

Anzac Terrace Primary School Council Meeting

3:00pm Wednesday, 23 June 2016

ATPS Staff Room

Minutes

Meeting opened: 3:05

Present: Sacha Bridger, Adam Cheetham, Amanda Coall, Sally Pitchers, Steph Tarbin, Nan Zhang (3:20), Stuart Blackwood, Magdalene McCulloch, Amanda McAlpine, Elizabeth Page, Christine Thompson (3:10)

Apologies (late arrivals): Christine (delayed), Nan (delayed by meeting)

1 Confirmation of minutes of 18 May 2016.

Moved: Amanda McAlpine

Seconded: Magdalene McCulloch

2 ATPS Annual Report

School Council reviewed the Annual Report after the meeting in May and members indicated their acceptance of it by email to Stuart. Year 3s performed poorly in NAPLAN testing for Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation. The changing demographic of ATPS students, including ESL students and students with disrupted access to early childhood schooling, contributed to the results. Strategies to address the needs of these students and others in future include: ILNP program (introduced 2015); intensive work with students needing more literacy and numeracy support (eg. Shelley Keyser); resources formerly used by Literacy Army now deployed by teachers for use in the classroom. IPS status would mean that more attention could be given to students needing intensive literacy support. A wider trend of children lacking basic preparedness for schooling (i.e. fine and gross motor skills, speech) in kindy and pre-primary was also noted as a challenge for Early Childhood teachers and schools in general (not just ATPS).

Motion: that the Annual Report be recorded as formally accepted by School Council.

Moved: Adam Cheetham

Seconded: Sacha Bridger. Unanimously accepted.

3 IPS application

i) discussion of survey data as a whole

Parent forum: There was some dissatisfaction with the letter to families regarding the forum and lack of information about School Council at the forum. Similar views have been reported directly to Stuart and voiced at P&C on Tuesday. Nonetheless, 75+ people at the forum is a fantastic turnout (esp. compared to anecdotal evidence from other schools applying for IPS). Survey responses at the forum also conveyed strong support for the IPS application and a degree of trust in School Council's readiness for IPS. Classroom representatives have distributed surveys to families unable to attend the forum (results coming in) and Stuart is seeking perceptions of ATPS from local businesses that deal regularly with the school.

ACTION: Stuart to collate and circulate this information.

- the main issues for School Council arising from the forum: visibility, transparency, communications. Adam has begun to address these by: setting up a designated email account ATPS_Council@outlook.com; writing a letter for the newsletter introducing School Council, explaining the purpose of the forum, benefits of IPS and process from here on. Future newsletters to include ½ page report from Adam, answering questions from the forum and keeping ATPS community informed about IPS application and School Council activities. Photo taken of School Council for newsletter/office. Minutes of School Council meetings

March 2014 to May 2016 are on a USB stick for the office. Hard copies (signed by Chair) held by Secretary.

ACTION: Stuart to supply to Lina Kelly for uploading to the school website.

- the main concerns relating to IPS raised by staff: job security. Adam explained that the IPS process gave staff a chance to opt in or out – staff could choose to be re-deployed to a non-IPS school if they did not want to work at an IPS school. Stuart stressed that independent status would help him to keep good teachers, currently on contracts, rather than remove tenured staff. Magdalene asked whether an IPS board had much of a role in selection of new staff; the answer is that a member of the board can be on the selection/interview panel, but a similar situation already exists in non-IPS public schools (eg. P&C president was on Stuart's selection panel).

ii) discussion of recommendations by sub-committee

- Responses and additions to recommendations: Adam sought responses and/or additions to his list of recommendations (Attachment E).
- Making us more visible and building an engaged school community: Role of social functions/public events (i.e. welcome barbecue, morning tea after assembly, open meetings, parent forum). Aim for 1 event per term.
- 2016 public events: Term 3: Open night an opportunity for a forum/Q&A with School Council. Proposed date: Weds 14 September (Week 9); 6-6:30 (nb. a long day for staff on School Council); Term 4: Open meeting of School Council.
- Questions about the appointment of a board, raised at the forum: Stuart noted that IPS principals who now had a board were unable to explain the process to him. It is probable that current School Council members would become the board (or opt out). Training for this role will be supplied by the Education Department. School Council does not have to prove that it has the 'best' or necessary skill sets right now, but show that we are committed to addressing areas of weakness and implementing strategies to improve.
- Nan raised the questions: How sophisticated is our engagement with feedback from the public forum, surveys and assessment? How to analyse and present the feedback to show that School Council is addressing the issues, so that Adam and Stuart can make a compelling presentation on 1 August? How can School Council demonstrate readiness for IPS? Are current members willing to undergo training and commit time to new responsibilities of IPS? Can we demonstrate that we are willing to make changes? Do we know what the new responsibilities are?
- Adam suggested that the requirements for a member of an IPS board would include: at least 1 meeting per term (the current minimum); 1 public event per term; 1 day of training provided by the Education Department (2 days for Chairperson).
- School Council agreed that the sub-committee would continue to work on the detail of the recommendations. Adam invited more members to join the sub-committee but School Council expressed confidence in the existing working group.

ACTIONS: School Council members to email Steph on receipt of minutes indicating:

- i) Any further responses or additions to Adam's recommendations (Attachment E);
- ii) Willingness (or not) to commit time to responsibilities of IPS (in the first instance, to attend one day of training).

iii) feedback from most recent briefing day: Adam gave an overview of the process and what is required for the presentation on 1 August (Stuart and Adam to explain to a panel of 3 IPS principals: Who we are now/our school context; where we want to be; how IPS will help us get there. Half an hour allowed, no technology or other support, just palm cards/notes). The bottom line: how it will benefit the kids.

4 Other business

- Amendments to Constitution approved in May: Stuart has incorporated changes but the document needs to be circulated to School Council

ACTION: Stuart to circulate the amended Constitution.

- Promotional activities: School flyer to be updated before 2 July (P&C organising election sausage sizzle). Council members to consider strategic distribution of flyer before close of kindergarten enrolments (end July).

ACTION: Stuart to update the school flyer and advise Council when updated.

- School website: Stuart in discussion with Jumping Jigsaws regarding design of new website, similar to Mt Hawthorn Primary School. The new website will provide information to prospective families and include parent and teacher portals to access Connect.

ACTION: Council to check out Mt Hawthorn website and give feedback to Stuart.

- Sally asked whether there had been any progress on her earlier question about the possibility of running Edu-dance each year, or alternating drama with Edu-dance. Stuart is hopeful of offering some drama in future but can't give details yet. The extent of support among ATPS families for more Edu-dance was discussed. Members of staff noted the challenges of scheduling Edu-dance into the curriculum on an annual basis. Adam noted that decisions about curriculum were a staff/school decision, but School Council could request Stuart to seek parent opinion (eg. Survey Monkey). Another possibility would be to find outside suppliers to come into the school to run dancing or drama as an activity before or after school, if families were willing to pay for their services.

ACTION: Stuart to organise survey of families regarding support for Edu-dance. Agenda item for meeting in Term 3

Meeting closed: 4:33 pm

Next meeting: 3 pm, Thursday, 18 August 2016 (to be confirmed).