

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE  
FAMILY CONNECT  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
24 May 2022**

**Meeting opened 5.15pm**

**Attendance:** Andrew McLean, Craig Blackburn, Irene Blackburn, Janine Papamichael, Bob Atkinson, Jo Atkinson, Michael Papamichael, Kristina Cannon, Marina Dunstan, Jenny Coates, Peter Hume, Lisa Doherty, Renee Grima, Sarina Majer

**Apologies:** Wayne Wood (Board meeting), Paul De Boom (Board Meeting), Rob Anderson, Candace MacNamara, Cathy Zeiger

**Acknowledgement of Country** – Andrew McLean (Vice Chair)

**Reflection** – Andrew McLean (Vice Chair)

**Minutes of previous meeting:**

Moved by Craig Blackburn and seconded by Peter Hume that the previous minutes be accepted as read. Motion passed.

**Business arising from previous minutes:**

- **Year 12 Sport** – It is the preference of the Principal for any Year 12 student parent with concerns to arrange to meet and discuss with him. The current practice of a student excused for any school period including sport is available to all parents. Further discussions regarding sport will be raised at our next meeting when staff are available.
- **Student Safe Space** – Discussion by members that parents and students may not be aware of areas within the school during recesses. Jenny Coates will draw up a list of various activities/areas around the school that students can feel “safe”.
- **SMCC Sports Shirt** – Sport shirts will be changed due to the problems with the printing and will be dye-sublimated on the back of the shirts and have the embroidered logo on the front.
- **SMS Notifications** – Discussion surrounding improving communication between school and parents. Suggestions were made involving an App that is used by other schools that seems to be quite effective – Jenny Coates will follow up and present to next meeting.
- **Pixevity** - Members were in agreeance that a trial period of 12 months would be useful to gauge the effectiveness of this website. Moved by Janine Papamichael and seconded by Andrew McLean that Family Connect support the 12 month trial with a monetary contribution of 50% to the value, which equates to \$4000.
- **Social Cycling Group Funding** – Andrew McLean advised that he has put this item on hold, as it was difficult to gain traction at this time.
- **Parent Engagement Workshop** – Positive feedback from parents about the workshop and very helpful that parents who were unable to attend were able to review the recording. Parent sessions recorded are available on Parent Portal – but the following is the link for this workshop: <https://youtu.be/Zq8ZGw32L90>.

Parents raised concerns about the increasing amounts of social and emotional issues for students in today's society. Questions were asked about the SEL program, did it

include Junior and Senior students? does not appear to be consistent across the school. Student and parent sessions deemed beneficial.

Various organisations offer programs suitable for students/parents, for example The Resilience Project, currently being used by St Gerard Majella School. Other organisations also run programs, Kristina Cannon will research and provide information at the next meeting. Andrew McLean also mentioned “It Takes a Village to Raise a Parent” and has highly recommended this for parents, with podcasts etc. Andrew also mentioned a website which enables you to gain an insight on how to meet your most important life needs and the needs of others around you, if interested in reading more about this, follow this link: <https://phoenixcups.com.au/about>

### **Correspondence:**

- **Family Connect Travel Assistance/Grant Sponsorship Policy** – Changes to this Policy were recently circulated to members for discussion and approval. Members felt that the current Standard Contribution Table was not equitable, so the following changes were made: Team/Group Representative’s within QLD – the maximum amount was increased to \$4000. Sliding scale was also modified: CNS – TSV - \$150 per student; TSV – RTON - \$175 per student and RTON – BNE - \$200 per student. An annual review of this Policy should occur to ensure that content is current. Moved by Janine Papamichael and seconded by Bob Atkinson to accept these changes. Motion passed.

- **Applications for Funding for Travel Assistance:-**

- \* Confraternity League – Mackay
- \* QISSN – Mackay
- \* NQ All Schools Touch Junior – Townsville
- \* NQ All Schools Touch Senior – Townsville

Following the updated changes to the Policy, the following amounts were approved, totaling \$9500:-

- \* Confraternity League - \$3675
- \* QISSN - \$1925
- \* NQ All Schools Touch Juniors - \$1950
- \* NQ All Schools Touch Seniors - \$1950

Moved by Craig Blackburn and seconded by Peter Hume that these applications be approved. Motion passed.

The committee were advised that a SMCC Choir application for funding was submitted but hasn’t been received by Family Connect. Jenny Coates will follow up as to the whereabouts of this application and advise next meeting.

### **Diocesan Feedback:**

Family Connect Diocesan representative Marina Dunstan recently attended the CSPQ Bi-Annual conference in Brisbane providing feedback from this conference which will be circulated with the minutes. Conference found to be constructive and informative with a strategic focus as a recommended consideration for P & F’s.

### **Treasurer’s Report:**

Kristina Cannon presented Treasurer’s report, Family Connect still in a healthy position, some outstanding payments but with new financial system, there has been a delay. Moved by Janine Papamichael and seconded by Andrew McLean that the report be accepted. Motion passed.

### Principal's Report:

The Principals Report was presented to the meeting on behalf of Wayne Wood which included information about Influenza A and COVID 19 Impact; Parent Workshop /Presentation; Staff Formation; Compliance Audit and School Review; Whole School Behaviour Plan; Whole School Focus; Hugh O' Brien Centre with many defects outstanding delaying practical completion and limiting access and use. Copy of the Principal's Report will be circulated with the minutes

**Board Feedback:** Board meeting being held tonight, 24 May 2022.

### Cathy's Council Corner:

Updates received from Cathy:

- Rigg Street/Windarra Streets signalisation works are on track. Street was closed for 2 weeks over the school holidays whilst underground works were done. Upgrade to Woree State School's Stop, Drop & Go zone was also carried out.
- Tennis Courts – half have been removed ready for the next stage of the signalisation. Initially Council was to have built more tennis courts at Earville by this time, but grant received from State Government, so had to take advantage of it, which means that Woree tennis have only 2 courts until this is completed, works will start in next financial year.
- New Animal Management Facility is also complete, looks amazing and will be able to hold 72 dogs and 60 cats, open in mid-June.

### General Business:

- **Great Debate for Parents** – Jenny Coates was approached by a parent about holding a Great Debate as a social event for parents/carers at the school. Jenny will check with parent to submit a proposal to present at next meeting for further discussion.
- **Change of Family Connect Meeting** - As the Board meeting for June has been changed due to the school holidays, it was agreed by members to change the Family Connect meeting to the **14 June**, instead of the 21 June.
- **Open Night Gift Bags** – discussion about the content of the gift bags for Open Night, this will be carried over to next meeting.
- **Parent Engagement Day** – Reminder to all parents/carers about this event that will be held this Saturday 28 May – at MacKillop Catholic College, Mount Peter – from 12.00 – 6.30pm
- **Proposed Family Connect Dates for 2022** – Will be updated regularly.

Month	Date	Meeting/Workshop
June	14 June	<b>(Note date change from 21/6)</b>
July	19 July	(Another Immersion Day in 2022?, if so, there will be no Family Connect Meeting)
August	16 August	
September	20 September	
October	18 October	
November	15 November	AGM/General Meeting
	22 November	Christmas Dinner

Meeting closed at 6:50pm. Next meeting: 14 June 2022.

Secretary: Janine Papamichael