

**VPS P&C TERM 1 MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020, VAUCLUSE PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARY, 6.30PM.**

Nadia Kaye welcomed everyone to the meeting and to Term 1 at VPS.

Principal's report:

- Back to school has been a calm transition this year implementing student welfare programs such as BounceBack and Kindness on Purpose. This year's kids returned in a responsive manner within weeks whereas last year it took nearly a term.
- Asset Management helped find funding for new toilets, bowls, cisterns, taps and tiling in the Kindy area Girls' bathrooms last year. During the Christmas holidays, fences were replaced.
- VPS has dropped a class in 2020. We are at 13 mainstream classes and 3 Support Unit classes. It seems to be a trend across the East. At a recent meeting with Dave Sharma he suggested the 2013 Abbott Budget as having an impact on the reduction in student numbers at public schools. Dave wants a positive relationship with VPS; he attended the 2019 Presentation Day. VPS also has a good relationship with Gabrielle Upton.
- In 2019 there were a number of incidents around digital citizenship. This year the school has connected with Yasmin London, former police officer at Rose Bay. She's been implementing programs across schools in the East (Waverly & Bronte public schools recommended her). We would like to run this program across all classrooms, including a parent evening around Term 2.
- We have new cleaners.
- The school fee invoice is soon being sent out. New charge for technology. New text alert program for absences (\$10K), so \$30 per child will be added to the reimbursement for school costs. The SAKG levy going up \$10 to disperse costs for one less class.
- Last year 80% of parents paid school fees, thank you, please let's continue this trend and aim for higher.

Maureen introduced the school Executive Team:

- Julia Morgan - Stage 2 (years 3 to 4). Taught at VPS for 8 years.
- Philippa Allen - Assistant Principal Coordinator Stage 3 (years 5-6). Taught at VPS for 5 years.
- Karla Aspden - Assistant Principal Early Stage 1 (Kindy -2). Karla oversees curriculum implementation, Stage 3 buddies, transitions of students between stages. Many excursions. Instructional Leader new role, looking at areas to target across K-6, using NAPLAN data to inform.
- Maureen talked about Data Conversations - every 6 weeks measures the progress that children are making. Margaret Nay assists to make programs that all children can learn. Eg changing the spelling program based on information provided by the data.
- Margaret Nay - K-6. Margaret works with every teacher and tracks each child across the school. She identifies children with additional learning needs, to enhance the curriculum or work individually with the child. The Learning and Support Team meets every Thursday morning to discuss how to support children with additional needs. They also reflect with parents and specialists (OC, paediatricians) on the programs. There is a Vision Support Unit to support children with disabilities.
- The Department of Education funds Margaret Nay 3 days, the P&C funds her an additional day per week.
- Jess Timbs - Relieving Assistant Principal. Been at VPS for 10 years. The Support Unit has 3 classes, 2 for moderate disabilities, 1 for students with autism. It facilitates teaching and learning programs. Each student is on a personalised support plan. There is assisted transport from the Department of Education in the carpark. There are 14 students in the VPS Support Unit – it has capacity for 27.

CLASS PARENT COORDINATOR: Anita Arnold: Class parents receive emails from teachers/school/P&C with reminders. We want the school parent body to work happily with administration body.

- The Fundraising Thermometer on the main building wall is wooden and faded, so we are looked at getting it repainted or removed. Looking at alternative signage to indicate where fundraising is up to. Anita to get quotes.
- Dean and Anita looking to re-laying name bricks at Cambridge entry so there are no blank spaces, put more up for purchase and build a fundraising brick wall. It's a way for kids to have their name attached to the school forever.

COUNTRY CARNIVAL: Nadia Kaye is coordinating the Country Carnival - VPS's biggest fundraiser which requires the most amount of work. Each class will choose a stall, and collect money or goods.

- Extra inflatable attractions have been ordered this year, so kids aren't lining up for 20 mins.
- Sponsorship option – we are seeking sponsors for attractions this year. Anita, Geraldine, Yve, Nadia are working on this.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Julia Hughes and Nerita Smith

- There is a new netball coach in 2020. No siblings turning up to extra-curricular please.
- Extra-Curricular activities are fundraisers for the school, and co-ordinated by volunteer parents, not the school.

