



Lane Cove Public School P&C General Meeting

Meeting Minutes

18/06/2019 - Term 2, Meeting 2

a. Present:

Myles Davis (President)
James Morley (Treasurer)
Darshini Heaney (Secretary)
Prue Carroll (VP Community Partners)
Simone Bordin (VP School Community)
Elaine Bean (Strategy)
Emily Patterson (General Member, Gala Night)
Tony Nolan (General Member, Uniform Change Committee)
Michelle Tabrett (Fun Run 2019)
Caryn Gottcent (Uniform Shop Committee Secretary, Uniform Change Committee)
Victoria Davidson (Canteen)
Brendan Hood
David Roberts
Tarren Smith (Uniform Shop Manager)
Terry McKinnon (Principal)

b. Apologies:

None.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Accepted without amendments.

3. Principal's Report (Terry M)

a. LCPS on the ABC's War on Waste

The ABC launched its most recent season of War on Waste last Thursday. Staff from LCPS were invited – we were the only school. The clip has been viewed more than 600,000 times so far.

The clip reflects very well on the work of the teachers and children and is a wonderful good news story about the school.

b. Gala

Mr McKinnon was unfortunately unable to attend the Gala, but acknowledged the night was very important to the school as a social and a fundraising event.

Em Patterson, the main organizer, was thanked and presented with a gift by Myles Davis.

c. Camps

The Senior Music Camp has been held and was successful, well organized and well run, from all reports. Thanks to Erica Steppat for her effort in this regard.

Year 5 Camp will depart for Canberra tomorrow – it is expected to be very cold!

d. Leave

Mr McKinnon will be taking leave for the first four weeks of Term 3, and Ms Scully will be Acting Principal in his absence. Ms Pip King will be Acting Deputy Principal to relieve Ms Scully.

e. NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week will be 1st to 5th July, 2019, and a special assembly will be held on Thursday 4th July. A parent, Charlene Davidson, is helping with the assembly and will arrange for a member of the Aboriginal Land Council to give a talk.

f. School Reports

School Reports are being finalised now. They will be emailed to parents in the final week of Term 2 – no hard copy will be given to parents.

g. Change of Date for Grandparents Day

The Athletics Carnival is now to be held on Thursday, 8th August, so Grandparents Day will be moved from 8th to Tuesday, 6th August.

h. Wakikirri

This performing arts event will be held on Wednesday, 14th August. Almost 100 children from LCPS will be involved.

i. Art Show

The Opening Night for the Art show will be Tuesday, 20th August. This year, to decrease crowding, there will be a split opening, with K-2 and 3-6 at different times. Art from the whole school will be displayed for a week.

j. Hall Audio Visual Equipment Upgrade

The AV equipment will be installed in the holidays, in time for Grandparents Week next Term.

k. Bull Ring

An application has been put into the Department of Education for joint funding to upgrade the Bull Ring. The project is large enough that it will have to be managed by the Department whether or not the funding comes from the school community.

1. Chicken Coop and Other Playground Upgrades

The Men's Shed at Northbridge is already drawing up plans for the chicken coop and other playground projects.

The Longueville Rd fence will be moved to the brick wall to maximize playground space. Appropriate plants will be sourced to plant along the fence line, with advice from the Local Council.

4. Treasurer's Report

The issue of back pay of superannuation for music tutors is continuing to be investigated.

A law firm, Seyfarth Shaw, was engaged (at a reduced rate) to provide legal advice about our obligations. Their advice was that there are no exemptions from the obligation to provide superannuation payments if a music tutor or conductor has earned more than or equal to \$450 in any one month. There is no clear guidance about how far back in time this obligation extends, but they advised that we should proactively engage with the ATO.

The backdated payments will have to be met from P&C General Funds, but the Music Committee need to work out how to increase fees to cover this extra cost in the future.

At the Music Camp, all tutors were advised that they need to provide the Music Committee with their Superannuation Fund details – this data is still outstanding. Another issue is that invoicing will now have to be monthly in order to accurately work out how much superannuation needs to be paid – historically, some tutors invoiced every six months. Anne Cunningham will be working on this for the next few weeks.

We have until 28th July to pay for this quarter – it would be desirable to get this payment in, as it will show that we are genuinely trying to rectify this issue.

Tony Nolan cannot directly be involved due to conflict of interest, but he offered to send an email to the ATO tomorrow advising them that this issue had been raised again at this P&C meeting, and that the president and treasurer are interested in setting up a meeting to discuss this with ATO advisors. This offer was accepted with thanks.

We will potentially be a test case, as the same issue affects many other schools, that also had been unaware that they had this financial obligation.

5. Sub Committee Reports

a. Music

No one from the Music Committee was present.

The main issue of tutors' superannuation was covered in the Treasurer's Report.

b. Canteen

The Canteen is running smoothly. We continue to source fresh produce from Lime Leaf, even though they are closed!

Sales are down but wages, superannuation and costs keep increasing, so the Canteen is \$5000 down on profit compared to this time last year. Prices were increased modestly last year, but this may have to happen again this year. The aim is always to try to provide a low cost, healthy option for lunch to families, so price increases usually target treat foods.

Five Committee members are leaving at the end of the year, including Victoria Davidson, so succession planning is underway. This includes trying to divide up Victoria's responsibilities. The next committee will need to decide the direction of the canteen and its' priorities.

