

Bellingen High School P & C Association

Minutes

Monday 12 February 2024 6pm
Bellingen High School Staff common room
Gumbaynggirr Country

Attendees – Milo Bowd, Graziella Reeson, Mel Tyas, Michelle Bowling, Nicky Mackie, Eva Wryht, Alicia Scanlan, Caroline Thomas, Lisa Welsh (DP), Katharine Sutherland, Michelle Elliott (P),

1. Welcome, Acknowledgment of Country (6.03 pm)

- 1.1 Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country (Chair) – Milo Bowd
- 1.2 Apologies (Chair) – Rachael Case, Kim Childs, Sally Hawkins

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

Introduction of Principal

Michelle is originally from Kiama where she grew up. She spent the early part of her teaching career as a Science Teacher in Sydney, before moving through the Riverina region where she eventually became a Deputy Principal. She has been the Relieving Principal at Orara and prior to coming to Bellingen High was at Toormina High School.

She is looking forward to being part of the BHS community and is keen to engage with parents and carers via the P&C meetings to hear what they want for our school.

2. Previous minutes

2.1 Approval of Minutes – Moved Katharine, 2nd Milo

2.2 Business Arising from Previous Minutes (Chair)

- November Market Stall update – Approx. \$3,200 raised from gate collection and cake stall.
- Purchase of School Bus Grant update – Frustrating experience, even though did thorough checks. We were ineligible as P&C cannot own the bus and the school could not apply.
- Follow up on Google Classroom checks (Sam to advise) – there were 7/8 teachers out today. Michelle will follow up to ensure work completed during uncovered classes is being checked.

The school has hired 4 x Casual teachers full time, but sometimes this is not enough if teachers call in sick at the last minute.

All classes are covered, most teachers are qualified for the class. Absences that are causing uncovered classes are primarily illness, long service, Covid. Full timetable is in place now.

Today Lisa Welsh covered year 7 Maths. Guidance is provided by the Maths Growth Team and maths teacher.

- Can parents assist in the library for uncovered classes? (Sam to advise) -

SLSOs being sent to Library & Senior Adviser & Freida, this should be enough. There is a very thorough checking process that needs to be completed before non-teaching staff can assist in the classrooms. Eg. WWC, Easy Peasy system.

- Can Seniors assist in classrooms & get points towards ATAR? (Sam to advise) - Not necessary at the moment.

- Check meeting dates for 2024 & any clashes with Primary School – BPS have their meetings on the 3rd & 7th weeks of term. This year the only clash seems to be in Term 2 – 13 May & 10 June which is a Public Holiday. BPS will change their meeting dates for clashes.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Principal's Report

- Staffing – School is 3 children under the prediction. There may be a little loss in staffing. Schools needs to run at 600 pupils to keep staffing numbers – we need another 20 to stay above.

Good return for Years 11 & 12. Year 7 went down a bit this year, but this was expected with current inflow. Approx. numbers is each year are Yr 7 - 87, Yr 8 - 100, Yr 9 - 140, Yr 10 – 95.

We have lost a few students to Elegra. It would be good to find out what extra support we can/could give to be able to keep them. When the school loses pupils to Tafe (which is not a bad thing as they are persuing further education) we lose teachers. We currently have 48.8 Full time entitlement of teachers.

- MC classes – 2 teaching positions have been filled, still need to get 3rd teacher. Can't have MC classes in demountables. Preference is to let these numbers increase naturally, rather than aim to have X no. of MC classes.

- Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) is next step for the school. Directions are Literacy & Numeracy, Wellbeing Pathways / Teaching & Learning, Leadership/Student Voice/Teacher Leadership.

HSC & NAPLAN results are used for this, aswell as assessments checks, attendance, surveys, Tell them from me, School Exit Framework. There is up to 14 elements.

Michelle to bring docs on SEF & EV, teacher reflection, building relationships to the next meeting.

- What's missing? – good teachers. New teaching focus called Explicit Teaching – which is not the same as rote learning. It's more about continuing, revision, going over work. If done right from years 7-10, students are much better prepared for years 11 & 12.

Maths in Year 7 – today went back to definitions of prime numbers, going back to explicit teaching to ensure all class is at the same level. Breaking things down to help identify students lagging.

- Wellbeing is currently 2 periods each week. Two periods currently covered in the learning plans. Years 7 & 8 will have a mentor teacher and the aim is getting to know the students. Wellio package sets lessons.

Year 8 Adviser has been reinstated, still accessing this for year 7. All other years still have a year adviser.

Parents need to contact the Deputy Principals as main contact at the moment for year levels for any assistance. This is:

Lisa Welsh – Years 8, 10, 12

Tim Laverty – Years 7, 9, 11

Yrs 9 & 10 are still graded. Class 1 – top, others 2-4 are mixed ability.

Still some movement to come with number shortages in year 10.

If classes are not graded, pupils need to know.

3.2 Financial Reports (Treasurer) – Current Balance is \$6,827.51 CR.

- Audit & ACNC Financials have been done.
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3.3 Correspondence (Secretary)

- Audit requirements request from Accountant
- Email from BSC requesting residents to complete the survey to “Have your say” for CBD Masterplans
- Community Building Partnership Application – Ineligibility
- Latest list of available grants sent from BSC

- E-petition to the NSW Legislative Assembly to move Special Religious Education (SRE) & Special Education in Ethics (SEE) out of class time.
- Email requesting support for Full Funding for Public Schools
- Upcoming Community Grants Writing Workshop run by BSC – Bellingen 5 March
- ACNC request to submit 2023 Annual Information Statement

4. PRIORITY BUSINESS

4.1 Advisory/ Information

- Audit 2023
- Teacher shortage & Interview Process (Mel) – all applicants should be interviewed regardless of experience. Feels that this is missed opportunity and we need to think outside the square. Currently candidates need to meet a selection criteria before reach the interview process. Merrit selection goes to the bottom. If we interview all applicants, you can create a pool of teachers to pull from for Casual teachers from the those who showed potential. “Class Cover” does not have enough Casual teachers. Get a bigger pool of casuals.
- What’s the SUN policy? Hat/Sunscreen. Principal will move to endorse this important message. School has a large sunscreen, but those with an allergy to that needs to bring their own. Teachers to remind about sun safety.

4.2 Events / Relationship Building

- Breakfast club volunteers always appreciated: Wed, Thurs, Fri, 8 – 9am
- Volunteers wanted for canteen at school (Contact Jade, BHS Admin, or Vicki Smart for more information) – Tender process still underway.

4.3 Fundraising

- Grants subcommittee Update (Graziella, Mel) – Graz to send BSC Grants email to BHS general email address.
 - Youth Development Sponsorships – Round 3 close 16 Feb.
- 2023 Fundraising subcommittee Update (Milo) – Bello Markets booked for September 2024

5. OTHER BUSINESS (Chair)

- The next meeting is the AGM. Current office bearers have children in higher years so it would be good to get younger student parents on board.

The P&C is a great way to get behind the school, hear firsthand what’s going on, ask questions, help shape the school going forward & have a bit of laugh. The current attendees care a lot and want to support a positive school community.

6. CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING – 7.25pm

11th March 2024 6pm - AGM followed by General Meeting