



NORTHERN BEACHES SECONDARY COLLEGE MANLY CAMPUS

P&C ASSOCIATION



GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES

10th February 2021

Library + Video Conference

Meeting Opened: 7.10pm

Chairperson: Marg Martin

Attendance & Apologies: as per register

Marg Martin (President) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Presentations

Kathy O'Sullivan - Principal

Kathy introduced herself to the parents.

HSC Results

Kathy gave an overview of the 2020 HSC Results and ATAR's. Please refer to attached presentation.

Please note that the school doesn't receive students ATAR results – a survey is sent to students to obtain these results. Normally they would collect them at the ATAR BBQ they host at the end of the year – but this was cancelled due to the Northern Beaches COVID-19 cluster. They managed to receive about 75 responses.

School Plan

Kathy gave a high-level summary of the next 4-year school plan which will start in Term 2. Kathy will present the plan at the next P&C meeting.

Plan focuses on 3 strategic directions.

1 – Growth and Attainment – DET mandated. (e.g. NAPLAN / HSC results / Attendance / Wellbeing)

2 – Teaching Practice

3 – Engaging / challenging / enriching our high performing students. Focusing on learning so students can thrive and succeed.

Strategic directions 2 & 3 were developed after feedback was obtained from students / staff & parents.

High Potential and Gifted Education Policy

See presentation for details.

Infrastructure

Kathy has received lots of feedback from the school community on the schools infrastructure and how to improve it. The following initiatives are currently being planned:

Quadrangle - upgrade

- central focus area of the school.



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- Flag poles – need a minimum of 3 as per protocol – currently only have 2 (Australian & Aboriginal). Plan to add 2 more so the school can also display the Torres Strait Islander flag + new student designed Manly flag (student led initiative).
- New recycle bins
- Replace existing Manly logo + add NBSC logo on the podium.
- Handball markings

Renewal Grant Funding

Currently applied for 2 projects

- New Gymnasium - \$5m project. School has put up 20% of project \$1m. High priority need as there is not anywhere in the school where the entire student body can meet that is under cover. All whole school assemblies are currently held outside in the Quad. Also, the school cannot fit an entire year in the hall for exams. This is an entitlement issue – the current hall is too small for our needs.
- Student Bathroom refurbishment – \$300k project. School has committed to cover 40% of the project. Currently plumbers are called out every 3 weeks to the school to unblock the drains due to tree roots which is creating an unsafe and unacceptable environment. Aim to modernise the student bathrooms at the same time.

Unfortunately, the school was unsuccessful in the 1st round as we put up 2 projects. The assessment criteria were that only 1 project could be put forward and that it must be completed by June 2022. These criteria were not mentioned in the application process, so the school is extremely disappointed with the result. Kathy will follow up with the Department on this. There is a change we may be successful in the 2nd round which is announced in March as only 40% of the funding has been allocated.

The P&C offered their support to Kathy and is ready to assist / escalate if required. The P&C strongly support these 2 projects and believe that the current student bathroom situation unacceptable. Unlike most schools, there is only 1 main bathroom facility in the school for students to use so it cannot be out of action for any extended period. The P&C funded some cosmetic works last year which made a small improvement to the student experience but believe that the DET needs to implement a permanent fix to the plumbing issues – the band aid solutions are no longer working. The new gym is an entitlement issue.

Department Joint Funding – 50/50

- Science Prep Room refurbishment was approved in 2020 and works will soon be underway.
- What do we want for 2021? Up to \$600k available with school to cover half (\$300k)

Outdoor Gym

Over the past few years, the school has fundraised for outdoor gym equipment – but due to procurement difficulties this money will instead be redirected to resurfacing the basketball courts. Long term, the aim is to also install a COLA over the 3 outdoor basketball courts.

Recent completed infrastructure improvements:

- Green wall was installed in the Quad over the holidays.
- Lockers – have done 2 banks. Maths / HSIE. Still need to do the lower ground level.
- Bench seat installed in English – allows the classroom to be extended out into this space.



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- The remaining staff toilets have been refurbished.
- Other smaller changes – due to more students choosing science electives they needed an additional science classroom which means that PDHPE has moved from 230 to 127. One of 3 language rooms has been handed over to the HSIE department. The Language staff have moved out of PE staffroom.

Q&A with Kathy O’Sullivan

The schools rank has fallen from 10 to 13th. Can you please explain this fall?

Kathy explained that this rank is an unofficial one from the Sydney Morning Herald based on Band 6 results. It is not a Department sanctioned measure of school performance.

