

Minutes of the Anzac Park Public School P&C General Meeting

APPS Staffroom

Tuesday 13 February 2024, 7pm

ATTENDANCE:	Evelyn de Moraes (EdM) <i>President</i> Eleni Endt (EE) <i>Vice-President</i> Erin Byrne (EB) <i>Vice-President</i> Erin Coyle (EC) <i>Treasurer</i> Stephen Edwards (SE) <i>Secretary</i>	Executive Members
	Nicole Creenaune (NC) <i>Tunnels</i> Lauren Dalla (LD) <i>Safety & Traffic</i> Jill Waller (JC) <i>Tunnels & Safety & Traffic</i> Iris Eustice (IE) <i>Second Hand Uniforms</i> Alys Holz (AH) <i>Social / Fundraising</i> Gemma Ash (GA) <i>Social / Fundraising</i> Ben Hoch (BH) <i>Class Parents</i> Corey Googh (CG) <i>D&I</i>	Non-Executive members
	Unity Taylor-Hill (UTH) <i>Principal</i> Amy Sackville (ASa) <i>Deputy Principal</i>	APPS Representatives
	Katie Hanley, Giorgia Elerico, Carina Yang, Behnam Emamian, Sadat Tabatabaei Zavareh, Elizabeth Abbott, Tanya Sido, Claire Jensen, Julia Nelson, Chren Byng, Liz Torokfairy	Parents / Members
APOLOGIES:	Elissa (Lee) Auzins (LA) <i>President</i> Jessica Peachey (JP) <i>Secretary</i> Kate Piper (KP) <i>OOSH & Class Parents</i> Holly King (HK) <i>Grants</i> Adrian Steward (AS) <i>Safety & Traffic</i>	

P&C General Meeting Opened at 7.08 pm

1. APOLOGIES/ OPEN	Evelyn opened the general meeting by welcoming (a lot of!) parents. Apologies were received from LA, JP, KP, HK, and AS.
2. TEAM KIDS (TK) UPDATE	Lisa Garipian from Team Kids provided a verbal update as follows: There have been some staffing changes within TK, with a new regional manager (Harrison) joining and replacing the previous manager (Sam) who has rotated to another school. Other roles are unchanged.

	<p>Kindy is settling in well to TK, and the team will continue collecting from the classroom for now. There was positive feedback on the Kindy vacation care and big-school readiness program.</p> <p>Vacation care hit capacity a few times over the school holiday break, with a few popular incursions (e.g. the reptiles 'Feature Creatures' talks, the Hoyts trip to see Trolls, inflatable world).</p> <p>Upcoming events include the TK dance party, Harmony Week, and mad hatters party. Refer to TK for more info on these and other events.</p>
3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS	<p>The minutes of the previous general meeting and the AGM held on 28 November 2023 were accepted as a true record.</p> <p>There was a revision made to the Nov 2023 AGM minutes to incorporate details about the bank account ownership and operation to satisfy CBA bank account ownership transfer documentation requirements. These were also accepted.</p>
4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES	<p>Actions were captured in the Agenda. All actions were updated pre-meeting or added to general business.</p>
5. CORRESPONDENCE IN/OUT	<p>Nil correspondence received to report on. Sub-committees notified for minor items.</p>
6. PRESIDENT'S UPDATE	<p>Evelyn provided an update:</p> <p>The P&C executive have met and started to set goals for the year. A meeting with sub-committees is scheduled for Monday 19th Feb to continue working on this. Goals will be shared with the community soon.</p> <p>[ACTION]: P&C goals, including sub-committee goals, to be shared with parents in subsequent meeting / parent communications.</p>
7. PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE	<p>Unity provided an update:</p> <p><u>P&C for 2024</u></p> <p>Unity met with the P&C executive prior to the meeting, and was pleased to see good attendance at the meeting. The P&C AGM being moved to November means that the new committee have been able to start work immediately in the new year.</p> <p><u>School enrolments and classes</u></p> <p>The school recently confirmed its enrolment figure for the year, with 810 students enrolled at APPS for 2024. This number is used by the department to allocate teacher funding for the school; the final student count can fluctuate</p>

with late enrolments, and while the school hires staff ready for the school year in anticipation of a given number of classes/students, the department may fund more or less if the student count changes. Fortunately, Unity's estimates from August were accurate and the school has teacher funding to meet those hired for the year.

For the 810 students, there are 31 mainstream classes and 3 support classes - including an extra support unit class mentioned in the November meeting.

