

Bellingen High School P & C Association

Minutes

Monday 16 October 2023 6pm
Bellingen High School Staff common room
Gumbaynggirr Country

Attendees – Milo Bowd (Chair) Graziella Reeson, Julie Plant, Tim Laverty (relieving Deputy Principal), Mel Tyas, Katie Fitzgibbon, Caroline Thomas, Michelle Bowling, Sally Hawkins, Jacqui Radecki, Katharine Sutherland.

1. Welcome, Acknowledgment of Country (6.05 pm)

1.1 Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country (Chair) – Milo Bowd

1.2 Apologies (Chair) – Rachael Case, Sam Gage, Kim Childs, Kathleen Hannah,

We welcome new voting Members for 2023 P&C & acknowledge receipt of payment:
Julie Plant

Special Guest: Katie Fitzgibbon - new Student Support Officer (SSO)

Katie is the new Student Support Office and is also part of the Wellbeing Team. She started at the beginning of Term 3 and has taken that time to get to know students and the school. She is hoping to work closely with P&C especially regarding student wellbeing.

The Lovebites program has just taken place, with Tomorrow Man & Tomorrow Woman also making a return. The Drug Education Project being delivered through the Bellingen Shire YOUth Speak Project is taking place at the school on 23 October, student sessions are being held during the day and parent/carers session in the evening at 6pm. Katie has a background as a child protection worker.

This is a temporary role for now with ongoing review. An SSO is different to a counsellor but works closely with them. Katie works closely with the communication programs to bring programs into the school. Students can see SSO for any social issues ie. Bullying, friendships, relationships, general wellbeing.

2. Previous minutes

2.1 **Approval of Minutes** – Moved Caroline, 2nd Katharine.

2.2 **Business Arising from Previous Minutes (Chair)**

- Research into school bus for sporting & other events – Community Building Partnerships 2023 Grant has been identified. Closes 26 October 2023. Decided on 24 seater coaster. Rego is approx. \$800-\$900 p/a that the school can cover. Drivers require a Light Rigid license. P&C is allowed to own the bus and can hire it out to other users outside of the school as deemed appropriate.

- Sam investigating a “real-time” calendar for earlier notice of events.
No update.
- Update on assessment communication - suggested making subjects align to term weeks ie. English W1, Maths W2 etc.
No Update.
- No Phones policy update – The newly introduced policy is going well so far.
Thanks to parents and students for their commitment in supporting this.

By day two students were borrowing more books, and teachers have noticed a different feel in the classrooms.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Principal’s Report

- HSC has started on Wednesday 13 October, and all is going well so far.
- Tiara Salmon was selected for the State Drama Festival which is equivalent to making a state sporting team. The festival takes place on 26-27 October, and we wish her every success.
- Year 11 have a “getting ready for HSC preparation session on 17 October looking at study, stress and coping processes involved.

3.2 Financial Reports (Treasurer)

- Current balance remains unchanged at \$4,006.10 CR

3.3 Correspondence (Secretary)

- YOUth Speak Drug Education Program Flyer
- Webinar – Helping Kids with Screen Disorders & Gaming Addiction
- ACNC Charity Registration Application
- Community Building Partnerships 2023 Grant
- Request from Sissiel Keogh for Year 12 Awards donation – normally \$200 (4 x \$50 awards) – P&C in full support.

4. PRIORITY BUSINESS

4.1 Advisory/ Information

- Interview Panel Training - open to all for future panels - register your interest
- P & C Federation training / webinars - YOUth Speak Drug Education program 6.00pm 23 October in Bellingen High School MPC.

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)

4.3 Fundraising

- Grants subcommittee Update (Graziella, Mel)
 - Coast Bus grant underway
- 2023 Fundraising subcommittee Update (Milo) - Bello Markets, November.
 - BHS will be at the next community markets on 18 November 2023. Looking for volunteers to help with all duties.

Katharine has flyer from last time & will update, & send it to Jade to distribute.

Need to bring the Square Reader for non-cash donations.

- Suggestion of a Puzzle Contest? (Mel) – Idea is to make it a competition and bring in stakeholders from the community. This could perhaps be combined with a school event like the Wellbeing Day.
Perhaps start with a puzzle in the library that everyone walking past can place pieces to gain interest?

5. OTHER BUSINESS (Chair)

Question – Does the Deputy Principal stay with the same year all the way through school?

Answer – Yes. Currently Rachael has years 7, 9, 11 & Tim has years 8, 10 & 12.

Question – Is Aurora College definitely going ahead for the Year 11 Chemistry classes?

Answer – Yes. Due to the teacher shortage this is now the option for Year 11 Chemistry.

Aurora College is an option for Rural students which offers face to face online learning. The class is taught online & should be in line with the category. I.e. If Chemistry is on line 4 then this is offered with other line 4 subjects.

Students stay locked into the Aurora College online learning for the two years of senior, regardless of if a Chemistry teacher later commences at the school. There are currently 7 students in this class.

Thank you - to Mr Kingsley for taking the group of year 11 to Sydney. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all of those who participated, and parents expressed their thanks.

6. CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING – 6.51pm

Monday 13th November 2023, 6pm