

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE  
FAMILY CONNECT  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – ZOOM MEETING  
17 August 2021**

**Zoom meeting opened 5.15pm**

**Attendance:** Janine Papamichael, Paul De Boom, Alison Krause, Janelle Santolin, Andrew McLean, Tammy Pickup, Bob Atkinson, Jo Atkinson, Peter Hume, Craig Blackburn, Cathy Zeiger, Ian Margetts, Sam Currey, Lisa Galvin, Kristina Cannon, Carola Price (P/T), Michael Papamichael (P/T)

**Apologies:** Nil

**Acknowledgement of Country** – Paul De Boom

**Reflection** – Paul De Boom

**Minutes of previous meeting:**

Moved by Andrew McLean and seconded by Bob Atkinson that the previous minutes be accepted as read. Motion passed.

**Parent/Teacher Communications:**

President, Paul De Boom invited guest Tammy Pickup (SMCC Head of Department – Technology) to talk about the review currently being taken on Parent/Teacher Engagement within the College. A google form will be sent to committee members to fill out providing valuable feedback to the College to maintain consistent expectations across the school. Feedback provided may highlight further training or upskilling especially for new staff. If Google form can be completed by the 1 September, and Tammy will be happy to report back at a future meeting on the outcomes from this survey.

Link below:

<https://forms.gle/KiredY3y2qahB17v7>

**Business arising from previous minutes:**

- **Kristy Goodwin Presentations** – Parent presentation will be offered remotely, allowing 40-50 parents/carers on site and others will be able to Zoom in. Student workshops have been postponed until further notice with the current COVID restrictions. Family Connect noted will carry over the funding of these student workshops when able to run them.
- **Year 12 Graduation Tumblers** – Janine Papamichael advised that they are now on site, stored safely until graduation.
- **Students Attendance** – Parents/carers are required to attend the front office to collect students departing school early for any reason, as SMCC has duty of care to protect students.
- **Arts Evening** – due to current COVID restrictions, the arts evening has been postponed to a date to be advised.
- **NQ All Schools Touch Teams** – Family Connect were thanked for the additional financial support given to the teams to purchase backpacks to secure student's personal property, as well as the travel assistance sponsorship.

**Correspondence:**

- **Catholic School Parent QLD – Diocese of Cairns** – Notification received that the CSPQ now has a Facebook page which offers a greater way of Community engagement.

<https://www.facebook.com/Catholic-School-Parents-Queensland-Diocese-of-Cairns-108542014870384>

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Kristina Cannon presented Treasurer's report. With COVID restrictions currently in place, Family Connect have been unable to support students with funding for travel etc. It was suggested revisit "wish list" provided by Wayne Wood to assess whether there is an area that Family Connect can provide financial support for. See list below provided at February's 2021 meeting.

On behalf of the College, I ask that Family Connect please consider the following items for **financial support** in 2021:

1. Continue with Family Connect Travel Assistance/Grant Sponsorship
2. Access ramp for new portable stage **\$14000**
3. Soundfield Systems - eight purchased in 2020. We are seeking a further eight Soundfield Systems for 2021 **\$16000**
4. Outdoor seating for students **\$10000**
5. Storage racks in new HOB build **\$10000**
6. Forklift **\$7500**
7. Tuck Shop equipment upgrade **\$8000**

### **Social Cycle Grant Update**

Andrew McLean advised Committee that his application for a grant through Catholic School Parents Queensland (CSPQ) to assist the Social Cycle group was unsuccessful. Reason given was that as we are a charity, you cannot receive funds from another charity. Other avenues for funding will be considered.

### **Principal's Report:**

Ian Margetts presented his Principals Report to the meeting including information from Immersion Day; Catholic Education Week; Assembly of Excellence; Subject Selection Information Evening; Year 7 Camp; Student Participation in TCS Athletics, Relay for Life and Business Liaison Assoc Breakfast with the Law; 3 Day Lockdown; Postponed school events including St Mary's Day, Year 10 Retreat & Arts Evening and HOB delays. (Attached with minutes for circulation.)

Immersion Day feedback will be discussed further at the next Family Connect meeting which will be held in October.

### **Diocesan Feedback:**

Mini Conference – Parent Engagement Day that was to be held on the 4 September, has now been postponed due to current COVID restrictions.

### **Cathy's Council Corner:**

- Family Connect President pleaded to parents and carers in the recent College Connect about road safety issues occurring at the shops across from the school, but still drivers are not adhering to road signage.  
  
Red Hill Bakery's Manager has been encouraged by QPS to install a chain across exit to prevent drivers exiting when not permitted. Ongoing discussions with Manager and Owner. QPS have attended and issued parking infringement notices, also targeted Sunbird Drive, will continue to police areas of concerns.
- Cairns Festival – commences 27 August until 5 September, at this stage is still proceeding. The Multicultural Festival has been postponed for a couple of weeks due to COVID.
- New culverts are being installed in Fairview Street, detours in place and work will take approx. 6 weeks.
- Speed change in Toogood Road from 60km to 50km is being monitored, motorists given a small window to follow this change, after that, fines will be issued if not adhering to reduced speed. Several streets, including Fairview and Windarra are also being evaluated as to whether a reduction of speed is required in these streets as well to improve safety.
- Children's learn to ride tracks have been approved by Council to be laid in Turner Park, Bayview Heights.

- Cathy was asked if Manager of Red Hill Bakery had considered the video suggestion to plead with parents/carers what impact their selfishness is causing these businesses – Cathy will follow up with Manager next week.
- Road Safety Week 16 – 20 August, (StreetSmarts – initiatives.qld.gov.au) information will be forwarded to school for distribution – publish in College Connect.

**General Business:**

- **Year 7 Laptop Computers** – Concern was raised about parents/carers having to purchase BYOD computer, no payment plan available through portal, was it possible for school to purchase and include cost in fees.

SMCC have been through several different models for computers and are currently following the recommendation of the Diocesan. Purchasing through the portal offers parents/carers flexibility and choice of Windows or Mac. Model of including school fees can present problems, students leaving SMCC early etc. Parents/carers are given sufficient time to purchase computer and purchasing through Portal is optional but have SMCC have found the computers offered are of a high standard. Credit to school's IT that they can handle and administer the different devices at the school. Computer warranty available through the Portal is priceless.

SMCC proud of the new uniform style (smart and stylish) and prices are very competitive, cost price plus small markup to cover handling. Other school uniforms are up to 30% more.

- **Kristy Goodwin Session** – Alison Krause will send out Edsmart slips to advise parents session is still going ahead – being offered virtual, so either attend school or zoom in.
- **Writing Session** – Janelle Santolin (Leader of Pedagogy) – spoke about the upcoming workshop. This workshop will provide parents/carers tools and ideas on how to support your student at home with writing. Will be providing tips and tricks how parents/carers can support teachers in writing at school and in teachers support parents/carers at home. Looking at having 3 – 15-minute sessions. Hopefully attendees will come away knowing process and language used at school and having micro skills to support students at home.
- **Adjusted Family Connect Dates** – please ensure that committee members are aware of the changes that have been made. (Will include within minutes each month.)

<b>Month</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Workshop</b>
August	26 August	Kristy Goodwin - Parent Session
September	14 September	Writing Session – Parent Session
October	19 October	General Meeting
November	16 November	AGM/General Meeting
November	23 November	Combined Family Connect & College Board Christmas Dinner

Kristy Goodwin – Parent Session – 26 August – more information to follow.

Writing Session for Parents – 14 September – more information to follow.

Meeting closed at 6.05 pm.

Secretary: Janine Papamichael