

Anzac Terrace Primary School Council Meeting: Open Meeting

3:00pm Thursday 26 November 2015

ATPS Library

Minutes

Meeting opened: 3:01 pm

1 Present: Stuart Blackwood, Adam Cheetham, Amanda McAlpine, Magdalene McCulloch, Amanda Coall, Sally Pitchers, Nan Zhang, Tristan Kaempf, Steph Tarbin Lindsay Royan Shaun McCausland, Adelaide Stead.

Apologies: Kaylene Taylor, Sacha Bridger, Christine Thomson, Elizabeth Page

2 Confirmation of minutes of meeting, 22 October 2015

Moved: Magdalene McCulloch

Seconded: Nan Zhang

3 Principal's report 2015

Stuart Blackwood provided a brief review of the school year including:

- The challenges of the new financial system with a one-line budget where all financial management is devolved to school level. Previously, school staff were responsible for administering a budget of \$240K-\$300K; now the school budget is in the millions. This has meant a great deal of learning for SB and registrar Sue Harrison. The challenges of the new system have been compounded by illness and personal difficulties for staff, and Stuart thanked Lina Kelly, Neil Strachan, Amanda McAlpine and Elizabeth Page for support and assistance. (Further discussion of financial matters held for Item 6).
- The loss of Year 7 students and uncertainties around the new budget saw staff members taking on new roles in 2015. Magdalene McCulloch has done a great job promoting ATPS through the art program and the students have enjoyed their art classes (with music). There has been a reduction and restructure of school factions, with a new format for the athletics carnival and new organizer. Stuart thanked Amanda McAlpine for her work. The staff has been asked for more accountability and transparency in their grading, which resulted in a more systematic testing regime for students. There have also been changes to curriculum, which is now administered by School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA), so that staff have had to adapt to teaching humanities and social sciences. Stuart thanked teachers for their hard work in providing more accountability for grades and making changes to programs.
- Stuart thanked Adam Cheetham and School Council members, as well as Janet Udinga and the P&C for supporting and promoting ATPS. The June market stall has resulted in new enrolments and School Council's support on decisions has been important.
- Looking to the future, staff continue to develop 'Vision 20/20' outlining where the school will be. Stuart aims for ATPS to be a 'school of choice' not of convenience. Staffing for 2016 is well underway with four of five fixed term teachers guaranteed and student placements underway.

4 President's report

As tabled.

5 Promotional activities

- Forthcoming market stall, Bassendean Old Perth Road Markets, 28 November, 5:30-9:00. Information from Town of Bassendean regarding the requirement to register kitchens when cooking foods for sale indicated that it would not be possible to include preserves among the craft for sale at this market and raises questions about the future viability of cake stalls.

- Other activities: letterbox drops and information at daycare centres. Volunteers (Adelaide) for local letterbox drops to collect brochures from School Office—to be printed by Stuart.
- Sally suggested that the market stall could be promoted by placing posters outside Coles in Bassendean and offered to create something for review by Stuart.

6 Impact of new funding model (Attachment A)

The Putting Our Kids First: Public Education report (Save Our Services) suggests that ATPS was better off in 2015 compared to 2013 by \$446 per student. Stuart explained that the school budget figures in the report didn't match figures on either the MySchool website or the reality of the school budget. The figures also do not take into account rising salaries, costs of utilities, or expenditure for maintenance on a forty six year old building. Maintenance is a significant issue for older schools, compounded by compulsory requirements for infrastructure upgrades such as the Education Department introduction of SoE4. Cost of cabling, wireless points etc to support the new system will come to c. \$40K; costs which are not borne by recently constructed schools where everything is up-to-date (and where much of the extra \$9million of school funding announced by the state government has been directed). In negotiation with the Department of Education, SB has obtained funding to cover the repainting of ATPS toilets over summer and repairs to an office in the administration building, which has been seriously affected by mould. The meeting discussed ways in which the parent community can contribute to the school e.g. working bees on specific projects.

7 General business

- Last year school council voted that wide brimmed hats would be part of school uniforms for 2015, as a transition to requiring students to wear ATPS hats in 2016. School hats help to identify ATPS students and contribute to their overall safety (e.g. excursions, public use of the council oval next to the school) as well as providing good protection from the sun.
- Question from Nan whether penalties for misbehavior needs some review? E.g. requiring students to sit outside the deputy's office in direct sun.
- Question from Sacha (in absentia) whether parents of children due to receive honours certificates could be notified in person (by phone or in writing)? SB responded that this was an issue for attention in 2016, perhaps becoming a role for admin staff rather than classroom teachers. Some teachers send a sealed envelope home with children but they can go astray; others may not have managed to inform parents under pressures of work this year.
- Question from Shaun McCausland whether children had access to water bottles in class and whether the school had considered the possibility of a 'sip and crunch' program? He noted that his child was bringing a full water bottle home from school each day and raised concerns about the dangers of dehydration. SB responded that this issue was discussed at the previous P&C and SB has spoken to teachers to encourage children to drink plenty of water. The practice in each classroom has determined by the teacher (some allow water bottles on desks, others inside the room on a bench, others permit students to visit the water fountains). Parents are welcome to contact SB to discuss concerns regarding particular classroom practices.

Stuart Blackwood wished all School Council members a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Meeting closed: 4:24

Next meeting: Term 1, 2016.