

Bellingen High School P & C Association

Minutes

Monday 11 September 2023 6pm
Bellingen High School Staff common room
Gumbaynggirr Country

Attendees – Rachael Case (chair), Graziella Reeson, Sam Gage (relieving Principal), Caroline Thomas, Kim Childs, Jacqui Radecki, Katharine Sutherland.

1. Welcome, Acknowledgment of Country (6.07 pm)

- 1.1 Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country (Chair) – Rachael Case.
- 1.2 Apologies (Chair) – Kathleen Hannah, Mel Tyas, Milo Bowd, Raelene Carey, Michelle Bowling

We welcome new voting Members for 2023 P&C & acknowledge receipt of payment: None.

2. Previous minutes

2.1 Approval of Minutes Graziella , 2nd Rachael.

2.2 Business Arising from Previous Minutes (Chair)

- Research into school bus for sporting & other events – Kev Doye from Kombu has offered assistance. There is money left over from the COLA budget that could go towards a bus purchase. Need to cost a bus approx. 22 seater.
Kim Childs to find out ongoing costs for current bus from Jenni Farrands.
Graz to contact Vicki Greer for progress on enquiries since last month's meeting.
It would be good to make contact with Bello Public School to see if we can combine funds and share the bus between the two schools?
Vanessa Cavenar is the contact from Bello Public school.
Katharine to get information from Repton Public School.
- Parent information / education / workshops – as highlighted from the P&C Survey, key topics include mental health/learning difficulties/faculty specific education. Katie Fitzgibbon will attend and present at the November meeting.
It would be good to find someone locally in the Digital Nutrition space. If anyone has any contacts, can they kindly pass it onto either the P&C or School.
- Timely communication to parents re events / excursions – School is working on improving this system together with faculty heads to provide as much notice as possible.

Is it possible to have a better calendar system that is linked real-time? Sam to investigate options.

- Homeroom / tutor group to build wellbeing idea – How do we make it manageable for staff?
Considering doing away with year advisers, and break year groups into approx. 20 students. Each group will have a mentor who checks attendance, wellbeing, academics & engage in some sort of mindful activity.
There will be 1 period per week face-to-face time with students + 1 period per week admin time. Groups will have the same mentor from yrs 7-12.
This group teacher will be a point of contact for families
Looking to commence this with years 7-10.
The school needs to live & breath the ethos of “Every student is known, cared for and valued”.
Focus in the past has been years 11 and 12.
Hopefully investing in the early years will pay off in the senior years.
Currently the HSC results over the last few years are going down instead of up.
- Mobile phone policy - draft document feedback.
Now that feedback has been provided, communication on this new procedure is going out this week.
In order for this to be successful, everyone needs to be onboard - teachers, parents and students.
- Rainbow Family education for teachers – there have been some other pressing things that have taken priority, but will get onto it.

3. REPORTS

- 3.1 **Principal’s Report** – Still ongoing staffing problems with shortage of teachers to fill positions.
One parent brought up that the less time a recess & lunch can make it hard for kids who need a physical outlet. Unstructured socialising, less time for sporting teams to train can impact students.
Shortening the break times was a recommendation from the Wellbeing review from a couple of years ago. The breaks are only 10mins shorter, however it will be reviewed at the end of the year.
- 3.2 **Financial Reports (Treasurer)** Current account balance is **\$4,006.10 CR**
- 3.3 **Correspondence (Secretary)**
 - Offer from Kombu for assistance with & find grant for school bus.
 - Invitation to comment on NSW Department of Education’s Disability Strategy

4. PRIORITY BUSINESS

- 4.1 **Advisory/ Information**
 - Interview Panel Training - open to all for future panels - register your interest

- P & C Federation training / webinars

4.2 Events / Relationship Building

- Breakfast club volunteers always appreciated: Wed, Thurs, Fri, 8 – 9am.
- Parents are able to help to volunteer in class with literacy & numeracy groups. All that is required is a Volunteer Working With Children Check. If any parent/carer would like to assist, please contact Sam Gage - Relieving Principal if interested.
- Volunteers wanted for canteen at school (Contact Jade, BHS Admin, or Vicki Smart for more information)

4.3 Fundraising

- Grants subcommittee Update (Graziella, Mel)
- 2023 Fundraising subcommittee Update (Milo) - Bello Markets in November.

5. OTHER BUSINESS (Chair) –

- Mindful since moving to online access for information, that we need to differentiate for those people who are not a digital native or use this as a preferred method.
- Has there been a change in policy in terms of communication regarding assessments/tests? There has not been the same communication as earlier in the year.
Suggestion to have a consistent method of assessments ie. Science due week 3, Maths due week 5 etc.

6. CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

Monday 9th October 2023, 6pm