Sts Peter and Paul's School Parents & Friends Association Meeting

Date | time 15th March 2017 | Meeting called to order by Ana Croger (Vice-President)

In Attendance (52)

Ana Croger, Vice President | Leanne Rogan, Treasurer | Amanda MacDougall, Secretary | Damien Sullivan, Vice Principal | Darren O'Brien | Angela Hawthorn | Lisa Magee | Terry Shaw | Peter Pontikis | Amanda Kimlin | Teresa Brennan | Vicki Loadsman | Lynne Healey | Jenny Hovey | Michael Hovey | Tara Collins | Shauneen Vasquez | Gail Tarditi | Natasha Gargan | Christina Hull | Ali Dollar | Gen Piggot | Dan Piggot | Cameron Barry | Brendan Shostakowski | Gabrielle Ellul | Joseph Ellul | Brad Hay | Trevor Doyle | Lara Carlsen | Amy Apolakiatis | Shellie O'Connor | Toni Schultz | Sam MacDougall | Peter Hrstich | Julie Johnston | David Bradley | Rick Van Dyk | Viv Thompson | Tim Daly | Danny Tanks | Fr Tom Elich | Cynthia Richards | Craig Carolan | Shayne Sutton | Di Farmer | David O'Farrell | Kaylene O'Farrell | Anna Havill | Megan Channer | Vanessa Scoon | Gerry Conway (BCE)

Apologies: Adam Cairns, Sister Ann-Maree Nicholls, Megan Mobsby, Jen Codd, Paula Dillon, Lyndal Hanrahan, Leeham Collins, Chrissie Quinn, Bec Lawrence

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the meeting in February were moved by Ana Croger & seconded by Vicki Loadsman and Peter Pontikis.

Principal’s Report – Damien Sullivan for Sister Ann-Maree Nicholls

- Continuing this term, more professional development for teachers through Cath Ed - staff meetings, twilight sessions, teachers have embraced ideas, pedagogics
- Successful first term - thank you for teacher’s role in successful teaching outcomes
- Lyndal Conaghan held a great senior swimming carnival; Lytton District Hockey trials were held on 15th March - thanks to parents and friends for your support for students going to trials

Treasurer’s Report – Leanne Rogan

- $131,443 balance @ bank
- $14,332 quarterly contribution
- $1333 – Day on the Green expenditure
- $13,555 – committed payments
- Invoices for March - $210 leaving staff member; $3,980.18 P & F Federation – expenses approved by majority show of hands
- Ratified expenses – School disco $2086.79; (deposits $2525, surplus $428.38); Welcome night event $340.31 against budget of $300; Banked $98.10 – expenses ratified by majority
- P & F contribution to Sun Shades (SunSmart Grant) - $1,000 – approved by majority

Health & Well-being Committee – Angela Hawthorn

Angela Hawthorn

- Planning a school survey to gather information & feedback for health & wellbeing program improvements
- Planned Pop up stall outside Prep area focusing on sustainable lunches; Biome store to feature
- Two parents have volunteered for sub-committee – Ange to confirm names
- World Health Organisation standard – do we want to strive for this? Answer – yes, wherever possible
Sustainability Committee – Teresa Brennan

Teresa presented on previously proposed student-led Sustainability Program initiative – **Green Saints Program** - to be led by “champions” from each grade, who become the student leadership group

**Initiatives:**

**Grade 6** - School Energy Audit: includes school walk around with 6 students who will write a plan & make recommendations based on their findings; Teresa to seek pre-approval for expense ($1,000 fee)

**Grade 5** - Solar Buddy initiative: kids make a light from scratch and send them to remote indigenous communities for use and to promote collaboration; school to choose 4 remote schools to partner with ($20 kits for each student)

**Grade 4** - Water Wise timers for children to take home to time their showers (no cost)

**Grade 3** - Re-think your rubbish: Brisbane City Council initiative to help students develop a waste management program for the school; includes stickers, educational materials etc (no cost)

AND/OR – Turtles program: educating students on how plastic bags affect turtles in their environment, children conduct a plastic bag survey for the home and hear a presentation from environmental experts (no cost)

