

P&C Meeting/AGM Term 4 2020

Tuesday 2nd March, 2021 At 6:30pm-8:50pm in Library at VPS

Attendance of Teachers and Staff	Maureen Hallahan Karla Aspden
Attendance	Executive & Committee: Nadia Kaye, Tully Rosenberg, Jhonnie Blampied, Anita Arnold, Sam Peters, Dean Ryan, Che Dunlop, Justine Shaw, Simon Gascoigne, Ellen Hitchen, Chloe Moras, Cochi Dagani. Non-Executive: Katerina Safrankova, Barbara Roietebo-Cespeses, Scia Buchley, Suzanne Smith, Esther Nasso, Lilane Diaccic, Lee Adler, Clara Kann.
Apologies	Julia Hughes, Sophie Ashton, Leeann Kosanic, Miriam Hechtman, Yvonne Summerfield, Brigit Rubinstein, Jodie Blampied, Michelle Coassin, Miriam Hechtmen.
Absent	Yvette Done, Sarah Boswell, Dana Rothmuller, David Lucas Kate, Douglas Walker.
Parent Contributions	The majority of parents had made their Gold coin donations previously.
	The following parents made their gold coin donations: Sam Peters, Esther Nasso, Lilane Diaccic, Tully Rosenberg, Anita Arnold, Che Dunlop.
	(Apologies if we missed anyone's donation)
Welcome to Term 1 P&C Meeting: Nadia Kaye & Tully Rosenberg.	Nadia opened by restating the objectives of the P&C, which was to help bring the school community together. One of the main activities of the P&C is to raise funds for the school, to bridge the gap that may exist between public funding and the broader needs and desires of the whole school community. This community is made up of: All the teachers, all the staff, all the children and all the parents. A recent example of the benefits of the P&C's active involvement in school life has been the funding of the much-needed shade sails in the middle playground. This and many other school improvements are only made possible by the activities & fundraising of the P&C. However, the P&C does a lot more than raise funds: Its' activities also ensure a better communication and connection between the school and all the parents. This ensures that all the children get the most out of their experience attending Vaucluse Public School. The P&C are also active in organising things like social nights which better connect parents and make the experience of belonging to the Vaucluse Public

School community more enjoyable and rewarding, for everyone.

Che then informed the meeting of what the committee had raised money for last year. This was because it may not be apparent because we were in lock down last year. She said: "We normally have a Country Carnival in March that had to be postponed because we went straight into lock down just before it happened. Everything that we have paid for will be credited to us to go towards the next Country Carnival. We had the sails put in and installed. The uniform shop had to go online. So it turned into a classroom delivery system where on line orders were taken to the classroom and put in the child's bag. Because parent access to the campus is still restricted that will continue into 2021. The kindergarten grass has been a bone of contention. We did replace a large section of this last year during the lockdown, which seems to be coming back OK. Angela, who isn't here tonight, kept up with the book club, where the kids can chose books from a pamphlet and they get delivered to the classroom."

Maureen commented: "Special thanks to her, because that's a really thankless job which she does on her own. The books get delivered and when returned she takes them home and resorts them. She doesn't get a lot of feedback from what she does. And she does a lot. She is a silent trooper."

Che went on: "Julia Hughes is doing a great job with the extra Curricular. She had to get all the pre-school suppliers COVID compliant and up and running again. There was lots of juggling, backwards and forwards, to get that going through 2020. Another one who has worked diligently through 2020 is the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen & Garden. Everything was shut down because of COVID so they rearranged everything so that the kids could get into the garden, while they weren't allowed in the kitchen."

Maureen went onto say: "The lock down has been a real opportunity to transform the garden. Build new beds and really lifted the garden to another level with the labour of the students."

Che added: "If you look around the school there are also these beautiful murals that Justine & Leanna put a lot of effort into. We should also thank a couple of the neighbours that come in to help when Justine & Leanne are away. They help with the new chickens and the bees as well."

Maureen added: "It is worth mentioning Judy the wonderful neighbour who built the garden by the driveway. She is going into hospital at the end of this week to have a total shoulder reconstruction so the school will be sending her something as she recovers from the operation."

