

Parents & Citizens Association – Excelsior Public School
456th General Meeting
Tuesday 24th November 2020

Attendees: Krystal Lees (KL), Emma Heasman (EH), Sandra McKay (SM), Sarah Quinn (SQ), Georgia, Rhadika Gawade (RG) Emma Escott (EE), Brett McMurtrie (BM), Georgia Courque (GC), Shannyn Geeve (SG), Kirrily Jones (KJ), Nikki Sandercoe (NK), Lisa Cook (LC), Nidhi Kaushik (NK)

Apologies:

Zoom Meeting Commenced 7.15pm

Minutes from Month – Oct'20 Accepted by SG, Seconded SM

Actions from November Meeting

- **ACTIONS ALL SUB COMMS** to document any key processes and actions. **ONGOING**
- **ACTION SG** to look for canteen treasurer job description. **TBD**
- **ACTION SM / GC** to review placement options for worm farm. **TBD**
- **ACTION RG / EE** to send out details of online platform for teachers present. **DONE**
- **ACTION BM** to start moving funds around as sub committees have over \$25,000 e.g. ERA **TBD**
- **ACTION Sub Committees Treasurers** need to send end of year files to BM ASAP for auditing. **TBD**

ACTIONS ON HOLD DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS

- **ACTION SM** to discuss school prayer and options at next meeting. **ONGOING** SM advised not urgent Review post COVID restrictions
- **ACTION EH** to liaise with UM and email any current potential multi-cultural groups. **TBD**
- **ACTION JW** to research alternatives to current school banking. **ONGOING**

CORRESPONDENCE

- **KJ** said customer number is needed for anyone who is doing the pay work
- **SG** delegated advised GC to look for shady spot for a worm farm, covered area next to the canteen
- **EH** raised teachers and staff's end of the year presents purchase is to be done
- **SM** said the department is very heavily restricting gifts to be given to teachers to avoid corruption. The total value of gifts to teachers should not exceed \$50 combined.
- **SM** said Teachers are supposed to declare it to the principal and it becomes property of the school
- Class parents might have started organising end of the year gifts for teachers. SG to write something up in the newsletter to inform parents
- **SG** to check for a list of class parent representatives and share with all
- **BM** asked everyone to send him their financial reports
- **SM** said school numbers are sitting at x588. Mrs Batua has accepted a position at another school. Her position is currently vacant. This needs to be filled in next year either by end of the year or close to Easter
- **SM** said they have got good feedback of the kindy welcome pack.
- **SM** added Parents can only be on the ground for no more than 10 mins - kindy orientation to be done in a CovidSafe way

- Presentation day and sports assembly day - as there weren't many sports. So a few sports awards are clubbed into presentation day
- Fun day - excursion day organised for stage 3 at Luna Park
- **SM** said staff Development day has changed from the department - 2 staff dev day at beg, 1 beg of term 2, 1 beg of term 4
- **SM** said for next year's school numbers, results of blue slip and OC test results and know how many children we are losing, we can't form formal classes
- **SM** said sub-committees to gel together a bit more in the next year - if each sub-committee can have a spokesperson that regularly communicates with the Execs
- Official huge Thanks to Emma Heasman for all her efforts as a P&C - Exec Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Included in the AGM 2020 as end of the year 2020 report

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

2020 has been a year like no other. This year education and learning was impacted by State, National and Global events. We started the year in the aftermath of disastrous bushfires with many of our students emotionally challenged by stories and images of the impact these fires had on the people, flora and fauna of our Nation.

We were then further challenged by the impact of COVID-19, which resulted in many weeks of home learning for the majority of our students. Students, parents and teachers were forced to quickly adapt to new ways of learning, primarily using digital technologies.

Student Academic Achievement

NAPLAN in 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Excelsior Public School opted to participate in an optional Check-In Assessment for Years 3 & 5. These assessments showed:

- Year 5 Reading scoring 70.8% which was above Similar Schools (69.9%) and well above the State (60.7%)
- Year 5 Numeracy scoring 70.4% which was slightly lower than similar schools (71.4%) but well above the State (60%)
- Year 3 Reading scoring 74% which was well above similar schools (68.4%) and the State (58.6%)
- Year 3 Numeracy scoring 77.6% which was well above similar schools (73.1%) and the State (62.8%)

Student Sporting Achievement

Sport was greatly impacted on by COVID-19. The school was able to hold a swimming carnival and an onsite cross-country carnival, however the athletics carnival was cancelled. PSSA sport and representative sport was also cancelled during the year.

Student Welfare

Student Welfare continues to be a focus at Excelsior Public School, where we believe that every student should be known, valued and cared for.

