

**Aranda Primary School P&C Association
Minutes
18:30, 20 October 2021**

1. Welcome and attendance

Jono and Erin Dampney (Public Officer and Uniform Shop), Petra Cole (Vice President), Penny McKenzie (Book Club), Phil Gray (Principal), Samantha Smith, Teegan Cole (Class Reps), Kirsty Munn (Treasurer), Merisha Percival (Canteen), Kath Kulhanek

2. Apologies

One apology from Joel Dalton was received.

3. Confirmation of minutes from the last meeting

Penny confirmed, and Erin seconded the minutes from the last meeting.

4. Reports

Principal

- Written report received with thanks; see Appendix A.
- Phil informed the P&C that his focus has been on the return to school for the children post lockdown. The teachers have been preparing as best they can, focusing on hygiene, ventilation and pick up/drop off. Many people are anxious, and the school is trying to answer their questions as best as possible. Phil encouraged the community to be kind and keep a level head.
- The ventilation of all ACT schools has been examined, and all spaces in Aranda have been deemed adequate. All windows will be kept open when the children are back at school.
- Pick up, and drop-offs are significantly different for preschool, K and 1. Parents can not be on the school groups as per the ACT directorate directive.
- The school will have lots more outdoor activities planned, as well as having fun and relaxing a little. The kids want to get back and see their friends and teachers post lockdown.
- Phil is remaining optimistic about the 5/6 camp and has two weeks to make a decision.
- The message from the Directorate is that there will be a fence available for Aranda PS. Phil has found a representative from the Directorate to have a meeting to answer questions from the community. Phil expressed his desire to have some of the playgrounds available during the weekends and after hours.

Q&A Penny

- Concerned that the process of deciding a fence for Aranda PS has been closed, and is worried that people will feel excluded given the controversy surrounding fence installation.

Jono

- Expressed gratitude for the fantastic job that the teachers have done during the lockdown; their efforts are a huge credit to the school.

Wendy

- Informed the committee that a letter had been sent to the Directorate with questions about the fence. See Appendix B.
- Phil supports the letter.

Uniform Shop

- Erin has been in conversation with the school. She has been approved to return to standard operations (cashless and contactless).
- Year 5/6 volunteers are ok to help out, and the school is confirming with parents that it is ok for them to volunteer.
- Erin is updating the COVID plan.

Canteen

- Mish has finalised the COVID plan and is planning on circulating it with the P&C committee and parents to improve understanding.
- The canteen will head back next week and commence operations the following week.
- Planning on a fun day with hot dogs. On two occasions per term, the canteen is allowed to have unhealthy options.
- The two canteen staff fully vaccinated. Any time they get sick, the canteen will have to be closed, and a text will go to parents to notify them.
- One staff member could get the disaster recovery payment, and one could not.
- The casual law changes do not impact the canteen; however, Mish would like to have a conversation about offering permanency to employees as it provides security and a sense of belonging to the community.
- Noting that prices have not been increased in several years as the canteen is not for profit (or loss), the canteen is exploring a 10% gradual increase on prices.

Q&A Kath

- Kath is concerned about the messaging surrounding the increase, making sure people understand the reasoning behind it.

Treasurer

- One invoice for the oven which needs to be paid before delivery.

Class Reps

- Teegan spoke to the executive teachers about changing to a year rep rather than a class rep program. The reminders are more year based and aren't changing class to class. She is having trouble finding class reps and controlling communication.

Proposal to change the system to year reps only, passed with unanimous agreement from the P&C Committee.

Q&A Kath

- Kath asked whether Gmail could support all the email addresses for one year group. Potentially the P&C could have a generic account that allows for better distribution.

Book Club

- Book Club has been cancelled for Term 4.

5. The transition back to school, support from P&C

- Phil asked the P&C to lead the way with distancing and masks.
- He encouraged everyone to support each other and to be kind.

6. COVID plan for canteen/uniform shop

- Phil will check if there are separate QR codes for the canteen and uniform shop.
- Erin asked what the capacity of those spaces is, and Phil will find out.
- Kirsty noted she has a general QR code for the P&C.
- Erin asked about employees' online COVID training option, and Kath suggested they do the same as the school's training.

Action: Phil will look into QR codes and square meterage of the canteen and uniform shop.

7. Teacher appreciation day gifts Friday 29 October

- Wendy is organising presents. Petra will assist with distribution.

8. Year 6 farewell and photo booth

- **Action: Wendy will email the school to organise.**

9. Security of online minutes

- Request from a parent to have name redacted from minutes as they have a security risk and wish to remain anonymous.

Action: Wendy will contact ACNC, ACT P&C Association, to determine the best course of action and implementation.

10. Cherry drive.

- Discussion about using flexischools – cost involved but less time-intensive.

Action: Wendy will organise.

11. End of year P&C party

- Discussion surrounding the venue.

12. Other business

- Phil spoke about the mud kitchen proposal. It is part of a multi-layer plan for the preschool, which began with the deck. The next step is the mud kitchen. Previously P&C had agreed for funds to \$3400 to be spent on preschool upgrades.

13. Date of next meeting

- 18:30, Wednesday 24 November 2021

APPENDIX A

Aranda School P&C – 20.10.21

Principal's Report

Return to School: Hygiene, Ventilation & Pick up & Drop-offs.

Class focus on re-establishing routine. More outdoor learning activities. We will ease the children back into school. The children want to see friends and teachers again.

Fence: Not high on my priority list at the moment.

The Directorate has said that a fence will be constructed at Aranda School. I have arranged for a representative from the Education Directorate to talk to the P&C, Board and a randomly selected group of parents. I don't want the meeting to become an anti-fence or pro-fence protest. The Ed. Representative will answer questions and consider community input into the fence structure and layout.

The meeting will be via Microsoft Teams and it will be held before the end of the year.

APPENDIX B
19 October, 2021

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing to you, as the President of the Aranda Primary School Parents and Citizens (P&C) Committee, to seek clarification regarding the proposed installation of a fence around Aranda Primary School.

At our committee's meeting on 28 July, 2021 we were informed about the incident that led to the media attention surrounding a fence at our school. Until that point in time, we did not know that it was an issue for Aranda Primary School parents and carers. We decided after discussion that the P&C Committee could not formally endorse the construction of a fence, as we knew that there were divergent views in our community. As there had been no engagement with our community, we did not have a mandate to express an opinion on this issue.

I am writing to the Education Directorate to request answers on the following points:

1. Who is the decision maker regarding the installation of the proposed fence at Aranda Primary School?
2. What is the relevant legislation regarding school fencing in the A.C.T., and where can we access this?
3. What studies have been done to measure the impact of a fence on security issues such as vandalism?
4. What studies have been done to measure the impact of a fence on numbers of children who abscond?
5. What is the timeline for the proposed fence installation?
6. If the fence is constructed:
 - a. Is the whole school required to be fenced?
 - b. What means of surveillance is proposed?
 - c. What style will the fence be? Can we choose?
 - d. Can we decorate the fence to offset the "Jail" feel that many ACT Schools with Fences have?
7. What will the access points to the school be?
8. Will the community retain any weekend or after hours access to parts of the school grounds that have been funded by the community, such as playgrounds and Mountain Bike Tracks, that are popular with local students, residents and families alike.

We understand that engagement with community is very important for the Directorate, and we seek answers to the above questions in order to guide the parameters for engagement with our community.

Yours sincerely

Joel Dalton