The difference in rank is only about 20 Band 6 results. There are several different factors that drive these results such as the number of students at the school, how many are accelerated & how many units students choose to do. Also note that the school can’t influence the results of other schools. The school is looking at helping students choose the right subjects and right number of units (must do 10 – but can do up to 13 – which means they have less time to spend on each subject). The school will continue to focus on strategies to help students get the top bands.

Do all teachers have Gifted & Talented training? If so, how much?

Yes – all existing staff have been trained in G&T. All new staff will receive this training. There was a focus in the last school plan to ensure all staff had G&T Training. It is a key part of professional development.

Are the new lockers you referred to going to be large enough to fit the Manly school bag in & large art diary?

Belongings are meant to go into the locker – but bags do not. Folders that previously did not fit in the old lockers, now fit. Unsure if the large art diary fits but bags can fit in the new lockers. The year 7 lockers are smaller and do not fit the bags or folders in.

Would we as a school like to focus more on physical activity and consider compulsory sport for senior years? Physical activity has been proven to boost mental wellbeing and academic performance.

Physical activity

Sport is compulsory for students in years 7-10 and is held on Wednesday afternoons. but not for Years 11 and 12. Due to the breadth of the curriculum (primarily extension courses) – are timetabled when sport occurs on Wednesday afternoon for students in year 11 and 12.

There are also opportunities to participate in sport outside of Wednesday afternoons timetabled sport – e.g. grade knockout – that students can get involved with.

There has also been some student led initiatives – Year 12 last year arranged to do sport on Monday afternoon as a lot had free periods during this time. Staff gave up their time to referee. It was a great way for staff and students to connect outside of class.

How can students make suggestions to the school?

While a lot of suggestions come through Student Representative Council (SRC) it is not the only avenue. Suggestions can be made by anyone. Kathy also noted that the SRC has an open-door policy – students don’t have to be a member to join and participate in the meetings.



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There has been a lot of success with the student led clubs – where students have found a teacher to sponsor an interest – e.g. maths club.

What is the timeline for implementation of the new G&T Policies? How will this transition into classes?
Kathy confirmed that the 27th of Jan 2021 was Day 1 of implementation of the new G&T policies. Last Tuesday the school Exec looked at how the policy will be embedded in the strategic improvement plan. They are investigating:

- Acceleration (currently only maths but other subjects could be offered. Some exceptional individual students are accelerated in certain subjects)
- Enrichment – making sure activities are linked into global events.
- Ability groupings – how we group our students in subjects.

Kathy also noted that the school will be externally validated in 2022 – Department staff come in and review what the school is doing every 4 years.

Do you think the COVID pandemic has affected the students and what's the school's plan to assist the students in managing the challenges associated with the pandemic?

The Department has allocated funding to support students who's learning has been impacted by COVID-19. This will primarily be through the schools Learning advisors – which will help identify gaps in student learning and ensure they receive the necessary support to fix these gaps in learning.

Interesting stats on university admissions and preferences. Given the discussion about understanding why some students didn't get first or second preference, I'm interested in whether the school has any data on degree completion rates of ex-students and any variation between students who didn't get their first preference.

Kathy explained that some students received other offers such as entrance into NIDA, Brent Street, Medicine, Kings College London. Some students are also still applying now for top universities in Japan & the US.

The school does get alumni in to talk to students. The school doesn't currently collect any data on completion rates of students at Uni – but will pass the query onto the Careers Advisor.

Do you have plans to educate students on internet safety? With new updates to many privacy policies of social media providers and us relying more on online studies how can this be managed?

It was Internet Safety Day yesterday. Focus is on students using tech safely.

The school also has a mobile phone device policy which was implemented 3years ago that outlines the use of mobiles in the school.

Can school provide hard copy of textbook to the student? The student screen time is too much, and I am worried for the student's eyesight.

If there are concerns – please talk to the year advisor about this. A lot of classrooms have textbooks that stay in the classroom and can be used. They aren't taken home as students have an electronic copy.

Could you let me know what the mobile-phones- in-the-classroom policy is or direct me to where I can find it on your website?



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Kathy clarified that they should be away during class time unless directed by teacher to use for educational reasons. e.g. taking photos / using them with the science microscopes.

The school aims to educate the students on the safe and appropriate use of devices including self-regulation.

Do parents have access to any aspect of the school portal etc so we can assist kids understand what technology / apps etc are available? I've been having a hard time finding grade specific information.

Kathy highlighted that parents should read the Weekly Pines and download the School e-News app to stay up to date on what is going on in the school.

Students also have access to google classroom for each grade.

Does the school have a sustainability strategy or plan?

If yes, how can students and parents get involved or support?

Kathy confirmed that the school does not currently have an official sustainability plan / strategy.

