



Neutral Bay Public School
Ben Boyd Road, Neutral Bay, NSW 2089.
TEL: 9953 1798 FAX: 9904 1479
WEBSITE: www.neutralbay-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 17 June 2020 8.00am
Via Zoom

Present: Judy Goodsell, Victor Tan, Jim Becker, Kim Thompson, Jillian Skinner, Jess Keen, Christine Comerford, Alice Lai, Rachel Partis, Kate Murray, Poppy Moir, Jen Carew, Sharmila Soorian, Yasmin Tadich.

Minutes: Yasmin Tadich

MEETING OPENED by Jim Becker (President) at 8.02 a.m.

Welcome to Alice Lai and Christine Comerford who were nominated and elected as parent representatives to NBPS School Council.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Minutes from the last meeting were accepted and approved by council members.
- Update on actions arising from previous meeting;
 - NBPS web site updated to reflect current school council office bearers and members
 - Vacancies for two parent representatives were advertised in the school newsletter and elections held at the P&C meeting held on 10 June.
 - Two new parent representatives have been appointed to the NBPS School Council.

AGENDA ITEM ONE: Thank you to school Executive and Teachers for effort in maintaining learning over past three months.

Jim conveyed a motion of gratitude and thanks to the teachers and school executive of Neutral Bay Public School for their remarkable effort and commitment to the safety and welfare their students across the lockdown period.

AGENDA ITEM TWO: Recognising the service of outgoing School Council President, Kim Thompson and Secretary, Rachel Partis for their service.

NBPS School Council acknowledges and gives thanks to Kim Thompson and Rachel Partis in their service to the school. Rachel for her six years of service and her contribution to constitutional reform and governance for the School Council. Kim for his involvement and participation in the school upgrade as the School Council representative to the PRG. NBPS has sent a gift of thanks to both Rachel and Kim.

AGENDA ITEM THREE: Principal's Report

Judy welcomed Alice and Christine as new parent representatives to the NBPS School Council. Both Alice and Christine have children in Year 2.

Thank you to Kim and Rachel on behalf of the teaching staff and school community for three years work, particularly on the school upgrade. It has been a pleasure to work with both of you.

- School crossing supervisors on Ben Boyd Rd and Yeo St
NBPS is on a long list of nominated schools being considered for traffic supervisors.
Felicity Wilson has advocated on behalf of NBPS to Transport NSW.
RMS met on 5 Feb – feedback received;
- Traffic calming installations were declined
- Current number of traffic signs deemed sufficient. Report states there are currently 3 flashing 40km/hour school zone traffic signs around NBPS

Sharmila raised the issue that 40km/ hour school zone traffic signs on Yeo St were not flashing and one is obscured by branches. There are only 2 flashing 40km/ hr traffic signs.

Action:

Jess K will investigate with North Sydney Council, however traffic signage is the responsibility of Transport NSW.

Judy G will investigate RMS report re. number of flashing school zone speed limit signs.

- NBPS Upgrade – communication from NSW School Infrastructure regarding community survey

Report sent to NSW Treasury in February.

PRG was held in early June

NBPS upgrade is still to be approved and may not be in this year's budget given the current economic climate post-corona virus.

Council members raised concern that no notice of the online community survey was received, impacting on the ability for the Neutral Bay community to voice their views on the NBPS upgrade (for example on issues such as heritage buildings). During the Kindyland build, local residents were very vocal and community involvement was a contributing factor in the success of the build – highlighting the importance of robust community communication channels. Concern that lack of community input may result in an upgrade that is unsatisfactory to its stakeholders.

The members of the Project Reference Group (PRG) are bound by the non-disclosure agreement (signed by each member) regarding PRG meetings, plans and information on building upgrade. Once the plans (architectural drawings) are in an approved form for viewing, it will be made available to the public for comments and feedbacks. Until then the members of the PRG are unable to disclose any information to the school community. J Block was completed in a record time as a result of the then federal government stimulus (Building the Education Revolution). Comparison should not be made to the current school upgrade due to the uncertainty of the pandemic and the NSW state budget restraints.

School Council requests clarity about opportunities for community feedback/ input and how the community and school survey results and feedback will be used/ what role they will play in the life of the upgrade.

Action: JG to send link to community survey to School Council community representatives.

- 2021-2024 School Planning Process is underway;
 - Government school improvement agenda
 - Targets for student achievement
 - Numeracy identified as a focus at NBPS
- Overview and feedback from teachers re. teaching and learning during the COVID-19 lockdown
 - Prioritised communication to families and use of weekly schedules facilitated access to learning
 - Teachers faced the reality of a sudden lockdown, adapting and redesigning lessons to be delivered online – one 45 minute lesson takes 3 to 4 hours of work.
 - Professionally worthwhile, success through working collaboratively
 - Resulted in a greater connection with students
- Finance report tabled
- School web site has been updated. Please check details for accuracy.

OTHER BUSINESS

The P&C has received letters from parents and the community raising the issue of the appropriateness of naming Boyd house in honour of Benjamin Boyd in light of his alleged practice of slave trading in the 1800s.

JG stated it is not the position of the school to be involved in political issues.

NEXT MEETING: Week 8 Term 3 – 9 Sept 2020, 8 a.m.

Meeting closed 9.09 a.m.