Che went: "I'd also like to mention Sam Peter's. He has been with the school for a few years now and she spends a lot of time doing our accounts and finances. So thanks to him for keeping going." She went on: "Last year we had only one fund raiser which was the Colour Explosion, which caused a lot of uproar because we couldn't bring parents into the school so the teachers did an amazing job with a fundraiser we put together. The teachers put the BBQ which we collected money for. The money raised from that went towards the Sails but some will go to this years project."

Anita added: "I would like to thank the class parents who were floating around in a sea of not knowing what was going on, in probably the strangest academic year that anyone has ever seen. Everyone was so generous with their time even though they had home schooling."

Nadia & Maureen added recognition of Che: "For those of you that don't know: Che single handedly runs the uniform shop as a volunteer. She does it with such patience because sometimes it can be so challenging. Some parents don't understand that it is a volunteer position and give you a bit of grief thinking you are a paid member of staff."

Nadia went on to praise Che's online delivery system and the amazing work she is doing.

2. Principal's Report: Maureen Hallahan

i. Welcome

Maureen opened by saying: "Welcome to our new Faces: Participating with the school at this level is a fantastic way to see how things get to work. It is a great opportunity to make some new friends working at this level and to see great role modelling. Because kids love to see their parents engage with the school at his level."

She went on to say that it was her and Karla's 10th year at the school and when they arrived that there were very few resources. There was no library or any of the demountables. There was no basketball court and the Kitchen & Gardens had only just been finished. There was none of the technology or library that we were having the meeting in & looking at. All the resources have been facilitated by the P&C. When she arrived the P&C wasn't a fund-raising body. It was a social one. Since inception it has raised about \$100,000 a year which has enabled the school to get the resources it has. While the school has purchased them, it has only been able to do this because the P&C has purchased other things which has made it possible.

The Learning and Support programme which is huge at the school is partially supported and funded by the P&C. For the last 8 years the P&C has funded this programme for one day a week, which has enabled us to spread the programme across the week. Maureen said that: "This is a very generous and altruistic gesture that acknowledges that the school is like a village raising all our children. The P&C looks after all the children not just a certain section".

School has commenced smoothly. Classes don't begin until week 2, because we wait to form classes until we know what the student numbers are going to be. Getting the children to go back into their old classes, with their old teacher in the same routine really alleviates some of their anxiety and makes for a smooth start.

There is a Positive Behaviour for Learning programme which talks about the school expectations. "Be Respectful. Be Safe. Be a Learner" we give them a good grounding in these principles before we move them into their new classes. There are a large number of transition programmes for kids who maybe anxious.

She went on to explain how the kids are introduced to concept of change and things being new such as class and teachers. They are asked to recognize

what it feels like and to sit with that feeling for a week recognizing that the feeling may change by the end of the week.

ii. New Kindergartens:

There are now three Kindergartens. All have settled in extremely well. Karla went on to say that: "The parents had shown great confidence in what the school was doing with their kids. Within a few weeks they are almost 'to the manor born.' They start going up confidently to the top playground. The children seem very settled and know where to go when they need to go, which is good."

iii. New staff members:

Marc Czerwinski, who has got Year 1/2 and Phoebe Chadwick who has got Year 3.

Margret Nay, has gone down to 3 days a week. Wendy Lonergan (4 days a week) and Leigh Coleman (3 days a week) sharing Learning and Support role. Margret is Co-ordinating a support role from Kindergarten to year 6.

iv. New Classes:

There is a new Autism class to replace two IO class. IO is intellectually moderate with IQ ranging from 40 to 60. One of the classes has been rebadged by the department and we have 8 new enrolments in the class, because there was a big waiting list in the area. That gives us 13 mainstream classes and 3 classes in the support unit.