**Grade 2** - Solar Light guards: learning about solar power and potentially tree planting (no cost)

**Grade 1** - Worm Farms: BCC has free program we can tap into; set up worm farm, talk about munch & crunch

**Earth Hour** – for everyone! 25th March, 8.30 – 9.30pm; Teresa to send for inclusion in newsletter

**Lisa Magee** has access to QUT ‘pre-service’ teachers to potentially help with governance of program roll-out & ongoing management. Lisa to meet with Brendan Shostakowski to discuss further

Social Club Committee – Lynne Healey, Jennifer Codd (apology)

**Day on the Green** – came in under budget

**Gala Dinner** – event is a fundraiser this year; **Black Tie Bingo** fundraising activity, discussed putting together a list of sponsors, former, current & prospective - Lynne looking for access to business directory/previous sponsor list; Ana to follow up with Dee French to find previous sponsors; Terry Shaw to also check with Bec Lawrence

Ticket price discussion – majority show of hands to ratify ticket price of $145; goal of raising $35k

Care & Concern Committee – Ana Croger

Brooke McGuire (Year 5 teacher) has taken over from Megan Mobsby as Student Committee Leader; Casserole bank is keeping up with demand; Bake stall for parish raised $402.91 for Term 1

Technology – Terry Shaw

Outstanding issue has not yet been resolved

Gail raised idea of running some coding/tech sessions – getting some prices for after-school programs

Welcome Wagon – Amanda MacDougall on behalf of Paula Dillon

Paula previously suggested that the details of new families should be provided directly to her for forwarding onto Class Coordinators; Paula has presented idea at Class Coordinator meeting and all are in agreement for new process.
Grants Program – Amanda MacDougall on behalf of Leham Collins

There is a new grant which we are applying for – the SunSmart Sunshade State Government initiative. We will apply for two 3 x 3m marquees; Leham to progress with application processes. Cost to P & F is $935 (ratified)

Communications – Amanda MacDougall

Brisbane Archdiocesan P & F Council AGM being held at St Rita’s event 30th March, 5.30 for 6pm start. Guest speaker – Madonna King. Information emailed to Dee French for inclusion in newsletter; AM to put on Facebook

General Business

Welcome to Shayne Sutton & Di Farmer

- Address from Di Farmer who is about to publish the results of a recent technology survey and form a working group & some forums to address knowledge gaps; the forums will also cover off the Triple P parent forum which include cyber safety, managing social media; teenagers with Madonna King
- Di complimented us on having a well-run P & F 😊
- Address from Shayne Sutton who offered her assistance to the general parent community and reiterated the strong working relationship of the last few years between the school and local council; the Learn to Ride facility at Colmslie is about to be signed off! Compliments to Kieron H who progressed this initiative.

Carpark Discussion

**Key contributors:** Damien Sullivan, Vice Principal (DS); Gerry Conway, Brisbane Catholic Education Building and Planning (GC); David O’Farrell, Mediator (DO); Anna Havill, Saunders Havill Group, Town Planners (AH); Megan Channer, Parent Spokesperson (MC)

Gabrielle Ellul opened with introductory song & heartfelt introduction

David O’Farrell was appointed mediator and identified **three critical issues** as:

1. Should we be considering reversal of use of the oval as a carpark?
2. Can we? Is it too late? Is it too expensive?
3. How can we? Who makes the decision? Timeframe?

From here, there are **four key questions** to consider:

1. Can we change it from a town planning perspective?
2. The school’s needs? Does the school prefer to have a multi-use area?
3. Is there an option? Can we find an alternative or reduce the carparks?
4. What’s it going to cost and can we afford it?

