**O’Connell Public School  
(“School”)**

**P and C Minutes**

**Date: 12 May 2020**

**Attendees**

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| --- | --- |
| Name | Present |
| Aaron Faulds (President) | Yes |
| Melinda McKellar (Vice President) | Yes |
| Amy Power | Yes |
| Trish Forsyth | Yes |
| Jen Precians | Yes |
| Mitch Hardy | Yes |
| Carla Parish | Yes |
| Kathryn Gavey | Yes |
| Tass Burns | Yes |
| Lian Wong | Yes |
| Stina Ivers | Yes |
| Jess Taylor | Yes |
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**Meeting commenced**: 6.10pm

**Apologies:** Jac Burns, Penny Butler, Kate Bird

**Chairperson:** Aaron Faulds

**Minutes:** Amy Power/Gentle

**1. Business Arising:**

1. **Oval Improvements:**
2. Trish Forsyth - notes on oval quote: Jerry will begin the works on the oval in next 3-4 weeks.

b) **Audit News:**

1. Jen Precians has kindly organised Advise Accountants in Oberon to do the P & C book audit. Advise Accountants are very kindly not charging us for this.
2. **Oval grant** – Michelle Condon kindly submitted final report. Many thanks to both Michelle and to Sal Webb for all the time they have put into this, it is much appreciated by the school community.
3. **Oval Incident:** Outcome of oval incident Trish from department - grass needs to be there ie the oval must be vegetated or it will need to be closed down. Carla Parish: has a plan for spring revitalisation of the oval, advises parts of the current vegetation will most likely drop off or die through winter, we will do our best and keep an eye on it in readiness for spring treatments.
4. **P & C asks the school how can we assist in this difficult time?** – Aaron Faulds asks Trish and Mitch how can we help during the pandemic situation? Do any families need help?
5. **Trish:** Familes can help in supporting the transition back to school by recognising that the school is following departmental policy in the bringing back of students – we are moving back according to department guidelines, so please be patient and understanding of this. It is difficult re staffing when even the slightest sore throat of a staff member or someone in their family requires them to be absent from school grounds until testing is complete and negative. If staff are unwell it is currently quite an adjustment for the school, these are the rules that staff must follow and everyone needs to be adaptable to and accomodating of this. Parents need to be aware that flexibility is required to approach the current environment in a positive and successful manner.
6. **Aaron Faulds** on behalf of the P & C wants to acknowledge how brilliant the teachers at O’Connell Public School have been in facilitating online learning and how effective the new systems are that have been put in place.
7. **Kathryn Gavey** – and Amy Power – this has all opened other possibilities that we may not have discovered if not for this time.
8. **Trish** – on that note - perhaps a future P and C meeting on Zoom is a good idea, making the meeting more accessible for parents.

**2. Principal’s Report Trish Forsyth:**

* + 1. We are in the first phase of one day a week return to school for students. This Thursday Trish has a live stream with department heads and is envisaging at least one day a week again next week – after this will need to be confirmed.
    2. **Kiss and drop has worked well.** All children being very good and seem very excited to be back at school.
    3. **We do need to keep adults off the grounds according to departmental rules –** it is very important that parents are accommodating of this and continue to follow the kiss and drop format.
    4. There is an additional cleaner who is wiping everything down that the students are touching - daily deep cleaning for a number of hours.
    5. The playground should be opened next week inline with the rest of the state and departmental policy.
    6. Still hoping to get to Canberra in December for the Stage 3 camp/excursion if excursion ban is lifted.
    7. Stage 3 camp to Canberra we haven’t asked for a refund as still hoping to go in December in week 9, 7-9 of December Monday and Tues, home on Wednesday.
    8. Jenolan caves have asked if school is rescheduling for the Stage 2 excursion – and Trish has said as soon as exemptions are lifted the school plans to go.
    9. **Trish:** Would like to note how very proud she is of both staff and students and their conduct through the pandemic. Whether students are face to face or independent learning they have been quite successful and there has been growth, perhaps not the growth we were anticipating at the beginning of the year but the pandemic has necessitated both technological and other forms of growth for our entire school community, students, teachers and parents alike.