New ramp for access.

v. Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL):

PBL is looking at classroom level and we are at "The Universal Tier" which looks at behaviour in the classroom. It is also introducing an additional 'token system' which will have a house competition attached to it. This year there will be relief from face to face teaching which gives every teacher 2 hours

vi. Relief from Face to Face Teaching (RFF):

RFF is a STEAM program this year coordinated by Ella Vial. There is something in the Newsletter each week regarding the activities.

vii. Kitchen:

Kitchen is back and running again including bush tucker garden.

viii. School Improvement Plan:

Development of the next four years school plan. Three Strategic directions:

- 1) Know students & how they learn. This is the big one looking at our NAPLAN target around numeracy. We have been discussing targets around the language of mathematics. Also looking at our writing data for kids who have trouble with vocabulary and punctuation.
- Wellbeing. This is continuing on from PBL. SAKG is a big part of the programme. "Bounce Back" which is a resilience programme. Also "Cyber safety" & "Kindness on Purpose" programmes.
- Building teacher capacity. This is upskilling the teacher in the classroom to be more effective in delivering strategic direction Number 1).

IX. Drop Off and Pick Up.

Maureen thanked Parents who have been very supportive with Drop Off and Pick Up. One of the big plusses from COVID is not having parents in the playground, which has provided a whole lot less stress from the kids separating in the morning. They are in school and working by 9:30am.

X. Parking.

Parking continues to be a very big problem. Particularly in Village High road. Most parents Park & Walk, which is fantastic. But there is that group of parents who continue to do the wrong thing. There was someone who was parked across the driveway of a neighbour and refused to let them in.

XI. Volunteers.

Volunteers still not able to be involved on site. Appointments are needed for parent meetings.

XII. Volunteers.

Parent teacher interviews will take place at the end of term. (Did not have them last year because of COVID)

XIII. Other Business.

Trees removed have been removed from site. In the Sept holidays an enormous branch fell of the tree. Luckily it happened in the holidays. Thank you to Parent Coordinators who volunteered this year. Meeting on Friday to discuss roles of the class parent. (Being 'to share information' NOT 'to pass on complaints'). Maureen re-iterated she was very open to discuss anything directly with any parent.

Changing of scripture from Thursday to Friday has made a big difference to the weekly timetable. Scripture is legislated part of the curriculum by the Dept of Education. The Ethics programme is going very well.

Invoicing for school costs to go out shortly. Usual costs.

Camp for year 4 and 5/6 is being organised for Term 2

This week is data conversations. VPS is putting posts on Facebook every week about what teachers do. Week 6 of every term each stage has a day off class where they look at data collected. Like writing samples, math's assessments, running records or spelling tests. Looking at value added & whether programmes are working. VPS checks the kids progress and week 10 we also do collaborative planning which dovetails with the data collection. What programmes are in place? Are they working? If not, how do we change it? Harmony day celebrations coming up. Karla said: "It operates between the 15th & the 21st. But VPS are doing activities between the 15th & the 19th March. We are teaching drumming as a way of communication. Rhythm is seen as a valid form of communication in many cultures. Then we will have a whole school picnic in the lower playground. Library has given us different resources to take into class. Online is helping with languages & different forms of greeting. The canteen is doing a sausage sizzle with special orange themed food. Kids can come to school dressed in orange because the colour orange represents cultural diversity and freedom. And each class will be making posters using hands to identify something about harmony. We have put in a request to use the song "I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony" to post on our social media platforms. Where we will be posting about the drumming artworks and things like that. For people that aren't buying a lunch order we'd like them to incorporate something orange in their lunch box. But something that is

healthy, So not Cheesys or Twisties. Everything will culminate on that 19th March celebration."

Meeting for IEP's Special thanks to Angela

XIV. Questions.

There was some discussion about the Skoolbag App and that it requires you to log back into the App to update it. If you enable the notifications, you may not have to log back in.

There was a question on why VPS was using Skoolbag, the newsletter and Facebook for communication? Maureen said: "Ruth in the office curates the Facebook page. It is generally just building culture and is used where we have pictures of things. If it is important information we double up and put it in the newsletter."

