



MINUTES Oct 15 2014

Start time: 7pm

Location: Library

PRESENT	Jackie Ullman, Kira Luther, Hannah Blythin, Jennifer Fang, Bill Clarke, Karen Roberts, Carolyn Jury, Maria Riley, Susan Casey, Kate Wake, Ariane Blanch, Maggie Barry, Dianne Thomson, Kim Davies, Brian Welch, Steve Clarke, Emily Qereqeretabua, Sarah Lam, Ruth Tetley, Gareth Wreford,
CHAIR	Steve Clarke
MINUTES	Sarah Lam

1. APOLOGIES Neroli Butt, Louise Gunter, Pamela Maddock, Pam Chalmers, Sonom Paljor	
2. MINUTES Motion: That the minutes from September 10 be accepted	Moved: Maggie Seconded: Carolyn
3. Preamble	Read by: Ariane
4. REPORTS.	
4.1 Yeo Park OSHC Centre	
See attached The current coordinators, Sonia and Hannah, are leaving. Have hired full time coordinator, Maritsa. Has 3 years experience in childcare. Comprehensive transition schedule. Hannah will stay on for 3 weeks to ensure continuity of care. (will slowly drop shifts. Last day in 2 weeks tomorrow.) Plenty of space for 2015 enrolments. Will be at kindy orientations. Soccer tue and martial arts Fridays in term 4 until week 9 or 10. Maritsa will take over programme and organise some community visitors. National water week. Opportunity for parents and carers to win 1 of 3 family passes to wet and wild.	
4.2 PRINCIPALS REPORT	Dianne Thompson
Children have been applying sunscreen at lunch time. First batch provided by cancer council. Could P&C pay for sunscreen to keep this going? Kate – shouldn't apply in winter due to vit d deficiency? Di – training from Cancer Council specified that it should Kids have responded very well to it, now part of routine Restorative practice training 5 november. Di will send out RSVP Teachers will go through refresher. All parents encouraged to go. Catering – -Helen Harris will be given budget and organise food	

<p>Healthy passports start next week. On Monday, will have fruit and veg launch like last year, rainbow platters. Request for volunteers to help arrange on platters, request for families to send in cut up fruit.</p> <p>End of year celebration 1st December.</p> <p>Thanks to Emily for work last year on videos. Will continue similar format with slight changes. Working hard on it. Trying to keep it short.</p> <p>Student welfare policy on Website in Draft Form. No feedback received from parents, so final form will be posted on website.</p> <p>New home readers have been bought by Stacey after a lot of research into books that would be suitable and interesting. All reading levels supplemented with new readers. Thanks to Stacey</p>	
<p>Motion: That the Principals Report be Received and approval to pay for sunscreen up to \$100</p>	<p>Moved: Steve Seconded: Susan</p>
<p>4.3 Treasurer's Report</p>	<p>Jennifer Fang</p>
<p>See attached</p>	
<p>Motion: That the Treasurers report be received.</p>	<p>Moved: karen Seconded: susan</p>
<p>4.4 Fundraising Report</p>	<p>Maggie Barry</p>
<p>See attached Owners of all trivia night paintings have given permission for their paintings to be photographed for fundraising greeting card There will be a council by-election on November 15. Carolyn - 500 people attended Yeo Park at last by-election. Suggested keeping effort to a minimum. Suggestion made for coffee and bacon egg roll. Or no bbq to minimise work if stretched – cakes instead.</p> <p>Kate – can we get funding for cups coffee and milk? Unsure whether this will be provided with coffee machine</p>	
<p>Motion: That the Fundraising Report be accepted including allocation of up to \$500 for election day.</p>	<p>Moved: kate Seconded: karen</p>
<p>4.5 PRESIDENTS REPORT</p>	<p>Steve Clarke</p>
<p>First P&C Bulletin has now gone out. All have option to opt out.</p> <p>99 subscribers (only 2 people chose to opt out). Positive feedback from 9 people. No unsubscribes yet since the bulletin.</p> <p>Di – same content as in newsletter?</p>	



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Steve – easy access to minutes and agenda (way for parents to be informed when minutes and agenda posted on website. Way to improve communication, especially with parents who are unable to get to P&C meetings. More detail on P&C than in school newsletter.

Distributed printout of articles mentioned last month:

- [“A Better Way to Say Sorry” JoEllen, cuppacocoa.com](#)
- [“Is it rude, is it mean or is it bullying”](#) by Signe Whitson

Invitation for all parents to share anything they find that is thought provoking and/or interesting.