David Young (Vice President) is the environment champion on the P&C. We have a goal to be carbon neutral by 2025. The P&C would love anyone who is interested to get involved / get in touch.

David commented that the school recently had an energy audit done by the DET and we are waiting for the results. The aim of this is to work out where all the power is currently being used – as a large portion is used outside of school hours. The report will also provide guidelines / recommendations on what the school can do to mitigate energy use to help us get to Net Zero.

Kathy noted that the students also have an environment committee – where they discuss these issues.

The school has supported the following environment initiatives:

- Currently planning to install LED lighting into classrooms – waiting on a grant from the DET.
- Initiative to reduce paper.
- The Green Wall was installed over the holidays.
- 2 years ago, the school had 60kw of solar panels installed on TAS. David is looking to install more – (potentially doubling the installed capacity to cover daily energy use) – on the new gym.

Does the school have an anti-bullying policy?

The NSW Education Department has an anti-bullying policy. The school has a student code of conduct that sets the expectations around acceptable behaviour.

Will the school reopen the library after school / lunchtime on Wednesdays so senior students can use the library for their studies? Some students find it easier to concentrate in the library rather than at home.

Kathy explained that the school is currently looking at this this had to be discontinued due to COVID-19. Running these sessions requires a teaching staff member to supervise it – it cannot be a parent / volunteer. The school is currently finalising their staffing / budget to determine the best use of its limited resources. It's not a good use if only 2 students use it. Previously there was between 2-20 students who used this facility.



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Kathy also noted that there has been a change in school policy and Year 12 students are able to leave school in the middle of the day to go home and come back if they have free periods. Previously students could only arrive late or leave early. This enables students to study where they are most productive.

Parent Experience – Marg Martin (verbal)

Marg made some comments on her experiences as a parent at the school.

Highlights included:

- School has an open-door feedback policy and has been very receptive and responsive.
- Really special culture at the school. The students are remarkable. They have high respect for one another and the staff. The P&C did a survey last year and one of the key messages was that the students really value the diversity within the school community – it is accepted and celebrated.
- The more involved you are in the school – the more you are rewarded. Encourage everyone to be involved as much as they can – while acknowledging that everyone has busy lives. We will need help with some upcoming projects – so please get in touch if you have any relevant skills. In particular we currently need help with Communications.
- To stay in touch – jump on the Parent & Year specific Facebook pages. Join us for our meetings in person or via Zoom.

Video Presentation on what the P&C has achieved in the past 12 months. This will be posted on the parent Facebook page soon.

Presentations Concluded

Formal Meeting Opened 8.43pm

Minutes from the general meeting (2nd December 2020)

Motion: Review & acceptance of minutes from the previous meeting held on the 2nd December 2020

Moved: Marg Martin

Second: David Young

Result: Approved – unanimous.

Update on Action Items:

As per tracking spreadsheet.

Correspondence:

Email from the P&C Federation informing us that we were unsuccessful in our nomination of Simon (previous P&C Treasurer) for P&C volunteer of the year awards.

Kathy noted that there are Northern Beaches Secondary College Staff Appreciation Awards – that have been awarded to parents in the past which would be another way to acknowledge the amazing efforts of some parents in the school community.



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Principal's Report – Kathy O'Sullivan (Principal)

As per written report.

Kathy made the following additional comments:

The school needs to advertise for the vacant Deputy Principal's role and requires a parent rep to be on the staffing recruitment panel. Regarding the timeline, they are aiming to advertise in Week 5, with 2 weeks for staff to apply. Then they will conduct interviews with the aim to appoint someone into the role before the end of Term 1.

Marg explained that to be a parent rep on a staffing panel you have to have done a short training course that covers the recruitment process. She noted that as it is for a deputy role the preference would be for someone with experience at the school and has been on staffing panels before.

Marg Martin therefore nominates David Young for the role due to his 10 year tenure at the school.

Motion: Marg nominates David Young as the parent representative for the vacant Deputy role. David accepted the nomination.

Moved: Marg Martin

Second: Fiona Cahil.

Result: Approved – unanimous.

Treasurer's Report and Accounts – Romain

As per written report. Romain sends his apologies.

Ben shared the highlights of the treasurers report at the meeting. No concerns or questions were raised.

Motion: that the P&C accept the Treasurers Report.

Moved: Marg Martin

Second: Simon Cahil

Result: Approved – unanimous.

General Business

Green Wall – the P&C needs to know the cost of the on-going maintenance.

ACTION ITEM: Kathy to find out the cost of the ongoing maintenance.

Meeting Closed: 8.55pm

Next Meeting: 17th March 2021 at 7pm – Library / Zoom.