There was a question on why Kindergarten classes were changed and groups didn't stick together and go all the way through? Maureen said: "We see it as an opportunity for the kids to build resilience skills around change. In year 1 you are going to practise your friendship making skills. The one thing we know that will be certain in our lives is change. School is a perfect place to give kids resilience to deal with change in a structured and supportive environment. By the time kids go into year 4 they know everybody not just their class. And every teacher has different skill set so they get a broader and more diverse teaching & learning experience."

Che added: "One of my kids has just gone into high school. And in high school you change every class, every lesson. So, he has not had to adapt to that. But my youngest is in Year 4 and he is excited about which class he is going to get and who is going to be in it. They don't go being very anxious for very long, they start to get really excited about the change."

Maureen added: "When the kids go up a class, we always ask them which 4 or 5 other students they want to be in a class with next year. And we always place them with at least one of those students."

Lee asked: "I see you have done quite a lot with connection to country last year. Are you looking to enhance that?" Maureen said: "We study a big connection to country as part of Aboriginal Learning we invested in a lot of programmes and resources to deliver it."

Karla added: "The department wanted us to embed an Aboriginal perspective in a really authentic way. Whatever we are doing we try to embed an Aboriginal perspective through language, stories, geography or science so our programme reflects one small part of Aboriginal culture in a really authentic way."

3. Class Parent Coordinator: Anita Arnold

Anita said: "Nadia asked me to explain what class parents do; but I think Maureen has already covered it." She noted that last years activities had been hampered by COVID. Whilst being the operational conduit for school communication she wanted to build the social aspect within the parent community, referencing the monthly parent get togethers at The Watsons Bay Hotel.

She discussed the practise of fielding school complaints and the correct protocols she adopts (referring them to Maureen) and noted in all her time not one parent has followed advice given and followed through. It was noted that the level of complaints was very low overall. Maureen re-iterate that every complaint raised is taken seriously and responded to. (Although the school is not necessarily compliant to all issues raised).

Anita advised the group that finally we have got a class parent for every class and spoke to the benefits of being a class parent.

She went onto raise the issue of the "Path Bricks" at the walkway from the school gate on Cambridge Ave. She liked the names on the bricks and wanted to fill the blank ones, and Dean has agreed to re-lay the bricks so there are no bricks. It was felt that the bricks were too cheap they were last laid. Jhonnie suggested that a minimum price was offered but the amount could be what the parent wanted to "gift."

Anita will develop a proposal for the "Donors Walk"

4. Fundraising.: Nadia Kaye

Nadia raised the fact that the P&C were in place to raise money for the school wish list. One thing on the list was a new fitness station for the older kids where the Monkey Bars currently stood. This may cost around \$100,000. Anita said it was important to let parents know in conversations that these things can take time. She also noted that we had to raise the money before it is matched., which can take time.

Che also added that it always costs more because everything has to meet rigorous Dept of Education standards and meet a list of requirements that the P&C have no control over.

Nadia discussed fund raising events:

- a) Open Air Movie night for families. In Term 2 when daylight savings is
- b) Country Carnival 29th October. School Carnival where every class parent organizes a stall. It is usually Term 1 but because of COVID we will do it towards the end of the year.
- c) Mini Olympics to coincide with Olympic Games. We had Fun runs for 3 years in a row. And have just had colour explosion. This might be a better theme to capitalize on the international event around July.

Nadia said that there was a Fundraising team needed and would put something out about that.

Social Coordinator for fun community functions and activities e.g., BBQ's, family night at Watsons Bay Hotel etc.

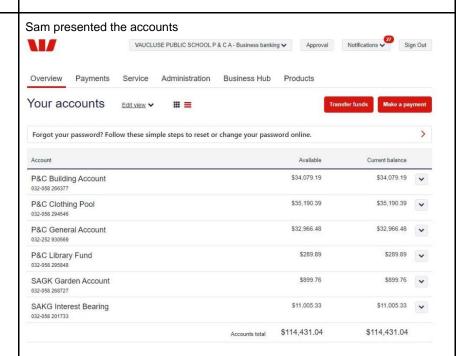
She said she wanted to get a few activities together where parents could get together and mix socially. There was an opening for a social Coordinator to work with the P&C to organise social things for parents.