**Damien Sullivan addressed the group:**

- Project started about 5 years ago as a result of Sr Ann-Maree and Fr Tom recognising the need to create extra capacity for Catholic families to send their children; solution was to take on 4th PREP class to maximum 720 kids, requiring more classrooms and facilities
- DS then handed over to Gerry Conway to explain why it is we need the additional car spaces

**Gerry Conway addressed the group:**

- Gerry has worked with 139 schools, over 24 years, 20 years at Sts Peter & Paul’s
- Since 2014 Gerry has been in funding meetings for project & the students have always been at heart of all decisions
Carpark requirement (36) was a result of meetings between architect & developers & council

Handball courts used to be a carpark; school has had a deficit of carparks for 12 years

Council gave concessions – 10 m narrower than actual requirement using tandem spaces to try & maximize green space

Concession also given from funding process - extra 600m recreation space on rooftop of new building – not always allowed

Megan Channer introduced Anna Havill, from Saunders Havill Town Planners on behalf of parent community
- Recapped brief and resultant report that she has provided
- Examined approval process retrospectively
- Findings are that, simplistically, council approved 36 carparks but Anna’s view is that a retrospective calculation was not necessarily required to replace lost carspaces
- Previous approvals didn’t mention the “lost” spaces in the handball court area
- Sustainable Planning Act allows for change to approval process – there is a test; traffic engineer would have to provide recommendations
- Anna recommended it may be possible to reduce the number using a staged approach; if there is a will, the Act provides for change requests

David O’Farrell then led the group through a discussion which touched on each of the four key questions to consider:

5. Can we change it from a town planning perspective?
6. The school’s needs? Does the school prefer to have a multi-use area?
7. Is there an option? Can we find an alternative or reduce the carparks?
8. What’s it going to cost and can we afford it?

Below is a sample of questions and answers raised through this discussion.

Q Is there an opportunity to re-visit what was approved given bylaws have changed?
No, there is no appetite to re-visit - it is too late

Q Does DA say we need 36 car spaces?
A yes. Requirement understood to be an additional 4 bays plus the carparks “lost” to the handball courts; the requirement has been deferred multiple times since 2006 (legacy issue) hence retrospective requirement for 32

Q Why can’t the carpark be built from grass? Can we check?
A No. Traffic usage, unstable surface unsafe for children to play on; won’t be pursued as an option

Q Will area be cleaned every day? Concern raised about cleanliness & health of area
A Children won’t be sitting, they’ll be playing & area will be cleaned at regular intervals

Q What other uses will the carpark have?
A Space is not lost to recreation purposes, sports etc. can still occur; teachers won’t be parking on carpark during school day

Q Can we clarify use of carpark?
A Morning parking drop off, especially for Prep families; close gate by 9am; use for PE, morning tea play, lunchtime play, open again at 2.30pm for pick up - Shayne Sutton confirmed that the school can legally close the gates during school hours; no loss of play space, change from grass to hardcourt (bitumen) covered in green-coloured play surface, smooth edging for seamlessness; handball courts, cricket; space ¼ of oval space.

Q How will tandem parks be managed?
A School leaders will manage this
Q Is area going to be fenced off? Bollards?
A no, flat curbing for seamlessness

Q Can we still hold Mini Olympics?
A yes, carpark surface can be used, as well as grassed area in front of presbytery, demountables will be gone

Q Why don’t we improve the rest of the oval & the use of other “dead” spaces around the school
A Commitment that this is going to be a major initiative for P & F this year

Q Can the Presbytery area be formalized for green space?
A preference is to leave as public “breathing space” and sacred space, as used by both Parish & school

Q can the Presbytery be moved across the road?
A No, it’s a heritage building

Q What is the cost to change?
A As construction is almost complete, we would get back negligible amount in refund and in fact there could be penalties from builder or action to pursue lost profit; risk of certification process delays construction of block 2; fees from town planner; architect fees – cost was deemed to be prohibitive

Conclusion
- Cost is prohibitive – sunk cost in construction to date, tens of thousands of dollars per day
- Request for parent community to show confidence in school leadership
- Once oval is cleared and construction complete, the open space will be adequate
- Conditions are attached to the Grant to deliver the carparks even if works changed
- Shayne Sutton - declared multiple conflicts of interest; commitment on two levels to working closely with the school, as both a parent and as a local councilor; re-iterated that the school is the only party which has the authority to pursue change request
- Consensus amongst the parent group was not necessarily attained, but suggestion was for Town Planners to have a further conversation & that a meeting be held to conclude the discussion.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 19th April, 7.30pm | Meeting closed at 10.10pm by Ana Croger