

St Anthony's Clovelly P&F meeting (Term 1)

Wednesday 7pm 27th March December 2024

Attendees: Marie Iofino, Anna Novak, Adam Bartlett (Chair), Andrew Lincoln, Lisa Clarke (Minutes), Nicola Lincoln, Stuart McKay, Crissie Greenham, Mary Clare, Caroline G, Anthony Hull, Lara Hoiles, Adrian Buchanan, Kate Morony, Ornagh Griffin, Jane Hayes, Zoe Block, Melanie Lumanto, Orla Ingle, Kathy J, Ashlea, Scott Zeglin, Danielle Kelly, Pete Turner, Angela Blunt, Graeme Russell, Jessica Wheeler, Simone Smith, Angela Aloschi, Clare Moustacas, Rebecca Murr, Amber Jackson, Scott Fitzgerald, Ion Hadjihambi, Kim Hall, Leanna Langlands, Christine Callum, Rebecca Bayliss, Serena, Kieran Hanniiffy, Karla Pritchard, Adam Gwynne, Jessica McEwan, LHM, Abi, Peter Farrelly, Cynthia, Deborah Tados, Jane Hayes, Georgina Taylor, Alana

Items

1. Welcome (Adam)

- Acknowledgement of Country and Prayer

2. Acceptance of previous minutes (Adam)

- Accepted without modification by Stuart McKay, seconded by Nicola Lincoln

3. President's Update (Adam)

- Welcome to new teachers, parents, and class parents.
- Welcome night a success.
- Easter egg swap.

Playground

- Thank you to the preceding P&F, Paul Rushton-Clarke, Karina Haynes and Laura O'Sullivan.
- Equipment geared toward the senior school; children aged 9-11yrs.
- Budget \$90K, which needs to include preparation, soft floor, resurfacing and compliance checks with estimated additional ~\$17K.
- Climbing wall (~\$25K): discovery climbing.
- Playground – have received 3 quotes from 2 companies: Adventure plus and Forpark.
- Adventure Plus #1: rope type play elements, \$54 945
- Adventure plus #2, vertical play elements to avoid impacting racecourse. Potential safety issues need to be assessed, \$50 466.
- Anna Novak has had initial correspondence from Kidsafe who have advised strict playground rules with staff induction would be required for adventure plus #2 option, climbing on the vertical structure as seen in the photo wouldn't be allowed!
- Forpark, concern re adequate play value, \$70 950 but some but may include some additional.
- Proposals will be put out to the school community and parents will be asked to vote.

4. Treasurer's Update (Andrew)

- 2023 Net Income \$21921
- Current balance \$69 473
- + Anonymous donation for the playground \$25 000
- Audits now up to date

5. Principal's Update (Anna)

- Annual improvement plan discussed including the new syllabus that focuses on reading, stretching and extending students and student wellbeing.
- Many successful school events this term including performing arts, easter celebrations, parent teacher conferences and open days.
- Staff development day tomorrow will focus on embedding GENE program into the class.
- Social outreach program will be shared in the newsletter.

6. Marie Iofino update

- Sporting program at a glance by stage presented including carnivals, gala days and school sport program.
- This will be circulated in the newsletter.
- Thank you to Miss Claffey who developed it.

7. Parents Agenda Items

Out of school care

Transition from GOSH to SCECS occurring, with last day of GOSH 12th April.

There was a farewell from the school today.

The P&F will also be arranging something.

Background:

GOSH's contract ceased June 2023. At which point GOSH requested a month by month contracted as they had external commitments, which they felt limited their ability to submit a satisfactory application,

In October, Sydney Archdiocese introduced a mandate that all OSC within their jurisdiction is to transition to move to SCECS, noting final transition date hasn't been finalised. This meant GOSH were still able to provide a tender.

GOSH and SCECS both submitted a tender to the parish support team whose role is to review and provide recommendations to the parish priest, for final decision. The parish support team informed GOSH they would be increasing the rent by 83%, GOSH felt this would mean substantial fee increases to the families of St Anthony's and discussion around this pursued with lengthy delays in response times from the parish support team. It was then announced SCECS had "won" the tender and noted GOSH had withdrawn from the process.

The P&F committee has requested the parish support team to confirm the same rate increase was passed onto SCEC and to provide details what would be offered in return of the increased rent in terms of space, capacity etc

There are significant concerns about SCECs by the school community based on the reputation of the group in the local area. Adam has raised this with the director of SCECs and encouraged them to actively engage the school community to facilitate a smooth transition.

Anna noted GOSH carers have been encouraged to apply for a role at SCECS.

In terms of correspondence from the school, the school's operation unit constructed the correspondence that the school was to circulate to parents, which was sent to those that directly reached out.

Simone Smith has assisted the P&F committee recently to determine if there is any potential to challenge the decision and how to establish a path of conflict resolution so that the families of St Anthony's feel heard.

She noted based on the Governance structure of catholic school the Parish has ultimate power, and what has unfolded in entirely within the Archdiocese jurisdiction however unfair it is. Whilst the P&F approached the ACCC they won't be able to assist.

Unfortunately, the school community has limited avenues for recourse.

It was acknowledged by many the actions of the church are not in the spirit of the school and lack transparency.

Parents feel they're not being listened to and are concerned the children won't be looked after in the same way. Communication has been lacking, with parental concern that children aren't the priority of SCEC.

In the interest in transparency Clare Moustacas requests

- SCECS to meet with the school community and provide a change management plan.
- Information from the parish support about the process undertaken to come to the decision.

This was supported by many.

Action:

Adam Bartlett to further follow up with Parish Support.

Anna Noval to follow up with SCEC.

Fundraising for Yr 6 graduation

- SCS have mandated fundraising for external events will no longer be allowed to be held on school grounds. SCS have mandated fundraising is only for educational activities and charities.
- Anna has negotiated for Zooper doopers to continue throughout the remainder of T1 and Mother's Day raffle be held.
- Yr 6 parents (current and past) feel the event can't occur without fundraising.
- Bunning's BBQ suggested.
- Anna acknowledges the hurt and frustration of the community however is caught as she has to work within the guidelines and policies of SCS.

P&F involvement in school/parish events

- The P&F committee unanimously feel they have put a lot of effort into the school however decisions are made about our children without our consultations.
- We don't feel supported by SCC, parish and archdiocese and are uncertain about ongoing support of school events that are linked to the parish.
- This has been raised with the school operation unit and Vicar General as discussions at a local level haven't resulted in any action.

- Adam apologised to Anna and Marie about the impact it could have on them.

Responses were varied:

- The changes implemented by SCS/Archdiocese isn't right and some are proud to stand up for what isn't right.
- Strong sentiment that the parents love the school and want to fight to maintain it.
- Concern that taking the church from the school is inappropriate and Scott Zeglin has offered to help with reconciling with the priest.
- Concern the church hasn't struck the balance between being a business and looking after the children. It was suggested the school community clarify their concerns and presenting them as a unified voice.

Social media

- Anna Novak feels social media is a lovely way to highlight to activities of the school and has forwarded previously raised concerns re AI and social media to SCS.
- She reiterated parents can elect to opt out.
- Storypark was raised as a medium to safely share photos with families and Anna will look into this.
- Clare Moustacas and Zoe Bennett highlighted it's the parents might consent not the child.
- Children also don't understand why they're being excluded if their parents have opted out.
- Segregation has been discussed with staff and measures have been taken.

Deferred to next meeting:

Dispute/conflict resolution pathway

Sports program

Bathrooms

Idle Off

8. Close 8:52pm (Adam)