Maureen shared with the group many of the things that P&C had funded. Like the front pitch, playground markings, the library, the kitchen and the garden. Every classroom accesses their own laptop and charging trolleys, electronic whiteboards, sports equipment, the sails.

Jhonnie raised the issue about what the P&C had done and the difference it had made was inspiring and maybe we should do a video to bring it to life utilizing old photo's combined with new photo's and video of the resources now available. This could be put to the sound of Maureen talking about the difference the P&C have made. This not only recognizes those that have made a difference but encourages new members of the parent community to do more.

The question was raised about Mother's Day this year. Maureen said because of restrictions there would be no site activities for Mothers, but the kids would be doing class-based activities.

5. Treasurers update: Sam Peters



The account balance was \$114,000 The breakdown being the Building account has \$34,000 The clothing pool has about account has \$35,000 General accounts has \$32,000 and SAKG about \$12,0000

The money in the Building account is earmarked for special projects. Tax deductible receipts can be given for donations into the building fund. There was discussion about the voluntary contribution into the Building Fund, as many other public schools ask for it. There was discussion about fees. Maureen said that last year there were about 60% of school fees were paid but before COVID it was about 80%. Che noted that despite this it was a lot lower in the past at around 30% or 40%. She also said that at Rose Bay Secondary they included a voluntary contribution on fee letters where you could tick the box for an annual \$85 contribution.

The idea of promoting the Tax Deductibility of donations at the end of the financial year to the school building funds was a good idea. It was agreed that this should be promoted to the parent community. Lilliane talked about raising

money from companies not individuals asking for donations. Nadia said: "We need you. Can you come on board to help us? We'd love to have you as part of the team." Katerina said that our target should not only be current parents but include past parents too. Anita said that there was often a lot of enthusiasm for sharing memories and photo's, but the money does not always follow.

After robust discussion, it was put to the vote that the P&C would like there to be a Voluntary Contribution Fund attached to the school fees. This should be attached as a Tax-deductible Building Fund to build the new playground of \$85 per child or \$120 per family.

The motion was carried by 16 out of the 20 voting members present.

6. Clothing Pool: Che Dunlop

Last year we only had 2 Kindy classes. Last year we made \$12,470 in sales. There are no big mark ups on anything Goods costing \$18 may sell for \$27. All the money is going into the P&C to fund items the school needs. This year with the 3rd Kindy class and lock down concerns we have sold about \$26,000 Che said Online sales have gone through the roof. The system is electronic and does all the work for stock ordering and financial reconciliation. Online has now overtaken store sales. Term 1 has high demand. Term 2 has high demand for the winter uniform. Term 3 has almost none and Term 4 there is a demand for kids that have grown out of things. Online there is something between 2 and 5 orders per week. It is a great opportunity to meet the teachers and students. Che went onto say that the secondhand offering was a huge profit center. That was because the clothes were donated back to the school, so the sales are pure profit for the P&C.

Che is desperate for a helper. She would not only like the company but if she has a family emergency, that means she needs to be somewhere else, then the clothing pool can function without her.

There was a lot of discussion about getting Che help. The group thought that maybe we could put together a roster of volunteers that could help on a rotational basis.

7. Building & Development update: Dean Ryan

Maureen put in a submission for Air -conditioning throughout the school four years ago. She is hoping that it will come through.

We need a grass watering team and working bee's including fertilizing the grass. Nadia said one of the hose attachments has just broken. Nadia said she would like to get some helpers to help water the grass. Maureen said Wingap have been helping us for several years. They employ people with disabilities who otherwise might not get a job. She said Mathew, who has an acquired brain injury, loves our school and being part of it. Maybe they can help with this service.

Anita to speak to Bunning's re sponsorship or donation of fertilizer.

There was discussion about the asphalt cracking in the lower playground area.

