



Minutes of School Council Meeting

6pm, 7 December 2016 School Staff Room

Attendance: Dorothy Bosnar (**DB**), Debbie Brandon (**RPDB**), Lisa Brown (**LB**), Amber Cleary (**AC**), Sonya Olsen (**SO**), Harriet Price (**HP**), Jessica Smith (**JS**) and by invitation Peter Stepto (**PS**).

1. Reports

Principal's Report

Survey Update

A lot of survey work was undertaken last term - of staff, parents and students.

In the parent and staff surveys which were parallel to previous years there were three areas where results had dropped:

- *The school offers challenging programs for its students (drop in parent responses)*
- *There is good student access to computers and strong technology programs and resources (both parents and staff drop, however major drop from staff responses)*
- *The school promotes its uniform policy (drop in staff responses).*

The GRPS students (Years 4-6) undertook a new survey – ‘Tell Them From Me’ – developed by The Department of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation. RPDB indicated that the staff and parents may move to this survey model in the future. This survey considers a range of factors such as participation in sport, extra-curricular activities, positive sense of belonging, positive relationships and homework. The Survey provides the School results as compared to NSW Government norms. The student results from this year placed the school on par or above NSW Government norms in most areas.

The only area below the norms was ‘*positive homework behaviour*’, where GRPS students perceived themselves at 55% in terms of their motivation and timely work



as compared to the state norm of 63%. The school also ran the survey twice in the year and perception of homework behaviours dropped through the year.

Two other distinct results to the NSW Government norms were that *Positive Student Teacher Relationships* was slightly below the norms and the expectation that our students would go on to further University education was significantly higher than the state.

All these results will feed into the school plan for 2017.

Financial Report

There is currently \$126,000 in the GRPS account. **RPDB** reported that the school is on track to roll over with \$60,000 to 70,000 as per normal.

2017 Staffing

The numbers for 2017 are continuing to fluctuate. At this time, the school is right on the border of 14 to 15 classes. Our situation will not be clear until the new year, however **RPDB** has plans in place for both scenarios.

The teachers are discussing a new possible model for Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6), where students in Stage 3 would be in three composites, and would move teachers/classrooms for different subjects, creating something like a Senior School. Teachers are excited about this opportunity. **RPDB** indicated that the School would be careful to create special times for year specific activities. A letter to notify parents of this intention will be circulated before the end of term.

As already announced, both Emilia Welsh and Terese Bareham are leaving at the end of the year. We have also learned that Daniel Skeeane got an Assistant Principal position and will also be leaving.

Priorities for 2017

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Principal Stuart Crawford



The School is running well with strong structures and processes in place enabling a smooth transition of leadership.

The School Council may wish to adopt a new project for next year. One idea is to consider School-Parent Communication. We could begin by surveying parents about what they appreciate about the newsletter and what prohibits communication. Potentially a revision to the newsletter could be undertaken in 2017.

P&C Report

There were no matters raised.

2. Business Arising

a) Acceptance of Minutes from 2 November 2016

HP proposed acceptance of the Minutes from 2 November 2016, seconded by **LB**. The minutes were accepted.

b) Cambridge Street School Zone

The new system established at the beginning of Term 4 has helped the situation by moving cars further away from the corner.

c) IT Report

PS was invited to attend the meeting to report on the progress of the IT Working Group. As Peter's child is leaving the school this is to be his final visit to the Council and a handover of his work on the IT Group.

PS provided a report (Annexure A) on the identified Tasks of the IT Working Group.



The Council discussed the document and identified the following tasks and questions for going further:

- **RPDB** to ensure we circulate the *Technology Vision Statement* to the School Community.
- It was affirmed that the outside provider workshops (eg. coding) had been very positively received; teaching creativity and problem solving as well as upskilling the teachers. It was identified that the coding workshop placed resource pressure on the school with not enough computers at these times. This raised a sequence of questions for further discussion by Council:
 - Do we need to buy more laptops?
 - Can we timetable the workshops better?
 - Should we explore Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)?
- Student writing samples displayed on the website was considered a positive initiative, however it was clear that both:
 - more communication with parents was needed for this to be a useful resource. **RPDB** to include in future newsletters
 - an easier process for teachers was required and perhaps there might be a parent in each class who could perform the scanning and uploading role.
- **RPDB** believes an IT Audit would be straight forward through checking our resource log and could provide this to Council in the future.
- The future of the IT Working Group needs to be clarified with **PS** unavailable into the future. **AC** has indicated she would be happy to remain part of the group. We discussed the ongoing need for a working group as there is much to consider and the field is changing all the time.

HP thanked **PS** for his helpful summary of the situation.

HP also formally thanked Peter for his many years of service at GRPS especially as past School Council President. He will be missed.

3. New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting concluded at 7.02pm.