**3. Special note for parents from Trish Forsyth :**

1. **Trish wants everyone to know about School TV**, there are archives for different information courses on all sorts of things – Cyber Safety – there is training, two minute and 1-2 minute videos, very helpful on Depression and Anxiety, Professor Hickey brain disorders – for parents to help in supporting students.
2. **There will be a link on the school website to this useful site**. Lots of great info for parents from specialists in fields.
3. Mitch has put together a video – a tutorial on adding parent controls to phones, computers and tablets. Going to be sent home via a QR code in the newsletter.

**3. Treasurer’s report Jen Precians:**

* Treasurer’s report is attached

**4. Further business: Gowrie cancellation of before and after school care** -

1. **Kathryn Gavey**: Before and after school care - are there any new options since Gowrie cancelled?
2. **Trish:** Cancellation of Gowrie was a shock. They suggested that they had communicated with the department but the department was unaware.
3. Afternoons were good for numbers. We have a number of parents with no options to work if not for before or after school care. Two of our enrolments this year were due to the before and after school care. Gowrie own a bus in Kelso and there were discussions of picking up and taking students to Kelso. They decided this wasn’t possible. The school would consider any alternatives. Trish asked Gumnuts if they would do before and after school care. Possibly a private person willing to do babysitting or a homework club could be considered.
4. **Sally Webb:** could the school employ someone? – Trish: it would require the department which they are not prepared to do – all after school care is external providers – department has no intention of funding after school care.
5. Sal W- can we relook at the bus?
6. Sal W – Lithgow buses run a bus out to Blaney for just two children. Trish: has talked to a lady from Meadow Flat buses and Newmans of Bathurst. Last bus submission the ministry came back to Trish and said it wasn’t worth their while. Sally W: The bus companies said that even if parents send messages to the department if could help.
7. **Trish:** Perthville has students dropped off at 8am by the bus companies which makes it very difficult to facilitate – school needs to look after the kids but there are no staff present for student management at that time.
8. **Kathryn G:** What would a parent run arrangement look like?
9. **Trish:** we could enter into a community facility and if the insurance and other things were in order
10. We have music tutors coming in, perhaps similar rules would apply.
11. 8am - 8.30 some parents need to drop off.
12. **Mel McKellar** – can we put it out there – is there someone who would be interested in providing before and after school care that could be on the school grounds – maybe advertise in district newpapers? – FB page general enquiry? Could it go into the O’Connell community FB page?
13. Mel M – will create an add or note and get it to where it needs to go, including Carla for the FB page and post for all parents to spread word.
14. 8-9am and 3-6pm childcare. Mon – Thurs are busier days.

**4. Uniform business arising:**

1. **Mel McKellar for Donna Meeks: We need to buy about $1000 of uniforms –** can we also plug the second hand uniforms?
2. Can Donna make a list for the uniforms? Make a note in newsletter with a list and FB. KG: Put it out to families to put it in clothes if they don’t need anymore. Carla: there is a washed bag of clothes to add in office.
3. Trish to Jen: Did Sandra contact about paying Al Vermeer for the cool room at Fish River Festival? The council decided that they wouldn’t pay it. Will the P and C will pay? $330.
4. Trish to Jen: Have you received the money from council coming for P and C, roughly $2000 should be deposited. Jen: Not yet.
5. Mel McK: Further to uniforms – can anyone else think of anyways to help families that may need help in this time?

**5. Final business arising:**

1. Mel McK feed back – kids have been using language re Cyber Safety – eg flag it – e-safety commissioner.
2. Carla Parish, is noted by the committee as sporting a new hair style – rather fabulous hair as always
3. Update on dishwasher – Kate Bird was looking into dishwasher. We are trying to find the correct one. Check in with Kate and go from there.
4. Bulbs – we can still buy bulbs online – check in with Jac and find the correct link. Make sure these don’t go to Wisemans Ferry by accident.
5. Kathryn Gavey: How can we support our local businesses? Fund raising for their products?
6. Pies – Mel – we can try the pies again. We did try earlier in the year – we will try again. KG: is it your friend Sal W – Chris Ringrose? – he does good gluten free pies.
7. We did a wine drive last year – Mel – will enquire with Renzaglia – is there is a possibility of wine drive? Mel will enquire.
8. Dwayne of O’Connell Cafe – can Jac Burns ask his thoughts on how we can support his café?
9. Sal Webb will speak to a man about a pie drive.

**Aaron Faulds:** Thank you all for coming. Close of meeting at 7.10pm

**6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Term 2 Week 7 Tuesday 6pm on Zoom

The meeting was closed at 7.10pm