Latest [P&C journal](#) (click link) is out from the P&C Federation which now has new structure:

P&C Federation elections: Only one nomination received for South West Sydney (Yeo Park’s electorate) for Councillor , so the nominee, Susie Boyd elected unopposed ([click link here for her profile and other election information](#)).

No nominations from South West Sydney for delegates to the Annual Conference, so still opportunity for anyone interested to nominate.

Request for parents to keep chatter down at morning lines during announcements.

Motion: “That the President’s report be accepted.”

Moved: Emily
Seconded: Maggie

5. GENERAL BUSINESS – SCHOOL BUSINESS

5.1 Gender roles and schooling – Kate Wake

Kate said that the uniform committee process has not been clear to some parents, and not clear how parents can have input to the committee on uniform policy She decided to take this opportunity to talk at P&C meeting as parents were asked not to bring up in playground.

She encouraged other parents to talk who have similar opinions for different reasons. Would like uniform dress to not be option, for many reasons but important ones are: It’s not about individual choice for each child, but about benefit for all the children.

Coming to this as concerned about gender roles in school.

In an educational institution, all children, should be seen as individual, regardless of where they are on the gender spectrum.

Standardising uniform for all children would provide a message that a child’s gender is not significant in this area.

Kate stated that is very positive that Stacey addresses the children as “children” not “boys and girls”.

Removing frock would help encourage nongendering by all adults that children encounter in the school environment. Gender language hurts children.

Such a move would encourage us all to think about whether talking about “girls” and “boys” rather than “children” is helpful. These moments build children into gendered roles over many years.

We would be doing this for community benefit, the way that we don't have peanuts.

The message is that this school is open for everybody, not playing to gender.

It would be unrealistic to expect a child who does not identify as a boy to wear a dress.

One also has to remember that we (parents) would almost certainly not be told and would not know if a child at the school was questioning / deciding their gender identity. The policies we have in place must accommodate / assume this possibility.

Dept Ed talks about indirect discrimination – the unequal impact of rules on different people.

Kate has noted distress from children at Yeo Park who are told or think that they 'don't look like a girl', and thinking or being told that they can't play soccer because they are a girl.

Jackie – is academic in area of gender and sexuality, gender as social construction.

Kids learn through social rewards, punishments, imitating.

Emphasising a biological basis for gender contributes to subordination of gender.

Having a dress as part of the uniform is socially sanctioned repetition. Makes it seem like there are natural differences.

Jackie works with teenagers who are marginalised due to sexuality. Marginalisation starts at an early age.

Having dresses and skirts as part of a school uniform perpetuates belief that girls bodies must be covered.

Girls become responsible for the meaning of body parts, they need to have awareness of this to do everyday activities, in order not to reveal body parts.

This can lead to other issues later–

For example research shows at university, girls are more likely than boys to discount academic abilities and attribute failure to own innate behaviour.

Gareth – requested clarification on whether girls have to wear dresses or have choice

Current uniform options for girls include dresses, skirts or pants/ shorts

Skirts and dresses restrict physical movement which affects their ability to participate eg access to sports.

Ruth noted that after her daughter had hair cut short, had children say you don't look like a girl. So she wore a dress to counter this, to look more 'like a girl'

Bill – girls always have social pressures whether wear dresses or trousers. Some girls wear dresses when hot or shorts when active.

Di – on uniform committee, Karen and Di both have son and daughter. Committee have discussed at length. Will present something that is very reflective on what has been discussed but not considered as deeply. Uniform committee has covered what has been presented. Proposal will be put forward and discussed and voted on.

Kate - took this opportunity to say why she thinks not having dresses is important, rather than



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discussing this in the playground.

Ariane – consider ramifications in future – this is a long term thing. Gender queer children must be taken into account. Impossible to work out statistically proportion of children, between 1.5-2% population, so Yeo Park is their first experience.

With uniforms, it's relatively simple to be welcoming to all kids, rather than stick them in boxes.

Susan – how does this impact on girls who like wearing dresses?

Jackie – we need to question where the 'liking' comes from

Fiona – it seems difficult to feel like something is being banned. But currently we have an opportunity – we've got little kids, it's 2014, we're an inner west progressive community, if have the option should take it.

Carolyn – practical issues with dresses, as not always punctually made. But concerned that banning one mode of dress and elevating another sends the message that what boys wear is superior to girls. Dresses are cooler and more comfortable. We'd be saying that 'You have to wear what the boys wear because it works and girls clothes don't.'

