

School Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday 7 August 2017



Meeting Opened: 3:40 (chaired by Stuart Blackwood)

Apologies: Sacha Bridger, Adam Cheetham (delayed until 4:40), Prakash Shakya

Present: Stuart Blackwood, Amanda McAlpine, Rachael Bernsousa, Sally Pitchers, Nan Zhang, Sue Harrison, Christine Thomson, Magdalene McCulloch, Stephanie Tarbin (minutes)

1. Confirmation of minutes of meeting 15 May 2017

Moved: Magdalene McCulloch Seconded: Christine Thomson Accepted.

2. Business Arising

- Code of Conduct: Stuart circulated the revised document. Steph noted that the point about the composition of the Ethics Sub-Committee was missing – to be included under point 23. The School Council Constitution will need to include a new point to recognise the Code of Conduct (at point 3.1).

Motion: That the Code of Conduct be accepted as a formal policy of ATPS School Council

Moved: Stuart Blackwood. Second: Amanda McAlpine. Accepted.

ACTION: Stuart to add the following clause to the Code of Conduct and circulate for review:

23. The Ethics Sub-Committee will normally consist of the Principal, the Council Chair and a parent member of Council who will be nominated by the Council on an ad-hoc basis.

ACTION: Clause recognising the Code of Conduct to be added to the Constitution and circulated for review (Stuart)

- National Police History checks for school council members now required by the WA Department of Education. Sue advises that these are mandatory for members commencing a new term of service in 2017 and those who are renewed/re-elected in future.

ACTION: Steph and Rachael to complete the check. Sue to provide link/information about process.

- Promotional postcards: in process. Distribution for discussion at next meeting.

ACTION: Stuart to finalise postcards. Steph to keep on agenda.

- Buddy Benches and alternative recess/lunch activities: Christine has talked with staff about a range of activities at recess and lunch. These might include: knitting and embroidery club; chess; library; art room. Details are in development. Buddy bench – has evolved in relation to upper level HASS 'War on Waste' and desire for recycled plastic benches which are more expensive. Students will need to be trained as buddies – probably for 2018.

- Replacement of trees: Nan reported that Vince has advised that the gardens have a good balance of trees and shrubs. Some trees have been planted at the back oval (3 eucalypts) and there were fruit trees planted in ECB.

3. Principal's report

- The year so far: The budget is now in balance after shortfall of funds at start of year. Stuart thanked staff again for help in resolving the situation. This was a very time-consuming process, as was the visit of the Expert Review Group in Term 2 (see below).

- Annual Report: in process and will be finished for approval via email. Stuart noted that NAPLAN results last year were good.

ACTION: Stuart to circulate the Annual Report for comment and acceptance by email. Steph to keep on agenda as item for discussion at the next meeting in Term 4.

- School uniform Sub-Committee report: the Sub-Committee met to review the school uniform. They have proposed to introduce ATPS t-shirts for the 2018 kindergarten cohort in blue, gold and green. These t-shirts will be optional and inexpensive. There will be a competition in the school for the best design.

Motion: That there be an ATPS t-shirt for Kindergarten students, which will be optional for them to wear, beginning 2018.

Moved: Stuart Seconded: Rachael Accepted.

4. Expert Review Group report (Stuart reported as Adam was delayed)

- The Expert Review Group visited the school in Term 2 and spent three days talking to the majority of staff. Three parent members of School Council (Adam, Steph, Nan) and two parent members of P&C were also invited to meet the ERG. The group's report made some recommendations about processes and relationships within the school. The group commended ATPS for its strong and positive relationships with the parent community and for effective behaviour management processes. A committee of staff, led by Jess Patterson, will develop actions and timelines in response to the recommendations. Fifteen members of staff have volunteered to be part of the committee.

Motion: That School Council support the school in any action required to address the ERG recommendations.

Moved: Adam Second: Steph. Accepted.

Adam arrived at 4:40 and assumed the responsibility for chairing the meeting.

5. WA Premier's Education Awards 2017

- Adam reported that information about the award was received late in Term 2 and nominations were due early Term 3. An informal Sub-Committee of Adam, Nan and Steph nominated Tristan Kaempf for Primary Teacher of the Year (based on existing knowledge given the short time frame). There are many outstanding ATPS teachers and staff but the process of writing the nomination takes some time. School Council could be proactive in starting the process earlier in 2018, and aim to make nominations in a range of categories. It would be good to find ways to capture input from the wider ATPS community.

ACTIONS: Adam to begin seeking parent recommendations for nomination via the newsletter

- **Stuart and Steph will talk to P&C about ways to reach reach parents via reps.**

6. Promotional activities

- Publicising the Buddy Bench could be an initiative for promoting the school by how ATPS educates the whole child and engages children by recognising the diversity of preferences and styles of social interaction.

- Hawaiian Bassendean: Stuart plans to contact (see above). ST note: on website there are opportunities for funding for school group visits to Harry Perkins Institute (medical research); Scitech; incursion from Scitech; activities involving Perth Wildcats (basketball)

- ATPS choir: will sing to residents in the retirement village run by the Morley Baptist group and sing Christmas Carols at the Morley Baptist church, as part of a partnership with the school (retired people have been invited to listen to children read and to talk about their own childhoods). All people coming to the school will have current Working With Children Checks

- Bassendean Art Exhibition: Magdalene advised that there will be 10 school entries submitted to the exhibition, held in October. Approx 15 students submitted art to the Shaun Tan Award.

- Postcard and tours: see above
- Kindy orientation on November 6. Stuart would welcome 1-2 Council parents to talk about the school (in addition to 2017 Kindy parent and P&C person).

7. Vision2020 (standing item): Stuart noted that the operational plan was compared to Vision2020 before the visit of the ERG. Council agreed that completion of the Annual Report was an immediate priority.

8. General Business

- Stuart tabled the current one-line budget to show that the budget is in balance (\$48K in green). He noted that this had been achieved by not replacing staff who were on leave (meaning staff were working harder to cover staff on leave) and owing temporary redeployments/reductions in staff fractions.

- Sally asked about repairs and maintenance to the Year 1 toilet block. Stuart explained that the school is seeking to have old clay pipes replaced by plastic pipes.

- Adam reported that Elizabeth Page has resigned from School Council. He expressed sadness at her decision and appreciation for her longstanding contribution to School Council. Members of School Council agreed that her resignation represented a tremendous loss of knowledge and experience.

ACTION: Adam to write a letter thanking Liz for her long service and expressing appreciation for her thirty years of work on School Council.

Meeting closed: 5:20.

NEXT MEETING: Week 4 Term 4.