

O'Connell Public School P & C Association

Minutes

Date: 24th October 2023

Where: O'Connell Public School Library Building

Blacks Mill Lane, O'Connell or via Zoom

Please Note: *All agenda items for next meeting are to be notified to the Secretary or President two weeks before the meeting and if required, accompanied by a written report and a written proposed motion.*

'Our Parents and Citizens Association aims to improve the academic, social, and emotional outcomes of student's, regardless of a student's ability, race, gender, religion or socio-economic status'.

[President Reads Out]:

"For the remote meeting parents online are asked that no children are present for the P&C Meeting as sensitive matters may be discussed and please have microphones muted unless you need to speak". "Thank you".

Meeting Began at 6:12pm

Attendees:

Vanessa Lavelle, Mitch Hardy, Kate, Leanne, Karen, Maree, Sally, Tass

Apologies:

Paula, Jen, Mel, Jodie, Trish

1. Acknowledgement of Country:

[President Reads Out]:

'In the spirit of reconciliation, the O'Connell Public School P & C acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.'

President's Report –

- A huge thankyou to all who assisted in the referendum day stall. Over 16 families participated in donating to the stall and many more purchased goods by way of support. The stall raised over \$2000 and gathered support for other fundraisers including the Gingerbread fundraiser coming up in December.
- Treasurer's Report – see attached.

Principal's Report – (Mitch Hardy):

- At assembly on Wednesday, it was announced that Principle, Trish Forsyth, will not be working on Mondays.
- The school has recently been assessed and was happy with the external validation; a full report with the outcomes of this will be presented to the P and C at the next meeting.
- Julia Roohan has accepted a full-time position at another school; O'Connell Public is now looking for a replacement art teacher to fill the role. We wish Julia all the best in her future endeavours. She will be sadly missed.
- Parents have voiced their concerns about Horse Powered Learning being suspended for the time being. Parents are urged to express their concerns to the department via their website utilising the complains and compliments tab.
- At the recent Bunning BBQ the year 5/6 students raised \$1800 profit. The children will be working towards running a market with food for sale during the summer as a project they are working on in class. They will design their menu and work on real life scenarios to plan, prepare and then sell their items at a school-based market; parents and families will be invited.
- Additional funds will be required to support stage 3 camp; the children will be fundraising to assist with this.
- The swimming program is currently \$70 per child. This is taking its toll on some families.
- The year 6 jumpers are also needing to be purchased.

Motion: Kate moved that the P&C offer \$20 per student to support with purchasing the jumpers and the swimming program to ease the pressure on families.

Seconded: Leanne

P & C Discussion Items –

- The P&C federation are reviewing their constitution. Anyone wanting to make any suggestions are encouraged to do so via the P&C federation website. The Federation advised that the constitution needs to be adopted at each AGM.

Motion: Vanessa Lavelle moved that the O'Connell P&C formally adopt: the constitution for incorporated P&C Associations; the P&C association code of conduct; the Grievance, Complaints and Disputes Procedures; the social media Policy and the Risk Management Template, to be used as a guide prior to all P&C events.

Seconded: Kate Bird

If you require further information or clarification, please contact the P&C at:

[oconnellpandc@gmail.com](mailto:connellpandc@gmail.com)

(P & C Discussion Items Cont'd)

- Kate reported that Jenny from Drayshed Nursery has advised that now is the time to plant the trees for the Nature Play Space. She has also offered to keep the trees in pots until we are ready if purchased now.

Action: Kate to seek quotes from Drayshed for P&C's consideration at next meeting

- Multiple points raised about the GFF by Tass, Kate and Vanessa.

Action: Further investigations into recommended recipes for GFF and their quantities to be explored; Vanessa and Jen to explore options for families to be reimbursed; committee to be provided with update on which are the most popular meals at next meeting to formulate business plan around progressing GFF.

Action: Vanessa to contact Coles about sponsoring GFF and Mid-Week MasterChef following a meeting with Todd the new Bathurst store manager.

- Revision of the current uniforms was put forward by Kate, suggesting softer hats which are more conducive to playing sports in be considered. Vests and Jackets were also suggested as possible new additions to the existing uniforms.