State of Origin cupcakes sales raised \$192 but so far we have not found an indigenous sport organisation willing to take our donation. They have declined due to not needing more equipment. The possibility of donating to another indigenous charity was raised.

c. Gala

The Gala was held and much fun was had by those attending. Some spectacular outfits made an appearance, and all auction items were sold.

Fundraising numbers are still to be finalised.

The P&C thanked and recognised the wonderful effort put into organisation of the Gala by Em Patterson and Ross Mildwater at a very difficult time for their family.

d. Uniform Shop

No official report from the Uniform Shop Sub Committee.

e. Uniform Review

Carryn Gottcent, the chair of the Uniform Review Subcommittee gave a report of progress so far.

Lisa Ballisteri has spoken to a person who was involved in St Michael's recent uniform change. When St Michael's announced that they were going to change the uniform, they lost \$100,000, as parents stopped buying the "old" uniform immediately.

If we make a change to a new uniform item, we are certain to lose some money, probably quite a lot of money. If we repurpose an existing item, we will not lose money, and may save some money due to better economies of scale. Therefore a possibility is to make the current sports shorts a part of the official summer uniform, which would adequately fulfill the need for a unisex option.

(As a side note, Mr McKinnon was asked if he would stop a male child wearing a tunic or a female child wearing the grey shorts now, if this was requested. He stated he would not stop a child choosing this if it was in accordance with the family's wishes.)

The uniform change survey is being drafted at the moment. One issue is whether to offer a change of colour for the polo shirt. Any change needs to be cost effective.

Another option is to separate the issue of providing a unisex option from that of polo shirt colour change, as the second issue is optional.

f. Fun Run

Early bird registration went live on 1st June, 2019. Registration numbers are up 50% compared with this point last year. Michelle Tabrett, Vanessa Mundell and Prue Carroll are all covering many roles.

The Gold sponsor (Fit Lane Cove), all three Silver sponsors (The Foot Group, Lane Cove Orthodontics and Raine and Horne Lane Cove) and nine Bronze sponsors (Four Frogs Creperie, Sydney Therapy and Co, Janet Brandt-Sarif Physiotherapy, Flannerys Lane Cove, Little Red Robin, Lillah Kitchen, Cryoclinics Australia, Hyecorp, Well Spine Chiropractic) have been signed. This means that we have \$23,000 in sponsorship revenue, \$2000 more than last year. Banners and flyers will go into production soon, and an advertising campaign is underway.

Chloe Demain is doing a wonderful job highlighting the sponsors on Facebook. There has been a two page article in the Village Observer. We may promote the Fun Run by having a stall selling visors in the playground. The idea of putting flyers in other schools, or posting on their Facebook pages, was mooted – Tony Nolan suggested a personal approach may be most effective, based on his experience with his Thinkers Cove event.

Michelle and Vanessa will soon have another meeting with the Council. This time they will ask for a clearway on both sides of the road near the oval, as parked boats and cars got in the way of a smooth race start and finish last year. The desirability of having dogs allowed in the 2K event will be discussed with council – they will need to be on a leash. There will be letterbox drop to promote the Fun Run, as well as a letter to residents warning of the upcoming event.

The Grandstand is expected to have been demolished by the time the Fun Run is held, which has implications as far as storage facilities go. The area will be a construction zone.

On the day, there are plans to have two BBQs, supplied and manned by local sporting groups. There will be a variety of food stalls, and a couple of coffee carts. Medals will be awarded to winners in each category, but all participants will be given a Fun Run slap band on completing the event.

Various options to source race day marshals were discussed.

There is also an effort being made to ask the church to suspend the 8am service for this one day, as last year this service caused some issues.

6. General Business

a. PSSA Uniforms

Brendan Hood raised the issue of PSSA uniforms.

He has noticed that the teams from other schools playing soccer on Pottery Green have a uniform. The Lane Cove PSSA soccer teams however, have a variety of tops – some have a white polo top, others their various house coloured sports tops.

Other PSSA teams – netball and AFL for example, have specific tops, which help build team cohesion and pride in the school. Mr McKinnon will ask Mr Russell about the situation with uniforms.

One suggestion is the provision, with P&C funds, of a box of tunics that soccer teams can be issued on loan.

b. Cultural Data about Lane Cove Families

Tony Nolan brought in extensive data which he had collated, from publically available ABS statistics, about the demographics of the LCPS catchment. There was general agreement that there has been significant change in the demographics of families at the school.

There is increasing difficulty staffing the canteen with volunteers. This probably is the result of many factors. This includes increased workforce participation by mothers – a traditional source of volunteers. The Loop coming out later in the week has meant that advertising for canteen volunteers needed early in the week is not effective.

A larger number of parents come from ESL backgrounds – however, some parents for whom English is a second language see volunteering at the canteen to be a good way to practice English. Some parents from migrant backgrounds find it easier to volunteer along with their friends, as a group.

It was suggested that having more family friendly events would make it easier for migrants to come – held earlier in the night, with more diverse food and less (or no) alcohol and the ability to bring children. Chatswood Public School's Moon Festival event was very popular there, and movie or trivia nights were other ideas discussed.

c. Grandparents Day

Tony Nolan suggested handing out historical information about the school at Grandparents Day, for children to take home.

It was suggested that we use this occasion to promote volunteering at the school by grandparents – though many live too far away to help.

d. Bubblers

Mr McKinnon was informed that there was severe shortage of functioning bubblers in the playground at the moment. He had not been told about this before, and promised to investigate further.