School events and communication

The 'Meet the Teacher' event has been scheduled for the morning of Fri 16th Feb. There are changes compared to prior years based on parent feedback:

- A morning (rather than afternoon/evening) session has been set up to accommodate working families
- In previous years, teachers gave a presentation which was largely consistent across classes. This will now be delivered as a video to parents prior to the meeting, so that the sessions can instead focus on meet and greet-type interactions.
- The video will be uniform across classes, so parents will only need to watch it once if they have children in multiple grades / classes.

Unity reminded parents that Compass remains the best source for communications coming from the school, and encouraged use of the Compass app. In particular, she noted that the numerous events planned for the year can be found within Compass.

The school is trialling a new newsletter format following parents feedback. Changes include:

- A new 'magazine'-style format
- A mobile-friendly format for those looking on their phones
- Combining information previously shared via the website into the newsletter

Unity seeks parents' feedback on the new format when it is launched.

P&C funded climbing wall update

The P&C-funded climbing wall is due to start construction on Friday. Cue thunderous applause from the parents / P&C members in the room. The works will run for 3-4 weeks, and during that time there will be a working zone set up in the lower terrace. This may disrupt access to the school on that side; please be careful and patient.

As part of the works, the slides will be temporarily removed to allow installation of improved safety measures (i.e. rubber soft-fall). Don't stress; the slides will return!

Other school changes

Unity provided an update on staffing changes within the school. The changes will be noted in school communications so will not be repeated here.

As mentioned in the November meeting, the school has been undertaking a review of teacher wellbeing. She noted that a department review had noted teachers worked around 55 hours a week, and APPS staff were close to this in 2023. There are steps being taken at a departmental and local level to improve this. Initiatives within the school for 2024 include:

- The appointment of a parent communication manager to help manage parent/teacher emails and communications in a more efficient manner. This also removes admin work from teachers.
- Acknowledging the department's focus on safe and respectful workplaces which, while not historically a key issue within APPS, is something parents can agree to support.

Unity commented briefly on the department's enforcement of smartphone and smartwatch bans within NSW schools. APPS is required to enforce this, so parents and students are encouraged to help the school comply with this.

It was noted that NAPLAN is coming up in March for years 3 and 5.

Edu-chat trial

APPS is participating in a trial of a NSW Education-designed AI program called 'edu-chat'. This is a secure AI program designed specifically for use within school. APPS is one of only 3 primary schools included in the trial, which will run in terms 1 and 2.

Staff and students (years 5 and 6 only) will be able to interact with edu-chat. It differs to other GPT implementations (e.g. ChatGPT) in that it aims to support or scaffold children rather than providing direct answers to questions. This allows interaction with GPT-like programs in a way that supports educational development, and equips them better for the AI-included world they will grow up into.

Teachers will also be able to use edu-chat for a range of administrative functions such as translation, assisting with the preparation of documents or sourcing learning materials, etc.

The department will be monitoring how teachers and students interact with edu-chat to determine success or learnings.

Student wellbeing presentation (Amy Sackville)

Amy Sackville provided a presentation on student wellbeing. The presentation will be made available to parents via a video shared on Compass in coming weeks, but some notable items from the presentation include:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on how behaviour is managed, including the implementation of a 'restorative practices' approach. This encourages students to build empathy by understanding the context of their behaviour, how it impacts others, and focusing on repairing harm cause by their actions. • Classrooms have developed traffic light systems or similar behavioural models which have been shared with students. While classrooms may have differing approaches, they all share similar themes and goals in terms of managing behaviour. • APPS Star Tokens have been implemented across the school. The tokens are given out as rewards for displaying good behaviours, and students will collect them on behalf of their four school houses. This intends to build a broader sense of school community in addition to providing a direct reward system. • Bronze / Silver / Gold awards will continue. Parents in the room commented that this has historically been unachievable, and that it was unclear what was required to achieve bronze awards. Unity and Amy clarified that the rewards were for exhibiting core APPS behaviours/principles, and that the system was being adjusted in 2024 to encourage teachers to give out bronze awards more readily. As a result, assemblies will now focus on silver/gold awards. • Parents questioned whether the Principals Award for attendance allowed for students with chronic health conditions that made it difficult for them to consistently attend school. It was noted that there were allowances for this, but if there were specific cases/issues this could be catered to separately. • The yellow / orange model for undesirable behaviour was also touched on, including the process involved for raising undesirable behaviour with students and parents. This will be covered in more detail in the video. <p>Parents in the room questioned how these changes differed to past practices at the school. Amy clarified that the new behavioural models removed focus on the specifics or minute details of the situation, and instead prioritised repairing relationships between students.</p>
8. TREASURER'S UPDATE	<p>Erin provided an update on financials:</p> <p>Since the last report (to 27 November 2023 to 12 February 2024) funds have increased by \$2,747.36 from \$236,281.32 to \$239,028.68.</p> <p>Items of note included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The P&C has now been reimbursed \$2,395 which was lent for the End of Year Teacher celebrations, • Summer Mountain top generated \$951.95 in sales, and \$679 was spent on supplies, so a profit of \$272.95. • Enviro bank generated \$196.60.

