

Campbell High School P&C Meeting minutes - 22 May 2019

Attendance: Chair: Karina Edwards, Principal: Steve Collins and 14 others - see Attachment A

1. Welcome and previous minutes

1.1 Welcome and opening remarks from the Chair

Karina thanked the parents for their attendance. She stated that it was pleasing to see such a large turnout of parents. Attendance at P&C meetings is an opportunity to be informed about the educational and community focus of the school, to support the school and engage with the school leadership group.

1.2 Apologies

None

1.3 Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the AGM held on 25 March 2019 were approved.

1.4 Business arising

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

2. Reports

2.1 President's report - Karina Edwards

Office holder

Karina reported that she had attended a P&C Council workshop. The Campbell High School P&C needs an 'office bearer' as an incorporated community association. The role of the office bearer is principally to sign off and submit annual returns to Access Canberra.

Clare Wynter nominated for the role of office bearer.

Open night

Karina thanked parents who assisted at the school's open night by providing catering. Prospective parents and students also value the opportunity to talk to existing students and parents.

Fundraising

There is an opportunity for parents to buy an entertainment book to support the P&C. 20 percent of the sales of the book return to the school. Entertainment books are available at the front office.

The P&C does not have a focus on fundraising. Nevertheless, the P&C has provided funding to improve facilities at the school at the request of the Students Representative Council. The SRC has put forward proposals for shading for the tennis courts. The SRC will be prioritising a list of improvements for 2019 to present to the P&C.

2.2 Principal's report - Steve Collins

Open night

Steve also thanked parents and P&C members for their contribution to the open night. He noted that the support of the P&C gives the occasion a strong community feel.

Professional development for teachers

Professional development activities have focused on the neurological basis for learning, including the impact of trauma on brain development.

Timetabling

The school is reassessing its approach to timetabling after comparing its approach to other schools. Currently the school has a slightly greater proportion of time devoted to non lesson time activities than comparable schools and is considering increasing the proportion of lesson time. The school will come to parents with a proposal for consultation.

Athletics carnival

Steve reported that the athletics carnival the previous week was a success.

Naplan

Students participated in Naplan online for the first time and it was largely successful. There were a couple of short outages of the system in the first couple of sessions. Steve acknowledged the contribution of Ashley Carter and Jess who ensured minimal disruption by integrating Naplan into the school timetable.

Cyber safety

The Australian Federal Police will do a presentation to the school later in the year. They need to continually refresh their training in response to developments in technology.

World Challenge

Steve reported on the 'World Challenge' presentation this week for students in years 8 and 9 who are considering taking part in 2020. World Challenge is run by an adventure company and involves a group of students travelling, with support, to undertake trekking and community work. The next challenge will be in Vietnam and Cambodia. The challenge is student led but supervised. The cost is around \$7,000 per student, supplemented by fund raising efforts.

Outdoor education

The Education Directorate has imposed a temporary ban on canyoning and caving while they assess risk. This affected the recent Year 10 camp but alternative activities were organised (climbing).

Youth Health nurse

The school has an opportunity to engage a youth health nurse 2 days per week through funding from ACT Health. The service will focus on mental health. Students may self-refer. There will be high levels of confidentiality and guidelines in place to manage high risk concerns.

The school also has a psychologist available 3 days per week. Parents and students can make bookings for this service.

2.3 Canteen report

Karina advised that the P&C owns and runs the school canteen. The canteen menu is available on the school website at http://www.canberrahs.act.edu.au/our_school/canteen. The canteen will be introducing a new menu in July. The canteen can cater for students with dietary restrictions. It also has an EFTPOS facility.

The meeting also noted that breakfast was provided for students on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:15 am sponsored by the bakery at the Ainslie shops.

The meeting considered it would be useful to provide information to new parents about the way the canteen operated, including ordering and payment options in the Weekly Wrap.

A suggestion was made that the canteen consider the Flexi schools option for online ordering.

