

Lucas Heights Community School P&C General Meeting 6th February, 2019

Meeting opened: 7:15pm

Attendance: As per attendance book

Apologies: Kylie Kelly, Julie Carr

Minutes accepted: Rachel Jones

Seconded: Jo Waudby

Conflicts of interest: None identified

OH&S Issues Identified: None Identified

PRINCIPAL REPORT- Janice Gooden

Welcome to new families and existing families. We have started the year with an increase in numbers in both K-6 and 7-12. This is really pleasing. The numbers have been submitted to the department this afternoon- this establishes the number of teachers allocated to the school. Apologies that classes in the primary school were not formed until this week- staff understand that this causes frustration and distress for some, but classes cannot be finalised until it is known whether the increase in students is enough for another class to be formed. It would be too disruptive to put children in classes and then have to change them if there is a change in the number of students in the first week of school.

Over the holidays two water coolers which are accessible for students in wheelchairs have been installed: one in the primary and one in the high school. This has been funded through disability funding.

Parents may be aware of a press release announcing that LHCS is being air-conditioned. The government has agreed to provide extra funding for air-conditioning in some schools, but this is not a straight forward process and schools are still required to contribute 50% of the costs of any air-conditioning that is installed. LHCS was successful in the first round of applications in obtaining funding for air-conditioning in the library and the hall. We have now applied for all classrooms to be airconditioned in the second round of the tendering process- these tenders are still being processed. In the meantime some classrooms have been airconditioned during the holidays due to disability funding which is provided for students with medical conditions that are susceptible to heat. Another two classrooms are being airconditioned- the request and paperwork for the two rooms is being processed by the NSW DoE currently and should be approved shortly.

Signed by

DEPUTY REPORT PRIMARY- Carolyn Lakiss

There has been an increase in numbers in the primary. This year there will be 2 straight kindergarten classes with the remaining classes all multi-stage. Today interviews were conducted for a new 5/6 teacher- Dylan Smith was successful and will start on Monday.

The new process of ordering textbooks through Harpers Books online seems to have worked well. Anyone who missed ordering can still place an order online and books will be provided through the school.

Next term K-6 is going to trial no paper notes coming home. From next week information will go out on School Enews, Facebook and the school website advising that this is happening so parents have time to prepare (e.g. to download School Enews). The parent portal will not be a primary source of communication. At the moment parents will need to print notes to sign and return to school, but the school is looking into apps which allow for electronic permissions. Handwritten notes are also acceptable. A parent suggested that some paper notes may be available for parents paying at the office who do not have access to printers. Parents also suggested that the School Bag app used in other schools may be more effective than School Enews. Staff will look into these options.

Thank you for everyone involved in the swimming carnival, particularly staff and the year 9 marine studies students who assisted.

DEPUTY REPORT HIGH SCHOOL- Davide Foti

2018 HSC results continues positive trend of improvement in top band results. 3% of students got ATAR of 98 and above.

Staff are interested in feedback from those who attended high school presentation ceremonies- particularly about it being split into two ceremonies. There are other options eg an afternoon or evening single event. P&C could become involved with catering for the event. It was noted that some parents currently need to attend 3-4 events and that when they take place during the day it doesn't cater for working families. Other parents appreciated that the ceremonies were not excessively long. Some parents would prefer to have a K-12 presentation event, whilst others were not keen. It was suggested that this could perhaps be done every second year.

The school has received information that parents should be carefully monitoring their children if they are using a gaming site called Discord. It is not well monitored and there have already been some instances of grooming take place through this site.

Open night for high school is on 28th Feb- the Principal's address will be at 6pm. P&C were asked to organise some volunteers for letterbox drops in the local area to advertise the event.

Homework club was well attended last year and the school hopes it can continue to grow this year. It is possible that year 6 students will also be invited to attend. There are already some students from last years Year 12 committed to assisting with tutoring.

P&C were asked to contribute \$4000 to assist with funding this. Staff would prefer not to charge students for attending as this may deter students from attending. Parents spoke about the positive impact it has had for their children. Motion moved by Rachel Jones to provide \$4000 to fund tutors for homework club. Motion seconded by Elizabeth Hastings. The motion was passed.

A parent raised concern that this money is being spent on the homework club to benefit high school students when families in the junior school are being asked to pay \$200 a term for programs to help students who are struggling with reading. It was noted that reading forms the building blocks for future learning and it would be good if the P&C could provide some support for this program as well. The school already funds reading support programs and last year conducted an extensive review of the Star Program to determine whether it added extra value. The review found that the program was highly valued by parents whose children had participated. The Star program cost about \$10,000 and was originally funded by P&C but is now funded by the parents of students involved. Rachel Jones moved a motion that P&C provide \$4000 towards the cost of this program, reducing costs for families who need it. Natalie Chapman seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Parents were reminded that funding for programs such as homework club and reading support can only be supported by P&C if parents contribute with fundraising.

There have been issues occurring with the Parent Portal statewide. Technicians are working to fix it- they will hopefully be resolved soon.