There was some discussion that school contributions are now tax deductible, however post-meeting it was confirmed that currently contributions are not tax deductible. There is work continuing to determine whether there are pathways to tax deductibility for contributions.

[ACTION]: P&C to continue investigating whether it can achieve tax deductibility for contributions (e.g. by establishing a building fund).

Envirobank discussion

Parents questioned whether the Envirobank program communications could be improved. They are scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month, and in 2024 can now accept glass donations - but parents in the room hadn't seen communications to announce this clearly to new and existing parents.

[ACTION]: P&C to engage Letitia (program organiser) to set up regular, clearer communications to the community about the Envirobank program.

Community wishlist

Parents questioned whether the P&C or the school had a list of future fundraising items. Unity confirmed the community wishlist included:

- The astroturf and smartboards which were P&C-funded items which will eventually meet end-of-life and need replacement. The P&C should ensure funds are available to meet these items as they come due.
- Air conditioning.

Air conditioning discussion

Unity provided more context on air conditioning as a potential funding item:

- The school was built with passive cooling, but on hot days this becomes insufficient and impacts student learning.
- With a large number of classrooms, it will be a long-term and high-budget project to have air conditioning installed. Staggering the project is advisable, and classrooms more prone to heat can be prioritised.
- Grant applications are possible. The school is investigating this already in addition to getting quotes that can be shared with the P&C.
- When discussed with the P&C in the past, it was noted that installation and ongoing power/maintenance of the air conditioners would need to be funded. Since then, changes to the electrical supply contracts between the department and the school mean electricity costs would no longer need to be paid by the school - which eases the financial burden for the school and the P&C in installing air conditioners.
- Unity is keen to get the P&C community behind an initiative.

There was a discussion amongst parents about how to get the broader community to fund a project of this size, again noting declining contributions. It

	<p>was felt that better transparency around what the P&C spends money on, or clearer targets for future funding projects, would help address this.</p> <p>[ACTION]: P&C to request information from the school about costs for air conditioning installation and maintenance, and how to stagger the project.</p> <p>[ACTION]: P&C to find ways to more clearly share with the broader community where P&C funds go and to try and encourage more contributions. Suggestion from Unity: 'how many cupcakes to sell' as a measure of project size (previous Killara School approach).</p> <p><u>Other P&C contributions</u></p> <p>Eleni noted that the library is filled with books solely supplied by parents; there are a lot of things around the school that parents are likely unaware are P&C-supplied. Students also get a sense of pride knowing they've contributed to the school. Thought should be given to making this more visible within the community. The P&C are already considering ways to do this through the newsletter, but other options (plaques were suggested) could achieve this.</p> <p>[ACTION]: P&C to explore ways to highlight to parents what around the school was contributed by donations or by the P&C. E.g. comms, plaques, etc.</p> <p>Parents questioned whether the library can accept donations of second-hand books. Good quality/condition books can be donated; approach the office on Fridays to speak to Sarah who co-ordinates these donations and can check books for donation.</p>
<p>9. ROAD SAFETY UPDATES</p>	<p>Nicole gave an update on discussions with Transport for NSW on 4th December 2023 on various upgrades and works affecting the school.</p> <p><u>Warringah Freeway Upgrade</u></p> <p>The freeway update will result in closure of Cammeray Ave for up to 14 months. New stormwater drainage and pipes will need to be installed, resulting in digging up of sections of Anzac Park. The park is expected to be reset as parkland by April 2025. Tree planting will begin in 2025.</p> <p>Traffic control will be present at the top of Rosalind St (adjacent to Miller St) and Anzac Avenue (adjacent to Ernest St). However, this will only be for the duration of the upgrades so this may disappear in April 2025.</p> <p>The sub-committee was able to confirm that there will be no heavy vehicles / construction during school dropoff and pickup hours.</p> <p>It was communicated to Transport for NSW by the sub-committee that the Ernest St overpass construction has made it more dangerous for kids moving to Cammeray Oval for after school sports or school transit. TfNSW said traffic control is present and they are investigating how to improve pedestrian access.</p>

The Miller St exit was also raised as a concern, with traffic going at high school through the exit to make up time from congestion from the freeway. Traffic calming measures have been considered by TfNSW, but were ultimately decided to not be implemented as they felt it would worsen the situation.