Action: Kate and Vanessa to investigate viable hat alternatives and to present to committee at next meeting

- House sports shirts (Cox and Evans) were also suggested to build stronger bonds to the two houses.

Action: Kate to present at next meeting

- It was suggested that footy goals could be added to the current soccer goals. Mitch reported that he has previously purchased a set of footy goals for \$3000 the pair at his previous school of employment.

Action: Kate to inquire about this with the Peter Butler who constructed the soccer goals to see if they can be amended to include football posts above. Vanessa to seek costings on nets for behind the goals.

- Heritage Trades: Karen reported that she is keen to set up a sub-committee for the Heritage Trades Show so as to be organised with plenty of time. Karen reported over 900 children attended last year's show. Vanessa suggested the stall holders may wish to prepurchase a lunch, as with the artisan markets in O'Connell. Karen stated she would seek advice from the Trades Show Committee.

Action: Karen to seek clarification from trades committee and report back to P&C with a proposed budget and possible menu for the event; lunch was suggested, as was purchasing zooper dopers to target the children

- Artisan Markets: Vanessa reported that 25 lunches have been prepaid and booked for the event. The P&C will also be holding a BBQ at the event and advertising the up-and-coming fundraisers.

If you require further information or clarification, please contact the P&C at:

occonnellpandc@gmail.com

(P & C Discussion Items Cont'd)

- The P and C have been invited to host a BBQ at the Fish River Festival with the O'Connell Valley Community Group.

Motion: that the P&C focus on a dunking stall where a bucket of water is tipped on the person's head and sell zipper doopers or slushies instead of a BBQ as we do not have the volunteers and many families just want to enjoy the festival.

Action: Vanessa to arrange dunking station and bring suggestions to next meeting to finalise plans.

- Sally Web suggested the P&C utilise Oberon IGA who have always been a big supporter of the school.
- Vanessa suggested the P&C include a flyer in the welcome kit to new families to promote the work of the P&C and inform families of how they can get involved. The feedback from many has been they cannot give time but are happy to make financial donations. Jen has been working hard to ensure there are more online opportunities for ease of financial donations.

Action: Vanessa to request assistance to make welcome flyer.

- Vanessa reported that searching for a solution for more permanent toilets at the forest is ongoing and this is something she will continue to work with Trish to deliver.
- Vanessa reported that the Bathurst Neighbourhood Centre Builders have been out to look at the permanent awning over the outdoor kitchen. Vanessa to draft a report to Assets for Marianne to forward on for approval.
- Mel Taylor is getting quotes to sandblast the P&C trailer, replace the hot plate, and get a cover. Mitch approved the trailer being stored at the school alongside the classrooms in the out of bounds area.

- The P&C have received information about the Blue Tree Project. Vanessa suggested we investigate painting the tree next to the school 40 zone sign blue to raise awareness about mental health. Vanessa suggested we could work with Lifeline (the CEO is a neighbour of the school) and arrange for a sign to be placed on the fence in clear view of the road. The projects slogan is "It's Ok to not be Ok" and aims to reduce stigma about mental illness.

Action: Vanessa to investigate further and bring action plan to next meeting.

- **Grants:** Vanessa and Maree to form subcommittee to apply for grant opportunities. Vanessa reported on new opportunities to seek funding for Christmas lights at the fire shed. The Gingerbread subcommittee have suggested we seek support to digitalise the lights and have them connected to the radio station to illuminate with the beat of the songs. This could be a wonderful Christmas attraction for the district.

If you require further information or clarification, please contact the P&C at:

oconnellpandc@gmail.com

Helping Hand

It has come to Tass' attention that some children may benefit from participating in Good Food Friday, but may be unable to afford it. The teaching staff have been consulted on this matter and have suggested some children who may enjoy the opportunity to participate, who would otherwise miss out.

Motion: Vanessa moved that Tass be given latitude to place children on the GFF list and use her discretion as required.

Seconded: Leanne

Correspondence In/Out

N/A

General Business

Nil items raised.

Meeting concludes time: 7.35pm