Kate – But if the boys shorts are hot and uncomfortable they should be changed. Heat is not good for that part of a boy's anatomy.

Dianne – The Uniform committee report will be on display in school hall in November prior to meeting, so all can view uniform before putting in preference at meeting.

Gareth: How has this vote come about? Does it set a precedent?

Steve – The P&C was originally involved in the decision to review the uniform last year, and was involved in setting up the uniform committee.

There is a Dept Ed policy around uniform that says that the school community needs to be consulted on changes to uniform.

Kate tabled journal article "Ritualized girling school uniforms and the compulsory performance of gender."

6. GENERAL BUSINESS: P&C BUSINESS

6.4 P&C meeting procedures – Steve

In response to questions last term

How to get something on agenda? – ask steve or sarah.

Why are some items favoured or promoted over other items?

First come first served. No ideas / suggestions are promoted over other ideas. Any parent has right to request something on the agenda or flag a proposal or move a formal motion.

If you have an idea, or a suggestion to make, whether for school or P&C to consider, flag it in advance ("giving notice") and get information out to people ahead of meeting so discussion can be kept focused, and people can give considered thought and opinion to the idea ahead of the meeting.

Speak through the chair – especially important when there is heat or controversy in topic, and also when pushed for time. Also people are asked to think about what they want to say and just

Speak once per topic. This helps to ensure everyone has a chance to have their say and discussions are not dominated by just a few people.

Any member has the right to move a motion formally, people can then speak for or against the motion and it will come down to a vote.

Susan asked how much in advance you need to request an item to be put on the agenda.

Steve - at least a week ahead of the meeting but the earlier the better. If agenda is already full, may need to be held over until next meeting.

Susan - should ideas for new fundraising activities – through P&C?

Steve – can go through fundraising committee unless need to broaden discussion.

6.1 Review of P&C Roles for 2015

P&C flyer for new kindy parents

Maria – distributed flyer for new kindy parents (see attached)

For kindy school bags in about week 4 of term 1.

Agreed by those present that it will be useful.

Possibly instead of kindy ambassador role? In which case would be role of president and vice presidents to engage with new kindy parents.

Kindy ambassador

Kate said would be better if it was a person people could talk to than a piece of paper.

Bill – some parents don't read notes. Many parents are often at lines, and would help to have an email address or phone number that they can call at any time.

Carolyn – already a lot of roles, could be difficulty filling them. Need to rethink simplifying processes. Don't want to leave people who come after us with burden of extra roles.

Kate – could be a trial.

Carolyn - If it's about having someone to text or call, just use president or vice president.

Don't want to make more jobs for selves.

Kate – people in those roles already have a lot of responsibilities. Wouldn't it be better to share the load around if some-one's willing to do it?

Karen – when she started at school, P&C was small and some people had more than one role.

Dianne – Spends Sunday night writing a kindy newsletter, finds it extremely upsetting that parents are saying that they don't read them.

Ruth – all the information is available at this school. Very different to other schools.

Steve – yes, the written information is very good. Don't think anyone means to imply otherwise. Proposal is just about having an oral channel for information

Motion (Kate): That a kinder ambassador position be created.

In Favour: 6

Against : 8

Motion not passed

Moved: Kate
Seconded: Bill

Moved: Carolyn
Seconded: Ruth



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Kindy parent welcome/ 'ambassadorial' responsibilities will be incorporated into the President and Vice President roles

Revised P&C roles for 2015 incorporating feedback distributed prior to meeting - attached

P&C user guide – trying to capture the knowledge/ learnings of parents who have been before, especially the wonderful year 2 parents who are leaving soon - anyone who knows anything should pass it to Carolyn ASAP, but hopefully by mid November.

Steve - Next meeting will need to discuss school plan (usually November meeting is school dinner). Language Class agenda item postponed for brief response / discussion at next meeting.

Karen - may need to have extraordinary meeting to discuss uniform committee proposal

Motion (Carolyn): Request for the school to make the draft school plan available for parents to read prior to the meeting, preferably as part of agenda and meeting papers a week before meeting.

This will help keep discussion focused.

Passed unanimously

P&C dinner: Wednesday 26 November

Meeting Closed – 8:50 pm

Next meeting Wednesday November 12th

Attach –OSH
Treasurer
Fundraising
Maria's flyer