Western Harbour Tunnel

Concerns about potential fires in the tunnels during construction were allayed; the tunnels are damp, and emergency flooding measures available in case a fire was started.

It was confirmed that community consultation will be done before the PDLP (Place, Design, Landscape Plan) is released next year. However, they had not considered a public realm infrastructure plan at the end of the project. More work is to be done by the committee to push for better pedestrian safety as part of the project.

It was also noted in the discussion that:

- The existing noise wall along Cammeray Avenue will be extended to the top of Rosalind Street East, construction starting from March 2024, and will last for 3-4 months
- As part of the freeway upgrade, motorists will not be able to change lanes as they currently do to get to the bridge / tunnel.
- St Leonards Park will not be returned to parkland until 2028.

Moodie St

Council is proposing to widen the footpath along the western side of Moodie St to 1.8m. This will require implementation of a one-way restriction northbound on Moodie St.

Lauren provided updates on road safety:

West St changes

North Sydney Council West Street, Stage 2 Active Transport plan currently open for consultation. This plan will add a bike path on West Street from Cammeray to North Sydney, as well as additional improvements for pedestrian safety. This includes adding a pedestrian crossing on West Street at Rosalind Street adjacent to St Thomas Rest Park. Parents are encouraged to go to the North Sydney website (consultation period closes on March 3) to give feedback on this plan - as it will likely improve safety for kids and parents who travel through the park when moving to/from school.

Safety Initiatives

Independant Traffic Consultant update. Consultant we met last year now has a conflict of interest so cannot do work for the school. We are following up if we

	<p>can engage someone else. Hoping to engage a consultant this year to review current enrollments and produce a decentralised data set and P&C fund this work. This data can be used and provided to NSC for example, to illustrate the number of students using a travel route- to provide weight to requests for upgrades to intersections etc.</p> <p>[ACTION] Road Safety sub-committee to investigate if another Independent Traffic Consultant is able to work with school this year.</p> <p>The sub-committee has drafted a letter for NSC outlining traffic concerns around the school. For background, in 2022 NSC updated their processes so now all requests to review/upgrade related to school traffic issues need to come directly from schools (via the Principal). A draft will be shared with Unity for review.</p> <p>[ACTION]: Roads Safety sub-committee to share a draft of the letter with Unity.</p> <p>The committee also noted recent Facebook comments related to ‘kiss and drop’ traffic issues. The committee reminds parents that it’s not for parking during drop off/pick up; it’s a short timed drop-off zone. They will look into signage, education, and encouragement for people to behave appropriately during the busy drop-off period.</p>
<p>10. GENERAL BUSINESS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gemma and Alys gave an update on the Kindy Welcome Morning Tea event recently conducted outside the school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They were grateful to the school and to Team Kids for supporting the initiative at short notice. ○ There were around 30-50 attendees. It was noted that some parents who’d arrived early would drop by with the kids and return after drop-off, and other parents were using it to fill the gap between drop-offs of older children and kindy kids. This could be advertised in future events. ○ Other parents joined in to help out, which was well appreciated. In some cases, kindy parents used the interactions to get more info about next steps from experienced parents. ○ The social committee hopes to make this a yearly tradition, as it was a nice way to build community for new parents. ● The discussion about air conditioning happened during the Treasurer’s update, so was not repeated here. ● Elizabeth Abbott gave an update on Primary Ethics; providing ethics classes as an option during scripture time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last year, the team were able to rally 6-8 volunteers to meet class demands. However, all were lost this year. There has been

	<p>a repeated struggle to maintain ethics teacher numbers over years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ethics teachers are volunteers, and many of them are not parents of children at the school (e.g. are grandparents or other volunteers). This historically has made it difficult to co-ordinate. ○ A more structured approach is needed to get consistency - as the demand for ethics classes is growing within the school. ○ Elizabeth requested support from parents or the P&C to help address the issues. Parents that want to get involved can email ethics.anzacparkps@gmail.com to get more information. <p>Brochures are also attached below that we're distributed during the meeting.</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16s2TzY-JSk4RU0FF34tNg_3TT91pfpVg</p> <p>[ACTION]: P&C to discuss what can be done to assist with primary ethics. Either setting up brainstorming sessions or a working group to address. Worth with Elizabeth Abbott and Kaye Remington on solutions.</p> <p>[ACTION (non-P&C)]: School to share details of the ethics program and how to get involved via the video platform.</p>
11. CLOSURE OF MEETING	<p>Reminder that if you'd like to add items for discussion, or have questions, please email them to anzacparkpandc@gmail.com</p> <p>P&C General Meeting was closed at 8.36pm.</p>