The school is continuing with accelerating students who are capable of work beyond their grade level. 4 year 6 students are starting year 7 maths this year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT- Rachel Jones

Welcome to new and existing families. If you would like to become a P&C member it costs just \$2 and this allows you to vote on decisions and elect a new committee next month at the AGM. Please see our treasurer; Jo if you would like to join. If you are interested in a position on the P&C or in organising a small fundraising project, we have lots of opportunities that we welcome parents to consider. Our school canteen really values any assistance you can offer, even if it is just one morning a term. We have opportunities for parents to join a working party to assist in planning for the community building grant received late in 2018. If you would like more information; please feel free to speak with a committee member, myself or email P&C. If you would prefer to attend meetings simply to stay informed we very much welcome those members as well.

I hope the transition from holidays to the school routine has been a smooth one for your family. This year our family has Annie in year 8, Tara in year 5 and Ryan in year 3. They seem very content to be back at school and blissfully tired at the end of the school day. I think they find the hum of routine a reassuring thing; at least for a few more weeks. It can be an anxious time as kids adjust to a new classroom, teacher expectations and meet new friends but I think it's important to give teachers and kids more time to establish routines and find their feet.

I was lucky enough to attend the primary but not the HS swimming carnival. It was just amazing to see the efforts and skill of all those that participated. I'm really looking forward to attending the HS and primary upcoming Zone Swimming Carnivals.

Another great way to stay informed is via the school's official Facebook page or the School E News app – for primary. For HS it would be logging into the parent portal. I find that this, combined with notes and verbal messages home provide a really adequate level of communication with the school. I choose to limit my own social media groups to positive and informative parent forums. I don't like having negativity around me so if I have a concern I approach the school directly. I have found that a note to the teacher or a phone call to the office works well in primary. In HS an email to the year advisor has been a great first point of contact. When parent teacher interviews are offered; I absolutely value the opportunity to meet with staff.

If you have a concern and you are unsure about how to approach the school; P&C can assist you. On P&C nights Mrs Gooden is available from 6.45-7.15 to informally chat, answer questions and provide information about the school.

SECRETARY REPORT- Lucy Cullum

Elections for representatives on the P&C Federation are taking place soon. Information is available on the Federation website about how to make nominations and/or register to vote.

Registrations for the P&C Conference on 1st and 2nd March remain open for anyone who is interested. Rachel and Lucy will be attending and participating in workshops on grant writing, P&C member portal and mental health. If anyone else is interested in attending registration information can be found on the P&C Federation website.

The P&C Federation has started a new Members Portal P&Cs can access information useful for running events. We may wish to sign up for this- Rachel will attend a workshop on it at the P&C Conference to find out more. If signing up for the Members Portal it is preferable for us to have an official P&C Association email address. There are a number of advantages to signing up for one of these emails, although we will need to consider potential problems associated with changing from the existing gmail address.

The P&C Federation is hosting state wide information sessions over the coming month. For anyone interested in attending, one will be held at Forest Lodge Public School on 12th March, another at Birchgrove Public School on 26th of March.

The P&C has been sent information about purchasing Student Injury Insurance. Schools do not automatically have this. The insurance cover accident related expenses such as non-medicare funded medical expenses, dental, clothing allowance, emergency transport, bedcare, tutoring and can be purchased by either the school or P&C. It is not overly expensive- based on the basic information provided it would be \$2890 for a school of our size. It was agreed that we should request a more detailed quote. Lucy to follow up on this.

Wednesday 6th March is officially P&C day- P&Cs are encouraged to arrange events to acknowledge the efforts of volunteers and contributions P&C makes to the school. This is the date of our next meeting and AGM, so the date can be acknowledged at the meeting. If anyone has suggestions for other ways for it to be acknowledged they can contact the P&C through lhcspscandc@gmail.com

TREASURER REPORT- Jo Waudby

The accounts with the auditor at the moment- these should come back for the next meeting.

There is currently \$35000 in the account- \$13000 allocated to the learning commons from Trivia night.

Outgoings last month were for presentatons day awards. Big W kindly contributed to this by donating some gift vouchers.

GRANTS- Kylie DeCesare

We have been successful in winning a Community Building Partnership grant for \$25000 to build a universal outdoor learning area and playspace. This will include amphitheatre type seating and some outdoor play equipment and will be accessible for all students. It is proposed to be built in the “grass” area outside the junior hall. In the grant application, the first of three stages would cost \$40000 so more money needs to be raised towards the project. One way to do this would be to put the grant money towards materials and ask for donations from the community for landscaping and labour. Parents may also be asked to assist with a working bee.

We need a working group to put thoughts and expertise into organising this. Stage one needs to be completed by March next year. It was proposed that Rachel, Kylie and interested executive will meet with Melanie Gibbons (who has been invited to the school to see where the project will be) and then put out a formal expression of interest request for parents and other parties who want to work on the committee.

