

Telopea Park School board - Parent meeting notes
Meeting 1 August 2023

Minutes

There were significant amendments proposed to the draft minutes. Additional support will be given to minute taking, particularly as the minutes reflected some members views as representing the whole board. Draft minutes were asked to be distributed to the chair earlier, so he can provide that assistance before it goes to the whole board.

Discussion on minutes – from previous meeting will be held aside and new version distributed.

Enrolment subcommittee

The French embassy raised concerns about parents / non-experts being involved in the enrolment subcommittee as they may not know about requirements of the treaty, AEFÉ etc. It was explained that the subcommittee would not be looking at redrafting the broad enrolment policy, and also that subcommittees only have power to draft advisory findings for consideration by the board.

Action: It was agreed that Kate G would draft terms of reference for the committee to be reviewed by the embassy.

Action: Need to get all of the committees up and running. Most of these (eg finance or student welfare) could begin with a discussion of the existing policies in place.

Parking

The board reviewed the traffic study (appendix 1) and compared to the traffic improvements proposed by the ACT Government (appendix 2). It was noted the study proposed a range of changes such as changing the semi-circle at front of school to a drop off zone instead of executive parking, staggered school end times, additional gates etc. In response, the ACT proposed to re-paint the crossing lines and cut some bushes.

Action: The board noted this issue needs a deep-dive to develop solutions to lobby govt for, and suggested the P&C could form a working group. Lachlan (student rep) wants to participate. Ideas will be brought forward to Jason / board for consideration.

Survey analysis

The survey analysis prepared by parent members (appendix 3) was discussed. A particular issue of concern was that staff, students and parents all report that the school does not value their opinions, and this concern is reported by a significant proportion of respondents and has been the same for many years.

The board the importance of addressing this in improvement plans and that the 'why' is very important.

Action: The well-being subcommittee and P&C communications committees should take a deep dive into the 'why'.

Action: For future surveys, Jason will ask directorate if results can be split into high and primary school to enable targeted responses to survey results.

Funding for school buildings – announced \$44mil for new buildings

- Consultations with community with start in term 4.
- There is significant opportunity to address broader issues, such as traffic and parking in the surrounding blocks and we should not miss this chance for renewal.

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Action: Board and P&C to pull together views on things we want, Universal design, students' input, innovative design of classrooms - important to have teacher input. Kate G to start and send for input.

School improvement plan

Discussion on the draft school improvement plan included:

- This should be sent to curriculum committee for deeper discussion (where possible)
- Noted there is little documented on the 'how' these things are achieved – Jason said that's in the annual plan
- Put a note that students have a slower learning curve in primary due to bilingual
 - Needs to cover student wellbeing, feedback mechanisms for students, teachers and parents as well as physical infrastructure.
- Add an explainer of what kinds of reporting and planning is done (3-4 kinds of plans) and include this at the start of each report.

School Annual plan

- School agreed to give board members a week to provide feedback
- Noted that these should be done earlier in the year (2023 plan done in August 2023)
- Needs to cover student wellbeing, how feedback is being provided to teachers and physical infrastructure.

School Board report

- Some changes were proposed, which Jason agreed to.
- Stephen called for any feedback within 1 week, Jason said timing is ok.

Support for French homework

- The Proviseur noted they may set up additional homework support and may seek some P&C funding in coming weeks.