Neutral Bay Public School

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# SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

**Wednesday 18th March 2020 8.00am School Library**

Present: Judy Goodsell, Victor Tan, Kim Thompson, Jim Becker, Jillian Skinner (via phone), Jess Keen (via phone), Rachel Partis, Yasmin Tadich, Kate Murray, Poppy Moir, Jen Carew

Minutes: Yasmin Tadich

MEETING OPENED by Kim Thompson (President) at 8.07 am

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes from the last meeting were not submitted due to an emergency incident.

Acknowledged by Kim Thompson and Rachel Partis.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

* All office bearer positions declared open.
* Nominations requested for School Council President  
  - Jim Becker nominated by Kim Thompson, seconded by Rachel Partis. Jim Becker appointed.
* Nominations requested for School Council Secretary  
  - Yasmin Tadich nominated by Rachel Partis, seconded by Kim Thompson and Jess Keen. Yasmin Tadich appointed.
* Nominations for Community Member Representative   
  - Jillian Skinner nominated by Rachel Partis, seconded by Yasmin Tadich. Jillian Skinner appointed.   
  - Jess Keen nominated by Kim Thompson, seconded by Rachel Partis. Jess Keen appointed.
* Sharmila Soorian invited to join the school council for a 12-month period as former P&C President.
* School Overview Report and past minutes tabled.
* School Council members thanked Kim Thompson and Rachel Partis for their service, commitment and enthusiasm for the school.
* Report for the year 2019
  + Agreement amongst Council members that there will be a reduced cadence of meetings while waiting for the approval of the NBPS school upgrade business case by Infrastructure NSW.

AGENDA ITEM 1: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

AGENDA ITEM 2: BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Judy Goodsell informed the meeting that the school is still waiting for news from Infrastructure NSW on the progress of the business case.

AGENDA ITEM 3: APPOINTMENT OF NEW STAFF & PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

As per the School Council constitution, there is the provision for three staff representatives. Brook Saltmarsh has left NBPS since the last meeting. The Council welcomes Poppy Moir and Kate Murray to join Jen Carew as staff representatives.

The tenure of Kim Thompson and Rachel Partis will come to an end in June 2020 and expressions of interest will need to be sought for two new parent representatives.

Action: Victor to place announcement in the school newsletter.

Action: School Infrastructure NSW to be informed that Jim Becker will replace Kim Thompson as the NBPS School Council representative to the school upgrade Project Reference Group (PRG).

AGENDA ITEM 3: PRINCIPAL’s REPORT

COVID-19 update

* Communication via emails to staff and parents/ carers advising of social distancing measures, including prompt drop-off and pick-up
* Upcoming community events have ben cancelled (School picnic, Grandfriends’ Day)
* Ethics and scripture classes cancelled
* PSSA sport fixtures cancelled
* Principal’s awards are being presented to students in their classrooms and photographs published in the school newsletter
* If students are well they should attend school
* If the Dept. of Education directs the school to close, NBPS is in a good position. Teachers have prepared a suite of academic and mindfulness activities which will be delivered via Google Classrooms for Yrs. 4 – 6 and SeeSaw for Yrs. K – 3
* Teachers will still be actively teaching as they would if it were face-to-face. Online learning applications allow for interaction between teachers and students. A remote learning day is structured to emulate a regular school day.
* The school leadership team would be in contact with teachers to provide support.
* Teachers are feeling the pressure of dedicating time to making online teaching solutions while continuing to teach students day to day.

NAPLAN: Years 3 and 5 taking online practice tests.

Thank you to Victor Tan for pursuing the request for a road-crossing supervisor on Ben Boyd Road & Yeo St. Traffic counting is occurring.

Action: Jess K to raise the request at the upcoming meeting between the Traffic Committee of North Sydney Council and the RMS.

Attendance targets for NBPS students will be a focus for improvement as they currently sit 4% below the 94% attendance rate set by the Dept. of Education. Travel outside of school holidays is a major contributor to non-attendance and consequently applications to take students on overseas/ domestic holidays during term time will only be approved if it is in the interest of the student. Judy will communicate with parents in Term 2 the negative impact of accumulating absences across the school life of a student and how ‘extended’ school holidays often clash with student assessments. Student absences hinder the school’s ability to achieve student targets and for students’ to achieve their personal best.

The School Leadership Team is looking to engage Corwin Australia educational consultants to assist with staff professional development opportunities to support numeracy action learning.

Professional Development for NBPS teachers: the school budget allows for two additional teaching staff that enables coverage for classroom teachers to access professional development opportunities and valuable time to collaborate with other teachers. Judy acknowledged the support of the school community in this area.

AGENDA ITEM 5: OTHER

Recommendation made that School Council should develop a plan for community consultation regarding the school upgrade, once the business case is approved.

It was suggested that a potential visit to Rainbow Street Public School may be worthwhile to observe future focused learning in practice.

Jillian expressed her dissatisfaction in the lack of information provided to School Council regarding the status of the school upgrade business case and where it sits on the Treasury timeline. She requests a member of School Infrastructure NSW visits to talk with the School Council. Specifically, Jillian re quests School Council is provided information regarding;

* A status report of where the business case and if it has gone to NSW Cabinet
* A schedule for upcoming PRG meetings

Judy responded that her report provides all building news.

Action: Judy will contact Anthony Manning to put forward a request for a meeting with School Council as well as put forward Council’s concerns. Sharon Sands, Director Educational Leadership may prove to be the more appropriate POC. Jillian will also contact Anthony Manning.

Jim asked the meeting if Active and Creative Kids vouchers of $100 can be used towards additional sports costs at the school, as a means of assisting families needing financial help. Victor believes that only the school bands can accept the vouchers and will enquire if they can be used for ‘paid sport’. Judy noted that these government initiatives were intended to encourage children to participate in clubs and organised activities outside their school.

Correspondence: Victor tabled a letter received from a collective of the P&Cs and School Councils of neighbouring schools requesting the support of NBPS School Council and P&C in submitting a request for an extension to the consultation period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the Western Harbour Tunnel/ Warringah Freeway Upgrade (currently 30 March).

Jess K will abstain from commenting until after she is able to see a status report at the next North Sydney Council meeting.

Judy will abstain from commenting as a public servant and a non-resident.

Other council members indicated their approval to support local schools by making a submission.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wed, 17 June 2020, 8am.

Addendum:

18 March 2020, 4:06pm:

The result of the electronic vote to support or not the suspension of the EIS process for the new Harbour Tunnels of local schools is as follows;

Abstentions 3

Supporting Letter 7

Not Supporting Letter 0

The letter on behalf of the Neutral Bay School Council was subsequently signed and forwarded to Victor Tan to forward on to the other schools involved.