

**Aranda Primary School P&C Association**  
**Minutes**  
**18:30, 11 May 2022**

**1. Acknowledgement of country, welcome and attendance**

Phil Gray (Principal), Joel Dalton (President), Nicholas Hudson, Kristy Youngman (Board Rep), Carol Lander, Samantha Jordan, Penny McKenzie (Book Club), Meredith Allen, Caroline Jones, Danish Khan (Communications), Kathryn Spouse, Hayley Beveridge, Wendy Robertson (Secretary)

**2. Apologies**

Apologies received from Kirsty Munn (Treasurer), Petra Cole (Vice President), Jono Dampney (Public Officer), Erin Dampney (Uniforms), Merisha (Mish) Percival (Canteen), and Adrian Watts (Canteen).

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

Minutes from the last meeting were confirmed by Joel and seconded by Penny.

**4. Reports**

**Principal**

- Written report received with thanks; see Appendix A.
- Phil echoed the committee's delight at meeting face-to-face in the school building after a turbulent couple of years due to covid.
- The Education Directorate sets covid protocols at the school, and there has been some relaxation for this term, such as parents can be on the grounds, and school timing has returned to 9-3 for every year level. Phil was glad to see parents at the cross country and athletics carnivals. He would like to see parents being able to come back to assemblies. Unfortunately, Monday was the highest covid cases in the school community since the pandemic started. Teachers continue to reinforce hygiene and wear masks if they can't socially distance themselves. As soon as protocols change, Phil will communicate them to the school community.
- The school has the full intention to hold an end of year concert in 2022, date to follow. The P&C committee could support it by selling picnic baskets or hosting food stalls.
- The disability education program begins in 2023 at Aranda PS, and the Directorate will restructure one classroom to have its own courtyard and access to a disability toilet.
- Discussion surrounding projects P&C has contributed to, including student resources, beautification and upgrade of school grounds.
- 'Big project' the P&C could help with is upgrading the senior playground. It is old and tired and inaccessible for anyone with differing abilities. The school, Afters and the P&C could all contribute to the cost of an upgrade. Discussion ensued around potential cost. Phil will bring back to the P&C committee ballpark figures from other schools which have recently upgraded.

- Other items the P&C could assist the school with include music resources, which Melissa Alexander will propose, and literacy-based resources – particularly as the school goal is to improve reading and maths.

**Q&A:** **Wendy** asked on behalf of the uniform shop what has happened to the helpers from Year 6? Phil is not sure and will find out.

**Actions:** Phil will investigate recently upgraded senior playgrounds at other A.C.T. schools and report back on approximate costings to the P&C. Phil will look into Year 6 support of the uniform shop.

### **President**

- Upcoming fundraising includes trivia night and a colour fun run, hopefully raising as much money as a fete. Joel would like the fundraising to be tied to a big goal for the school, and the upgrade to the senior playground would 'fit the bill.'

### **Book Club**

- Penny reported that the last book club was the biggest order ever! \$5762. The school has spent \$759 from money raised on resources, with \$1411.76 in the kitty to spend.
- Penny was grateful for the wonderful response from volunteers.

### **Canteen**

- Joel reported on Mish's behalf.
- Mish is having trouble finding members for the canteen committee. She is wondering whether she could give committee members a discount on lunch orders (like the Afters committee members receive a discount on After school care).
- She is concerned with the viability of the canteen in the long term.
- Discussion ensued. Several new attendees to the P&C questioned the requirements of the role.

**Action:** Danish will liaise with Mish about the requirements for the committee members and will publicise them.

## **5. Fence update**

- Phil reported that dealing with covid has been the priority of late. He has had discussions with the P&C and the Board, some discussions within the community, the Directorate, and teachers and children regarding fencing the school.
- The next step is to survey parents, stating the pros and cons of a fence. Depending on the results, the Directorate will take it into their hands and then would have to consult with the wider Aranda community.
- The Directorate has informed Phil that if the fence goes ahead, the community will have a say in the design and placement.
- Phil will talk to the P&C, looking at reasons for and against the fence.

- A.C.T. parks are currently consulting the community about the proposed playgrounds upgrade in Aranda.

**Nicholas** stated a clear process occurring and asked who is the ultimate decision maker? Phil answered that it was the Education Directorate. Nicholas spoke about why he wants a fence, citing the incident that occurred when his kindergarten student walked home unaccompanied, crossing several major roads to the neighbouring suburb. He believes that a fence is a risk reduction for children and is ultimately necessary for a school. The design process should be amenable to accommodating community input.

**Penny** asked about access to the school on weekends and holidays? Phil stated that yes, there would be access on weekends. Penny expressed her concerns about a binary survey questioning for or against a fence. She said that if the fence was small and aesthetically pleasing, she would be for a fence. The survey should include pictures of options for fences. Phil stated that we probably would not get the choice of height, but perhaps we can choose the colour and definitely can choose placement. He will check with the Directorate about what the community can influence.