This year we began to implement the Grow Your Mind program in an endeavour to ensure that social and emotional skills were explicitly and systematically taught across the school and that there was a consistency in language throughout the school.

The Tell Them From Me Survey tells us that:

- 96 % of students feel they are successful at school
- 65% of students report a high sense of belonging at school
- 86% of students report they have positive relationships at school
- 86% of students report that they have positive behaviour at school

- 80% of students report that they try hard to succeed in their learning

These results showed a decrease in the number of students indicating a positive sense of belonging (78% in 2019), showing that disturbed onsite learning has impacted this.

Excelsior has a school counsellor, who works one day per week, and a school chaplain, who works two days per week. During 2020 there was a change in our school counsellor and a short period where we had no counsellor (during this time our school was supported by our district's Senior School Psychologist).

The school counsellor provides individual student assessment and intervention and the school chaplain works with small groups to foster positive self-esteem and positive social interactions amongst students.

Staff

During 2020 the staff at Excelsior remained fairly constant. Mrs Hosking was made a permanent member of the Excelsior staff. Ms Batuoia accepted a transfer to Whalan Public school, it is expected that she will be replaced to start the 2021 year.

Student Population

Student numbers at Excelsior Public school have been very stable in 2020. We began the year with 582 students and currently have 588. We have maintained a 23 class structure for the entire year. New Build 2020 saw our building project come to an end. This project delivered 4 refurbished classrooms, a refurbished administration building, a refurbished special programs space and a refurbished staffroom, as well as a new building containing 12 learning spaces, a library, a tiered learning area, a canteen, storage spaces and a artificial grass play space.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We made it through another year and a very strange one at that. Something that this year has taught me is that planning doesn't necessary mean everything will work out roses, however I do think that we need to make a plan next year that all the sub committees and the exec team really push for more volunteers and attendance at P&C meetings. If this means changing the format to meeting to make them look more appealing we could always look into this.

Going into 2021 I would also like to look at how the sub committees and the execs can gel together a bit more. The communication this year hasn't been the best, I realise that because of COVID19 and online meeting that it's made it harder than usual to communicate but I think we can do it better. Part of this is that I would like to have each sub committee elect one person that is their spokesperson. This one person can be the communicator for the sub-committee whether it be with the execs, Sandra, the school the parents etc. With Emma leaving she won't be around anymore to be that spokesperson for the sub committees, so it's imperative that we implement this for next year.

I would like to officially say a huge thank you to Emma who will be leaving this year. She's been on the P&C in just about every role and for so many years that I have literally lost count, she's navigated us through new builds, traffic issues, government vouchers and job keeper and all with a smile on her face. She has been a terrific support to me and she will be very sorely missed. Nidhi has been having handover with Emma and I would like to officially offer her a warm welcome to the secretary role and the exec team.

I also want to take time out to thank Brett, amid a lot going on for him personally this year he has still managed to make sure all the money is in the right spot at the right time.

SUB COMMITTEES:

UNIFORM SHOP

- The forum advocated the offer of an officially paid job for the uniform shop to Nerida, everyone agreed to proceed with legalities

BAND

- Paid treasury book-keeping position for Band - whether band to stay separate than the P&C or stay with P&C
- If they look for staying with P&C we need more volunteers,
- **BM** raised a concern that the band sub-committee doesn't participate very well

CANTEEN

- **RG** said there are quite a few challenges at the canteen with cash collection, physical ability limitations to manage that, Suggestions: - to have a box to form 2 queues with 1.5 metres distance
- When to stop the serving period so they finish the food item before entering class back after recess/lunch break
- Call out more volunteers to smoothen the operational aspects of managing this
- **SM** said school doesn't have cash pick-ups, they were cancelled. Department of Education rules suggest kids cannot be in the canteen queue for more than 15 mins and the grades have to be separated
- Canteen had sent a proposed solution of a pre-paid wrist band, Wrist band cost is \$10, with ongoing service fee of \$5 a day
- Min x200 bands that need to be bought, it can be a deposit of \$10. So parents can get a refund when they return the band
- **SG** said Get an e-mail out to the P&C financial members asking for opinions if they would like P&c to fund purchase of the band
- **KJ** said oven quotes from Harvey Norman to be processed

ERA

- Following up with SM for class room allocation, Plan is to open applications for new participation in ERA. News to come through in the next newsletter

EVENTS

- 2020 has been a very quiet year for the Event's team. We felt happy that we could still provide the Mother and Father's Day stall to the children and were able to organise Y6 farewell!

AGENDA ITEMS

Discussed above

Business Arising

None

Meeting closed 9pm
Next Meeting – 23rd February'21