[Karina, the website indicates that this option is already available]

Karina invited parents to provide feedback to herself and Hazel, the canteen manager, about the current menu and ideas for the new menu.

3. Budgeting

3.1 Year 10 grant request for mural in hall foyer

The P&C has approved money to pay for the Year 10s to paint a mural outside the hall. The meeting noted the need to ensure that the students had a plan to deliver on the project and that those involved would meet their commitments.

A motion was passed that Karina would meet with the SRC with one of the staff from the art department to discuss the development of a plan.

Moved: Clare Wynter

Seconded: Steve Collins

3.2 Bike shed expansion

The areas that had been identified for new bike sheds do not meet safety standards. The school is now considering bike sheds on the Limestone Avenue side of the school near the cricket pitch.

4. Other business

Access to the library before school

A parent asked about access to the library in the mornings before school during winter noting that some students arrive early including on buses from rural areas. Steve advised that the school offered supervision from 8:30 am but students are able to enter the buildings. The school is considering closing the ovals in the morning and opening the library. In the interim students can go the canteen area which is open and supervised.

Fencing the school

The meeting discussed fencing the school grounds noting the arguments before and against such a proposal. Clare suggested that the proximity of the school to the War Memorial might mean that National Capital Authority approval may be a barrier.

The meeting asked Steve to clarify the reasons why the school did not have a fence. The meeting also asked Steve to provide an update on the redevelopment of the CSIRO site, noting the benefit in having a surfaced bike path that would take bike traffic away from the school.

Woolworths fundraiser

A parent raised the value in participating in the Coles or Woolworths fundraisers where shoppers get stickers that raise funds for the purchase of school equipment. The meeting noted that these fundraisers may work better in primary schools where parents are more likely to visit the campus on a regular basis. The P&C will consider participating in a supermarket fundraiser next year.

Chromebooks

Parents raised concern about students having non-school accounts on their chrome books; being able to unlock accounts; and students being on devices at break times. Steve advised that the school was aware of the issue and was considering introducing device free days as well as discouraging the use of devices in the playground. Some teachers have device free lessons.

Steve requested that the P&C send him an email raising parent concerns so that he could raise these concerns with the Directorate.

Menslink

Michael from Menslink gave a presentation about the service which provides programs and mentoring for boys aged between 10 and 18 and counselling services for young men up to the age of 25. Menslink has 3 intakes per year but can admit people quickly if needed. The service is free. Michael outlined the programs on offer including Silence is Deadly and PRIDE. The programs are values based. Information about the programs is available from the front office.

Workshops for parents on blockages to learning

Kieran Vaughan, a counsellor in private practice (Full Potential), spoke to the P&C about the services she offers, focussing on building students' confidence as learners and blockages to learning. Kieran has been running workshops for teachers. She offered to run short workshops for parents with the opportunity for parents who were attending to make a donation to the school.

Karina will talk to Kieran about putting out an invitation to parents to attend workshops. It was suggested that the workshops could be run in conjunction with P&C meetings.

The meeting closed at 8:35 pm.

Action arising

1. Access Canberra to be advised that Clare Wynter is the P&C office holder
2. Information about the canteen for new parents will be included in the Weekly Wrap
3. Karina will meet with Year 10 students to discuss planning and commitments to deliver on the mural
4. Steve asked to clarify at the next P&C meeting why a fence has not been built around the school grounds and to provide an update on the CSIRO redevelopment
5. The P&C will send Steve an email outlining parent concerns about the inappropriate and/or excessive use of Chromebooks by students
6. Karina will talk to Kieran about options for running workshops for parents.

Attachment A

Attendees

Karina Edwards – President

Sarah Avakian – Vice President

Steve Collins – Principal

Trina McFarlane – Treasurer

Sarah Dinning – Secretary

Marg Cummins - teacher

Sylvia Mezei

Karrylyne Johnson

Celia Roberts

Lyle Williams

Kieran Vaughan

Rachel Tasker

Silke Spier

Lou Basyoni

Clare Wynter

Damien Ellwood

Kylie Martin