



Minutes of School Council Meeting

6.00pm, 1 November 2017 Staff Room

Attendance: Debbie Brandon (RPDB), Lisa Brown (LB), Amber Cleary (AC), Sonya Olsen (SO), Harriet Price (HP), Jessica Smith (JS)

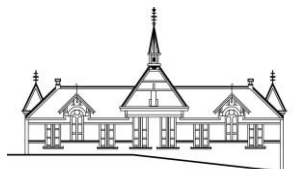
Apologies: Dorothy Bosnar (DB).

1. Reports

- Principal's report

Budget: RPDB reported that the School remains on track financially. RPDB estimates there will be approximately \$24,000 to roll over into next year. On 20 November Kathy Higgin and RPDB are attending a training course to learn the new budgeting system which will be implemented in 2018. The Department has confirmed next year's funding and it is in line with last year's; a slight increase reflecting staff payraises across the board.

Discipline Policy: RPDB reported that she has formed a working party with three parents who are particularly interested in workshopping the discipline policy. RPDB indicated that feedback received so far implies parents have concerns about the merit system, but few concerns regarding the traffic light system. HP raised the issue of whether the three parents in the working party represent enough of a variety of point of view. JS asked if the parents represent a range of school years because parents of older children would no doubt have a different perspective on discipline at school. RPDB responded that reviewing the policy will be an involved, complex process requiring a long consultation with staff and other stakeholders. RPDB felt that the survey drafted for parents would be a sufficient mechanism to cast the net wider in terms of parent input. Changes will need to be approved by the Executive and the Council.





School Planning Survey: RPDB has put a call out in the Newsletter to try and garner more responses than the 75 received so far. The feedback will be examined at the next Executive Planning Day.

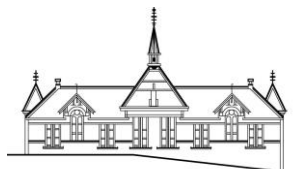
Annual School Report: Rebecca Hollands and RPDB went to a planning day on School Reports. Few changes will be made to our current format.

School Reports: RPDB reported that there will be a list of indicators (syllabus, programmes, etc) for all subject areas and that the five scale checklist (currently ABCDE) will be relabelled “working at expected level”, “working above” and “working beyond”. The effort scale could be changed to a three point scale, e.g. “low”, “expected”, “high”. Teachers will write a more personalized general comment. HP highlighted the need to update the activities list.

- P&C Report: LB said she had nothing to report.

2. Business Arising

- Acceptance of minutes from 2 August 2017: HP proposed acceptance of the Minutes from 2 August 2017, seconded by LB. The minutes were accepted.
- School communications – survey results: HP briefed the Council on the feedback received regarding the Newsletter, the Week Ahead, the calendar, website, emails and reports. HP suggested reinstating staff profiles in the Newsletter, starting with the newest staff. It was agreed that each fortnight a school leader could interview a staff member using some generic questions. All questioned the value of the Week Ahead now that key dates are at the top of the Newsletter. After a discussion, the Council decided the School would not issue The Week Ahead next year.
- LB passed on a parent concern regarding lack of notification of Personal Development sessions. Although parents were informed about this at the start of the year, it was agreed that parents should be notified again at the beginning of the term 4.
- RPDB said it was not practical for parents to be notified in advance of all staff absences, but she would certainly communicate teacher absences due to professional learning.





- Community users update: The proposal is to be sent to the P&C for approval.
- Recycling update: All classrooms now have blue recycling bins. Recycling is put out each Tuesday night. The excess bin issue has been resolved.
- Friday Sport for years 3-6: RPDB reported that unisports will not be offered in Term 1. Students who do not qualify for PSSA sports will be catered to via the School with skills taught as well as matches played. The School is in discussions with Got Game to facilitate OzTag and Basketball in terms 1 and 4 and AFL and soccer in terms 2 and 3. Trumper Park is unavailable on Friday mornings in terms 1 and 4, but Mrs Ortolani has secured Rushcutters Bay for all Fridays in term 1 bar one. School based activities will be offered on that day.
- Other business: HP raised the issue of succession for School Council since she, DB and SO will be completing their three year tenure at the end of this year.

Next meeting: 6 December 6pm.