**Nicholas** stated that it was important to find a way for most of the community to feel included and consulted.

**Joel** questioned whether the P&C are happy with the process in place?

**Wendy** asked about the research supporting school fencing; Phil stated there isn't any. She also asked who would design the survey, and Phil replied that he would.

**Actions:** Phil to discuss with the Directorate design elements within the control of the community. Wendy to email Phil the letter P&C wrote to the Directorate last year.

## 6. Pupil free days

- Phil informed the committee about the background of the upcoming pupil free days. There were many staff shortages at many schools across the A.C.T., and teachers were doing numerous school activities outside of hours to keep the best duty of care. Some teachers at some A.C.T. schools missed out on moderation and planning days.
- In consultation with Macquarie Primary School and Canberra High School (because of siblings), the pupil free days were chosen.
- A very small percentage of the Aranda school community is unhappy with the days chosen and asked Phil to bring this issue up at the P&C meeting.
- Teachers will be on campus moderating, marking and participating in professional learning.

**Kathryn** provided context to the discussion, stating it was difficult for preschool children whose school days fall at the start of the week. They often miss out on some of their days at school due to public holidays. The pupil free days chosen (a Monday and a Tuesday) will directly affect these children and their families.

**Joel** voiced support for the school's decision.

#### **7. Kindy reading**

- Phil informed the committee that the Kindy team are still considering the Kindy reading program and will put information together for all the parents regarding a way forward.

#### **8. Bunnings B.B.Q. 11 June**

- Discussion surrounding the fact that 11 June falls on a public holiday weekend. Decision made to go ahead with B.B.Q. regardless.

#### **9. School disco**

- Joel spoke with fondness about the school discos he attended. He has noticed that his son has never been to a nighttime disco with so much covid and isolation over the past couple of years.
- Phil stated that in the past, discos were held on Friday nights, and most teachers were expected to do crowd control and be there.
- Joel said that he didn't want to make the disco yet another thing for teachers to do; instead, the P&C could run it. Phil ok with disco if P&C run it.
- Caroline pointed out that many children have sport on weekdays.
- Phil suggested we negotiate with afters. There is a parent who has been the D.J. in the past.
- Question from Hayley, can we include K to 2? Discussion surrounding staggering times for the different year groups.
- Joel asked whether anyone would like to do a project plan for the school disco, and after no response, he stated he would ask his wife.

#### **10. Communications**

- Discussion around improving communication. Ideas suggested included:
  - i. Circulating on the year reps email the secretary email if parents and carers require more information about the upcoming meetings
  - ii. Including dates for forthcoming meetings (rather than weeks of term).
  - iii. Including agenda items.
  - iv. When parents and carers are asked at the start of the year to provide their details to the year rep, include a request for consent for the P&C to contact with upcoming P&C related events.

#### **11. School house shirt fundraiser**

- Joel stated that Zoe would present at a future meeting.

**12. Date of next meeting:**

18:30, Wednesday 15 June 2022 online

**13. Date of next A.G.M.:**

18:30, Wednesday 7 September 2022

## **Appendix A Principal's Report**

Aranda School P&C – 11.5.2022

### **Covid Protocols:**

Some changes in Covid protocols at Aranda were communicated to families last week. The response has been very pleasing and much appreciated.

- Parents and Carers can enter school grounds for Dropoff and Pickups.
- All classes (P-6) to start at 9:00am and finish at 3:00pm.
- Parents and carers are welcome back to outdoor events.
- Visitors, parents and carers must make an appointment to enter school buildings. All access to school buildings must be via sign in at the front office.
- Students no longer need to operate in cohorts. We intend to restrict times when cohorts mix.
- All staff will continue to wear masks when physical distancing of 1.5m can't be maintained. No masks outdoors.

### **End of year concert:**

We intend to proceed – date to follow

### **Intended upgrade for 'Senior' playground:**

This could be a P&C project.

### **Fence:**

I have surveyed the year 5/6 children and the staff. Next step will be our parent/carer survey. This will go home with Pros and Cons.

Education Directorate has assured me that the Aranda School Community will be consulted about the fence design and layout.

Please note – We begin our Disability Education Program in 2023

### **Pupil Free Days:**

2022 has been challenging. The unique circumstances, operational requirements and restrictions as well as the teacher shortage impacted broadly on major aspects of our school operations. Due to significant staff shortages, teachers throughout Term 1 relinquished their planning time to maintain duty of care for all our students. The staff planning days will provide our teachers with the much needed opportunity to catch up on their planning, work in teams to moderate student work and develop specific student plans for the remainder of 2022.

When deciding the days for our pupil free days, we worked closely with the government schools in our area to minimise the potential impacts on the many families with children across multiple school sites of which there are many. A Friday was one of our preferred days but unfortunately our negotiations did not work out that way. I spoke with the Board Chair and the P&C President to convey our chosen dates. Unfortunately, I was unable to provide them with much notice at all but they did agree to our proposal.

When trying to make decisions like this one, it is nearly impossible to please everyone in a large school like Aranda.

- Two Preschool families have requested that one of the days be changed to a Friday because the dates impact the Mon/Tues preschool groups more than other classes.