

Bellingen High School P & C Association

Minutes

Monday 11 March 2024 6pm
Bellingen High School Staff common room
Gumbaynggirr Country

Attendees – Milo Bowd, Graziella Reeson, Mel Tyas, Rachael Case, Kathleen Hannah, Nicola Mackie, Eva Wright, Jacqui Radecki, Caroline Thomas, Lisa Welsh (DP), Michelle Elliott (P), Nicole Ruigrok,

1. Welcome, Acknowledgment of Country (6.27 pm)

- 1.1 Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country (Chair) – Rachael Case
- 1.2 Apologies (Chair) – Katharine Sutherland, Kim Childs, Michelle Bowling, Raelene Carey

We welcome new voting Members for 2024 P&C & acknowledge receipt of payment: Milo Bowd, Rachael Case, Graziella Reeson, Mel Tyas, Kathleen Hannah, Caroline Thomas, Eva Wright, Nicola Mackie, Nicole Ruigrok, Jacqui Radecki.

2. Previous minutes

- 2.1 Approval of Minutes – Moved Milo Bowd, 2nd Mel Tyas
- 2.2 Business Arising from Previous Minutes (Chair)

- Formalise action to help us advocate for full funding which was missed at last meeting. Based on Gonski report 10 years ago the funding level required for 80% of students to achieve minimum reading and arithmetic standards. Currently 98% of public schools do not receive their full funding entitlement under this standard.

More impacts Full funding can have:

- Programs for students falling behind to help them succeed
- Improve student wellbeing with more resources
- One on one support for students

Moved Rachael, 2nd Mel. All approved.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Principal's Report

- Survey link was sent out to approx. 900 email addresses. This is not restricted to the school community and can be forwarded to other community members.
Students & staff have completed theirs.

Request was made for other avenues for access to the survey to include making a Hard copy available at the office, survey to go our via text or survey can be completed over the phone.

- Schools Excellence Framework – We need to find out what we want to be excelling at/what standard are we sitting at.
In the past the school has achieved high levels of excellence, however the school did not pass on some assessments. This needs to improve.

Attendance is always a focus for our school. Some Parents are hesitant to send their child to school 5 days a week. We need to find out why?

The next step is writing a plan which the P&C will assess, and then get a Focus Group together.

- Situation analysis will also be done which looks at NAPLAN, HSC, Staffing, Attendance, Funding In & Out & wellbeing.
- Excursions coming up
 - Indigenous students 10 students going to Tasmania
 - Geography excursion to Sydney Year 12
 - Year 11 ski trip - currently not filled.

Requests for other excursions? – bring ideas to next meeting.

Other schools generally have a large excursion every second year.

What would parents/carers like to see?

- Volunteers are needed at the canteen – Any time to assist with food prep, or just help at busy times -recess & lunch assistance would be appreciated.
Anyone can volunteer.
Just need to register at the office on arrival and have a current volunteer WWC.
- Assessments coming up:
 - NAPLAN 7 & 9 will commence this week
 - Check-in Assessments 7, 8 & 9.
 - Valid Science – year 10
- Timetable change coming after NAPLAN since some of the smaller year 10 class have now been dispersed.
- MC Class – Request for student placement for teaching life skills outside of the classroom. Ideally something where they can provide assistance whilst learning new skills that they can take forward & build confidence.

Time requirement is ideally for a couple of hours 1 -2 times a week preferably in school hours.

Currently there are 7 students in each of the 2 classes, plus One teacher + SLSO.

Suggestion of Dolphin Marine Park who have told a parent that anytime their child would like to come back they are welcome.

Other suggestions or recommendations would be great.

- Attendance – discussion around running a rewards system & being rewarded for 100% to help promote it. This would be done over a 5 week period, then started again to give everyone a chance to achieve. It would not include sick days.
- Assemblies – would like to make them more interesting and engaging for students. All ideas welcome.
- Curriculum structures changes for next year – Conversation about moving from 6 period to 5 periods.
More schools are moving to this model, and it would align more with Aurora timetabling.
A Role call period is important for messages, however 49 min classes are not long enough for learning if you take out the time taken for roll call, setup & packdown at either end. Ideally a 60 min class is ideal.
More to follow on this.

3.2 Financial Reports (Treasurer) – Current Balance is \$6827.51 CR

- Audit Update – Annual Audit was finalised last week.

3.3 Correspondence (Secretary)

- Latest list of available grants sent from BSC
- Cultural Exchange Program “Service for Treatment & rehabilitation of Torture & Trauma Survivors” (STARTTS) – looking for volunteers to host women from Sydney with a refugee background 5-7 April 2024.
- ACNC monthly newsletter & request for 2023 Annual Information Sheet

4. PRIORITY BUSINESS

4.1 Advisory/ Information

Short notice on sporting comps – Parent raised that only two days’ notice was given for a recent Basketball comp. This is not enough notice.

Providing more advance notice for all activities including Parent/Teacher was discussed last year and system needs to improve.

Michelle thinks that the Sentral calendar can be updated so that parents can use that to assist with future commitments. Michelle will advise.

4.2 Events / Relationship Building

- Request from Bellingin River Agricultural Society (BRAS) for students & P&C assistance to help with catering over both days of annual Show (4 & 5 May). Under 18yr olds to work under supervision, can P&C provide a supervising adult on each day.
Approx. 6 hours morning tea & lunch service.
Graz to check with BRAS.
- 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) – Graz to send BSC Grants email to BHS general email address.
- 2023 Fundraising subcommittee Update (Milo) – none.

5. OTHER BUSINESS (Chair)

- Question about Non-academic line structure for classes and if classes are graded?
Academic – 1st class, mixed ability middle classes, 5th class for SLSO with special needs.

Currently we have a 5-class structure classes in years 7, 8, 9, 10-12, but plan is to move to a 4-class structure.

A 4-class structure does not allow for streaming.

A conversation needs to be had with the head teachers if students are not keeping up/bored because the teacher is spending too much time with students who need extra help.

Parent can contact the Subject Head Teacher or Deputy Principal for that year line for any further clarification or to express any issues their child might be having.

Complaint that there was no communication about decision behind the change from academic to non-academic, so students are still thinking that classes are graded.

More discussion and clearer communication are requested around this issue.

6. CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING – 7.42pm

Next meeting 8th April – last week of Term 1.

Calendar to go out with minutes.