INNOVATION IN EDUCATION- Natalie Chapman

New grant opportunities are now open. Natalie has created a database of grant opportunities and sent this through to Kylie.

Natalie will pass on information about maths programs that have been designed to be more engaging for students.

All Systems Go is a work experience program related to STEM. Only disadvantaged schools are eligible (LHCS does not qualify), but Natalie has contacted to see if there may be another way that we can access the program.

Prof Lisa Harvey-Smith an astrophysicist who is a STEM ambassador. Discussions about making STEM more exciting and accessible for students, particularly girls. Natalie is communicating with her about opportunities for the school.

PRIMARY ETHICS COORDINATOR- Freda VanWyngaardt

Freda has taken over the role of coordinating ethics within the school. It is hoped that we can build on the work that was done last year. However, as both of the teachers we had last year are no longer available ethics classes cannot proceed this year. We need new teachers and any parent, grandparent, member of the community who is interested is encouraged to get involved. Training is provided by the Primary School Ethics coordinators. At the moment it is unclear how we can advertise for new teachers whilst complying with the guidelines so the word may need to be spread via word of mouth.

HELPFUL RESOURCES/ INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Links were shared for information about the Healthy School Canteens initiative which needs to be completely rolled out this year. It was noted that some schools have a P&C volunteer act as a canteen coordinator. Such a role would not be expected to interfere with Marion and Shannon's very effective management of the canteen, but could provide support through coordinating parent volunteer rosters, creating and managing surveys at the request of canteen management. This could be perhaps considered for future committee roles.

Healthy School Canteens

<https://healthyschoolcanteens.nsw.gov.au/parents-students-and-community/how-you-can-help>

Video Case Studies

<https://healthyschoolcanteens.nsw.gov.au/about-the-strategy/video-case-studies>

The Police Child Safety Handbook is a great resource which has been shared on Facebook and School Enews. It is worthwhile looking at for all parents.

Police Legacy Child Safety Handbook

https://issuu.com/associatedmediagroup/docs/cshb_2019_first-edition_digital_-_u?e=2934354/66556295

Information about cooler classrooms is available for people who want more information about how this initiative is going to work.

Cooler Classrooms

<https://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/news/2018/07/cooler-classrooms-program.html>

Kindergarten Best Start Assessment has changed this year- this has been shared on Enews. There is an online tool that teachers can use so that the assessment is done on the computer instead of paper which then allows them to do analysis that helps them assess the needs of their staff.

Best Start Kindergarten Assessment

<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/92aa0ae1-868a-41be-9dfa-3b086ca31347/1/Best%20Start%20Kindergarten%20Assessment%20-%20Information%20for%20schools%2031082018.pdf>

REQUESTS FOR FUNDING

There is an outstanding amount still to be reimbursed to the school for the Interrelate Cyber Bullying workshop held last year.

The P&C Student Accident and Injury Insurance may be considered based on the quote received.

Canteen window- a quote needs to be arranged to fix the gap left without a flyscreen since the renovations. We have a contact, it just needs to be arranged.

Police Legacy has set up a site to raise funds for Constable Timothy Proctor's family who died on Heathcoat Road last week. Constable Proctor's death touched many in our school community- he leaves a wife who is pregnant with their first child. It was proposed the P&C donate \$500 to the Police Legacy collection. Janice offered that staff would also like to make some donations. Rachel Jones moved a motion to donate \$500. Kim Maurer seconded the motion. The motion was passed. Anyone wishing to make a personal donation to the appeal for Constable Proctor's family can do so at <https://probationaryconstabletimproctorappeal.gofundraise.com.au/cms/home>

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Raffle record keeping- need to follow this up with Lyndel and Kylie Kelly

There is an opportunity to fundraise by running a BBQ with the upcoming NSW State Election. A previous election day bbq arranged with very short notice raised \$2000 for the school. The event has the potential to be a highly successful fundraiser but at the moment we still need someone to volunteer to coordinate it. Anyone who is interested can express their interest via the P&C email: lhcsbandc@gmail.com

GENERAL BUSINESS

It was very exciting to learn this week that Karen Hodgson has been chosen as the representative for our region for the final of the NSW P&C Federation Volunteer of the Year Award. Thank you to the P&C for supporting this nomination. The finalists will all attend dinner at the P&C Federation Conference where the overall winner will be announced.

Many people in the school community also knew Fay Chiotis who passed away this week. Fay was a local businesswoman, prolific fundraiser for charity and former P&C president of St George Special School. Fay was an Intimo Consultant who participated in the recent Mothers Day Night Market at LHCS. Fay was a mother of two boys, one of whom, Matthew, is severely disabled. A go-fund-me site has been set up to raise funds for Matthew's ongoing care. <https://www.gofundme.com/fay-chiotis-foundation>

Please email lhcsbandc@gmail.com with any items to be added to the agenda for the next meeting, prior to the 20th January.

Meeting closed: 9:11 pm

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 6th March 7:15pm
(Informal Networking and Sharing from 6:45)
To be followed by Annual General Meeting**