

**Aranda Primary School P&C Association**  
**Minutes**  
**18:30, 28 July 2021**

**1. Welcome and attendance**

Joel Dalton (President), Alice Hudson, Penny McKenzie (Book Club), Erin Dampney (Uniforms), Jim Gilchrist (Public Officer), Petra Cole (Vice President), Phil Gray (Principal), Mish Percival (Canteen), Kirsty Munn (Treasurer), Wendy Robertson (Secretary)

**2. Apologies**

None received.

**3. Confirmation of minutes from the last meeting**

Minutes were confirmed by Joel and seconded by Jim on completion of changes noted by Erin.

**4. Reports**

**Principal**

- Written report received with thanks; see Appendix A.
- Phil has received a survey from the education directorate concerning the composition of school boards. The principal, P&C and board are requested to complete it.  
**Action: Phil will send the survey to Joel to complete on behalf of the P&C.**
- Plans for preschool mud kitchen are underway, and the school will present a proposal to the P&C.
- Phil reported that currently, the 5/6 camp would go ahead.
- Cybersafety awareness is an ongoing issue that the school is aware of.
- Soon parents and carers will receive the school survey. Phil encouraged all to complete as the more surveys returned, the more meaningful data can be obtained. This information will help with future strategic planning and the next action plan for the school.
- Phil received a quote of \$14 000 for the purchase and installation of blinds in the hall. They will be installed externally over three windows and remote-controlled. Perhaps it could be a joint P&C/school purchase; Phil will look at the school budget.

**5. Fundraising**

**A) Trivia Night**

- Happening this upcoming Saturday. Plans are in place thanks to the wonderful trivia team.

**B) Sausage Sizzle**

- To be held on Saturday 14 August at Belconnen Bunnings.
- Jim encouraged all the committee (and the school community) to sign up to help.

**6. Constitution**

- Jim proposed the following changes to the Aranda P&C Constitution:
  - Amendment 1: Adding a new section (16) to the Constitution as prescribed below:  
*16 Public Officer*  
*The Public Officer of the Association must:*

1. *Ensure all Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) mandatory reporting obligations are met by the Association; and*
  2. *Ensure all Association records, including financial records, are stored in a suitable location for a period of at least seven years.*
- These amendments are needed to satisfy a requirement of the ACNC that the P&C has sufficient procedures in place to meet its mandatory reporting obligation to maintain charity status.
  - For any changes to be made to the Constitution, a 21-day consultation period is required, and a Special Resolution must be passed at a general meeting of the Aranda P&C.
- Action: Jim will send to Phil and place the proposed changes in the school newsletter to inform P&C stakeholders.**

## 7. School Fence

- A lengthy discussion about enclosing the school with a fence.
- Phil informed the P&C committee:
  - He wants the process of discussion to include the entire community.
  - In 2015 the school community discussed the fence issue and was subsequently surveyed: two-thirds were for a fence, a third were against it. Aranda Primary did not install the fence because the directorate withdrew the funding for it.
  - The school recently surveyed the year 5/6 children: two-thirds were for a fence, one third were against it.
  - A recent survey of teachers showed that 89% were for a fence, 11% were against it.
  - Board is in favour of a fence, reasons are:
    1. Security of the school
    2. Safety of the children
- Alice spoke of a serious situation involving her child's safety and the reasons why she wants a fence installed, including:
  1. Safety of the children
  2. Security of the school from vandalism and intruders
- Wendy asked Phil questions including:
  - What are the numbers of children who run away?
  - What are the numbers of children who run away from A.C.T. Public schools even when a fence is installed?
  - What is the cost of damage and graffiti to the school?
  - What is the cost of damage and graffiti to A.C.T. Public schools even when a fence is installed?
  - Why do kids run away? – Phil responded for various reasons, not just children with special needs.
  - What will the fence look like?
  - Is there a way to fence one part of the school?
- Wendy expressed her concern over a reflexive leadership response based on fear – i.e. in response to negative press, being sued, and questioned when will we stop responding to fear and wondered where we draw the line. She also recognised that the most significant risk of harm to children comes from within their own families.
- Penny spoke about growing up in a culture with fences and armed guards and her concern over installing the fence. Part of the reason she chose Aranda PS was

because of no fencing around the school and the free-flow from the community to the school.

- Discussion around how the open plan nature of the school and how it fits with the leafy and open feel of the suburb is enjoyed by everyone, as is the school playground on weekends.
- Petra suggested that if the school playground was enclosed by a fence, perhaps better playground facilities could be installed elsewhere to compensate for the loss the the community.
- Jim suggested that the P&C cannot speak for the entire community on such a contentious issue.
- Petra noted that many adults in Canberra work in more secure locations than children (i.e. Department of Defence).
- Discussion around weight of parents views verses children's views and safety.
- Kirsty asked Phil how many enrollments were lost because Aranda didn't have a fence. Phil responded about three recently, mainly due to the risk for children with special needs.
- Mish questioned whether a survey would divide the community further, given that it had already voted in favour of a fence in the past. Discussion ensued about how a possible fence design could meet community needs, and for the P&C to encourage focus on this aspect during discussions.
- During the conversation, the P&C committee was made aware of the need to update meeting times on the website and for the class reps to communicate meeting times.

**Action: Erin will organise updating times on the website.**

**Teagan to organise class reps to inform parents of upcoming P&C meetings (week 3 and 8 of term, 18:30 in the community room or via zoom during COVID lockdowns).**

- Discussion regarding who the decision rests on – education directorate or the school community. There was broad agreement that the directorate ultimately needs to take responsibility for the decision. Phil stated he would contact the education directorate and organise a Q&A session with a representative present.
- Discussion about how best to consult and discuss this issue with the school community.

#### **8. Date of next meeting:**

18:30, Wednesday 1 September 2021

## **Appendix A**

### **Principal's Report – Aranda P&C, 28.7.2021**

**School Board survey. The P&C have been asked to fill in a survey about the composition of school Boards. This is a request from the Education Directorate. I have sent a copy of the survey link to Joel and Wendy.**

**School Fence. Ongoing issue. The Directorate has asked me to raise the issue of a fence with the School Board, P&C, Staff and students. Results from Student and Staff surveys. Results from 2015 survey.**

Year 5/6 camp to go ahead at this point in time.

Cyber Safety sessions for Parents, Staff and students.

I have received quotes for Blinds to cover the big windows in the Hall.

System surveys will commence August 13 for parents.