The dept of Education was going to fix this trip hazard up. Anita had someone quote an alternative system, called Root Pave. It was made of Bluestone and recycled plastic. It gets buffed so it is a smooth surface, but because it was

porous the water goes through it which means the roots keep getting water, which stops the roots moving. They move because they are looking for water. If we laid it in the lower playground the kids in wheelchairs wouldn't have to go across the grass the could ramp up and down this covering. Maureen said that usually this was a joint funded project. Anita would get a quote by the end of the week. Nadia said we need a new person to look into possible Grants and get 8. Grants/Sponsorship: sponsorship/donations. Nadia Kaye Solar grants are available again. We have been approved to spend some money to get it and we are also eligible for a grant. 9. Extra curricular A helper is required for her. Anita put forward that extra-curricular should be better explained to parents. Many don't know it is actually a fund raiser for the update: Nadia Kaye school. Anita and Nadia have drafted Q & A's for the area. (In lieu of Julia **Hughes** being Maureen said some parents are sending their kids early to join the programme absent) when they have not paid for it. Which is not the honest thing to do. We need to look up how to use Active kids vouchers at VPS. P&C is to investigate a band or music program after school in the hall. Nadia spoke to "Big Note" but they were not really geared up to deliver. Karla said she had tried it but it was really hard and they never got the numbers. Maureen said there was something called the Music Bus which may be an option. There was a possibility of some rooms to be used Tuesday morning for language e.g.: Spanish 10. SAKG Kitchen and Justine told us that there were significant operational changes in SAKG due to Garden: Leeann COVID. The kids are not sharing food on plates and eating with their hands anymore. All food is plated individually. We now do a garden class for one **Kosanic and Justine** week and then a kitchen class for the next two weeks. Which gives the children Shaw more time to participate in garden activities. So they can get involved from seed to plate. We had two grants which enabled us to put in the native garden. We sourced all plants from an indigenous run &n owned nursery in La Perouse called Indigigrow. The garden has been entered in a council competition in a school garden category and won a "Highly Commended" award. Whilst we normally have parents come into the kitchen classes as volunteers, this has not been possible in these COVID times. We usually have 4 stations running each with about 7 children. It will be vey helpful to get this help back as it is currently a little fraught. Maureen is going to review the situation. An idea was proposed of approaching Harris Farm (as a local business) for sponsorship for SAKG. Anita requested an updated list of things that we could approach Bunnings for, Justine said that Bunnings do give her some support already but this could be a good idea. Dean said: "We have a contact at Randwick & not the local store.

That is because he is the area coordinator for local donations & support. He is

	rarely at Rose Bay."
	Liliane said: "If you need electrical stuff switches, switch gear and circuit breakers. I can help."
11. Technology update: Simon Gascoigne	Simon said he was going to chase stuff about the website but then the school shut down. He said: "We need a different approach for the website. We talk about it and never get anywhere."
	Anita was going to send Simon an example of a great school website, she had found.
12. Learning Support update:	We do not have a Learning Support Officer. But Maureen said: "Michaella is now working for Macquarie University in the multi-lit area. Last year we gave her classrooms she could use for filming. And in return she was able to give us two reading resources that were worth a couple of thousand dollars for Kindergarten and we were able to train up all the 3 to 6 teachers. Macquarie has this fabulous spelling programme called "Spell It" and Karla also did "Mini-Lit." So there are some great resources we are able to access for free. Building the capacity of our teachers is important. She is going to use more classrooms in the holidays so we are going to be able to train up more teachers which will help us deliver in our literacy programmes in the Learning & Support area. While she is not here physically, she still has reach, which is great." Anita asked: "Does she know if there a Class parent that can help in this area?" Maureen replied: "We can ask her if there is someone involved in the programme that can help."
13. Non Portfolio - Open comments from Executive	Clara made comment: "We are about to start teaching Ethics next week. It has been really popular and really need more volunteers. It is half an hour once a week. The commitment that is needed is the training, which takes 3 weeks. It does require a bit of your time. Whilst it can be daunting because it involves paperwork and the RTA it really isn't difficult at all. The more parents we have the better the system is and the easier it is on the parents." Nadia said: "We will get whoever the coordinator of the programme to send something out." Anita added: "We got a really good response when we sent it out with the class parents before. Let's do it again."
Close	Nadia thanked everyone for their time and the meeting closed.