

Stanmore Public School Parents & Citizens Association

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 21 February 2012

Present: Fran Larkin, Judith Flett, Gina Angelicas, Buzz McKenzie, Denise Watson, Janet Cooksey, Deahna Sheerin, Melissa Swanson, Sally Fryer, Laura Armesto, Sue Rose, Madi Morrison, Jana Hunt, Lea Dawson, Adam Shapiro,

Apologies: Neil Atwell,

Meeting opened at 8:08pm

Madi Presented flowers to Judith on behalf of the P & C and school and thanked her for her tireless work over the past few years as P & C President.

- **Minutes**

Minutes Buzz McKenzie verified the minutes from the previous meeting and signed them as correct.

- **President's Report**

Discussion of the \$803 dollars raised via parent purchases at Kidstuff Camperdown via their Loyalty Scheme. Stanmore was one of the schools in the area with the highest \$ raised and with this money we were able to purchase things for the new library.

Action Point

- Put a note in SNIP re the Kidstuff Camperdown offer and encourage parents to take advantage of this is shopping there

Treasurer's Report

- Sarah Cleary has been assisted by Deahna Sheering and Gina Angleicas and will be again in 2012. They noted the \$11,600 available in the Treasury account. \$28000 raised in 2011 to support initiatives at the school.

- **Principal's Report**

Fran thanked Judith and the outgoing executive for their time and effort (she stated the relationship and support of the P&C reflects the strong parent support in the wider school community). The year has gotten off to a smooth start. Stanmore is a busy school and many new things in place. The building and library are finished and the children and a number of visitors to the school have been suitably impressed. The children are very proud of their new library and borrowing many books. The building is to be put forward for an award for a competition run by the Institute of Architects. Money raised from last year's Skipathon is going towards the playground around the library and the Infant's courtyard will have a sandpit, new seating and tiger grass.

Fran talked about the Gonski Report – the first major review into education it's funding in Australia since the early 1970s. She suggested parents and carers take a look at 'For our Future' website and send emails with suggestions to your local member and the PM. The Gonski Report suggests a increase in funding to specially targeted groups and a devolution of control to school and deserves to be supported. This is especially important for Public Schools who support 75% of early childhood education in Australia.

The slight delay in finishing the lower playground has meant a slight delay in starting the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden – work can start soon. The garden is likely to be in 2 locations (need to plant lots of plants to meet requirements of garden) and need to be up and running by Term 4. The grant is for \$66 000 and is being coordinated by Ms Cassar and a group of dedicated staff. At present trying to source supplies and materials. Kitchen will be in old library.

Question was asked of Fran what extra funding would mean or 'look like' for each child at Stanmore. Fran said it hard to tell at this stage. Currently each child gets \$500 from state and federal funding. The Gonski Report suggests this should be \$8000 for a primary student so if that were to occur we would see significant improvement.

A question was also asked regarding the use of the school grounds out of school hours and weekends. At one time this was common ground for the use of the local community. Fran Larkin informed the meeting she was happy for the local community to have access to the grounds and the tennis court at the weekends.

Action point

- Garden working bee to be held on 3 March was delayed by rain. To be held soon to make a start on Stephanie Alexander garden.
- Fran suggested taking a look at For Our Future website <http://www.forourfuture.org.au/> and emailing local MPs and PM.

Calendar of Events

- Welcome BBQ held in Wk 1 was well supported by old and new parents. 350 sausages sold! Made \$408.05. Next year might hold it a week or two later.
- A vote of thanks was given to Laura and Denise for taking the time to organise the event so early in the year.
- Ms Annette Carruthers (Art teacher) is organising the Annual Art Festival on with the Arts Show to be held on Monday 2 April. Food and drinks will be available as well I as some great art! Sales of art help fund the school's art program. The P & C happy to provide food and drinks for the function.
- Easter Raffle and Easter Hat Parade to be held in same week (last week of term). Easter Hat Parade on Thur 5 April.

- Possible school library opening in Early May/early Term 2 Planning an 'event' maybe a twilight event. Fran is planning for some things to happen for the 'official' opening. There would be the suggestion that it would be nice if each child in the school could donate a book to the new library. There was the suggestion that instead a 'book drive' held over several days as was in 2011, we could have one to coincide with the opening of the library – to provide families with the opportunity to purchase a book for the school.
- K-2 disco in Term 2
- Early May Mother's day stall possibility
- Fran Larkin to send Buzz McKenzie a copy of the school calendar for planning purposes.

Action point

Hold it a Welcome BBQ a week or two later next year.

- Re Art show: The P & C will support this and use it as a fundraising opportunity. We will soon be asking for helpers and are aware that this is also the week of the Easter Raffle. There will be an Easter Hat Parade on the Thursday 5 April.
Carefully look at book drive – way it is held this year and time that is possibly less time consuming

Business arising

- There was also a call for a parent/s to organise a class list in each class – for social and friendship opportunities. This has been happening on an ad-hoc basis. It was nice thought the P & C to have a class lists to contact parent's re various happening. However, need to adhere to privacy laws. A few parent's suggested that at other schools an email is sent to parents/carers asking if they are happy for the P & C to contact them using the email details given to the school. Parents and carer's are given the opportunity to reply and there will be a clause saying that if we don't hear from you we assume it is OK to send you information from the P & C. This is standard practice at high schools' in the area.

Action point

- Re email contact with parents: Denise to look at privacy legislation and Fran to look into possibility of using existing email lists with option for parents/carers to opt out.
- Possibility of people/families who wish to donate to the school building fund (to take advantage of tax deductibility option) might wish to contribute to specific items in the Stephanie Alexander Garden Kitchen if the price of certain items was specified (so people may know how much their donation might help the kitchen).
- Fran told the meeting that quotes are currently coming in from builders and soon items will be costed. The cost of an item e.g. a drawer unit might match a donation.
- Buzz suggested that new VP Presidents (Fundraising) and executive meet together soon to discuss upcoming fundraising events.

- Use of COLA for evening or Twilight events issuing of lighting under COLA especially at canteen end. Lights need to be improved or cleaned.
- Judith noted that the school community have been notified regarding boundary changes for Newtown High School. A number of parents have been affected by this and responded. Letters are on P & C website. Dept of Education did respond and a new proposal has will be coming.
- Laura Armesto offered to be Grant Co-ordinator and join P & C executive and this was approved and seconded.

Action point

- Fran to have undercroft lighting checked to see if need replacing
- Possible donation towards building fund to match Kitchen items to be investigated
- Upcoming fundraising events to be discussed soon esp. re what needs to be done for Art show.
- Melissa happy to organise Easter raffle.

The meeting closed at 9:28pm