BUILDING & ENVIRONMENT: Dean Ryan.

- Going to look into recycle bins as well as waste removal with Woollahra Council to bring down our costs and add more options (at present no recycling in playgrounds).
- Drop and Go discussed:
  - Do we need additional signage?
  - Cannot extend the drop off zone on Cambridge Avenue to the narrow width of Cambridge Ave near VPS.
  - What is the etiquette for parents doing the wrong thing?
  - Suggestion to use Snap – Send – Solve app. You take a photo and send it to council.
  - There are significant movements promoting healthy benefits of walking children to school. Can we actively encourage this? Park the car further away from school and walk.
  - We have ample legal parking, but everyone wants the Rockstar park out the front.
  - Can we implement a parent/ staff roster to help supervise safe pick-ups? In past we have experienced parents abusing volunteers.
  - Our School Zone is small, high speeds around the area are a concern.
  - We have requested a 40km/h zone.
  - We can't have crossing guards because our gates aren't ON the main road

CLOTHING POOL: Ché Dunlop

- There will be a \$2 clothing pool price increase on some items after a comparison with local schools' prices.
- Round of applause for Ché's incredible volunteer work, and weekly hours, massive contribution to the school, all profit to P&C.
- The new rain poncho will be available soon, clear with blue trim, no logo at a cost of \$20. Will cover backpack on back too.

SAKG: Leeann Kosanic

- The kitchen is running smoothly. We need volunteers, particularly years 3-4 parent groups. There are 4 working stations.
- On Tuesday's K-2 visit the garden, Thursdays 3-6.
- The garden needs more tools eg bigger rakes & ploughs - Anita asked Leeaan for a list of tools needed and will ask Bunnings.
- The kitchen recently had a food processor donated. If there are any other kitchen appliances or items you have, please email Leeann to see if it could be helpful.
- Two new chickens are coming soon, the old ones are retiring.

TECHNOLOGY: Simon Gascoigne.

- The website is ready for the P&C, waiting for content to full it.
- Discussion re use of YouTube in class - teachers will have a refresher on not using YouTube instead of ClickView.

TREASURER: Sam Peters

- Bank balance at 25/2/2020: \$137,943 (\$90,000+ being spent on sails to be erected between terms 1 and 2) = approx. \$45,000 balance to be put towards 2020 school wish list
- The P&C works with the school to decide how P&C money is spent. Mrs Hallahan discusses priorities with teachers and gives wish list to P&C. Principal has the final say and is ultimately responsible and accountable. 8 years ago, we didn't have a P&C, no resources, playground markings, no reading resources, no library. All classes have access to laptops, K-2 have access to iPads. Thanks to the P&C.
- Parent asked why take-home readers aren't paid for by Department of Education budget. It was explained that the school gets a general \$60k budget which only covers the basics.

REQUESTS/UPDATES:

- Maureen – fig tree root problem at Village High Road entry, there is white spray paint on the cracked concrete from fig tree roots pushing through the ground. Department will cover the costs of making this area safe. This is being looked into now.
- Kelly Clark, a parent who works at Origin Energy discussed their charitable foundation which focuses includes a STEM project, making solar lights for third world. Maureen and staff very keen to find out more and work with this initiative.
- Sandpit discussed – it was decided that it will be decked over it for Year 6 to use as stage, learning area, and also the P&C will purchase shell sandpits with lids for Stage 1 to use under mulberry tree.
- Suggestion that some parents might have a philosophical objection to certain corporate companies' partnerships. The P&C will ensure that any corporate involvement in the school goes through appropriate research and assessment and will only support partnerships that don't jeopardise ethical standards.
- Kirsty – update on potential branded VPS merchandise to sell at events, there is a VPS family with a wholesale business, offering us cost pricing. Potential items include - Keep cups, stainless steel drink bottles, picnic rug, esky bags, aprons, tote bags, reusable canteen lunch bag. P&C voted yes to purchasing some items to start with. A separate meeting will be held to discuss which items will be first to try.