenting a powerpoint about return to school, but finished early as she was feeling unwell. This presentation was delivered to parents again the following day, Friday 15 October and was uploaded to School Dojo.

Due to lack of quorum it was agreed to finish the meeting early and defer the other items until the next meeting.

Meeting closed at approximately 7.45pm