Riverbank Public School P&C Meeting

Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 25th November 2015 @7pm – School Hall


Apologies – Belinda Turkmani, Brenda Chen, John Smith

1. Welcome and Formal Opening of Meeting
   - Lesley Parsons welcomes parents, citizens and school executives
   - Lesley Parsons acknowledges the Dharruk people of this land
   - Thank you to Mrs Brown in allowing Riverbank P&C to be present here today and to all attending today.
   - A thought for the people affected in the Paris Terror Attacks
   - Minutes were uploaded to the website on 27.8.2015. Motion that the Minutes have been read and accepted – Kristy McGuiness

2. 2nd Hand Uniform Shop
   - 2nd hand uniform Shop – Kate McPherson who has a daughter in Kindergarten has volunteered to look after the 2nd hand uniform shop. Although she will have problems attending meetings we will keep her up to date with all issues arising. Motion in favour of Kate taking on position accepted.

3. Treasurer Position
   - The position or Treasure has been accepted by Nimal Patel.
   - All members in favour of Nimal taking on position of Treasurer.

4. Disco
   - Thanks to all the people who donated and assisted.
     Brenda = Ticket Design
     Allen = Donation of 200 Poppers
     Kristy = Organising Chips from Snackbrands
     Belinda / Joanne / Kristy = Overall help
     Steve / Sean = BBQ Set up and Cooking
     All Executive Staff and teachers
     Volunteers on the night – Maree, Lauren, Jess, Brad, Laura, Rachel, Rachel, Michelle, Carrie, Payal and Jo.
     Apologies if we have forgotten anything.

   - Around 215 students attended the disco
   - The Next disco has been booked for 29th April 2016 – Term 2, Week 1
• We will be employing Footsteps for the DJ again
• Ray White at Riverstone will be sponsoring with $500 to go towards the DJ
• Discussion on a theme – All in favour of “Neon”
• Discussion of increasing the price to $10 per ticket with $1 going to year 6
• New times – K to 2 5pm to 6pm and 3 to 6 6.15pm to 7.30pm
• The P&C will be looking into purchasing lights to save the cost of $310 each time we hire them.

5. Festival of Colours
• A flyer went out in term 3 in relation to The Festival of Colours. There was no interest shown in helping therefore we won’t be going ahead.

6. School Ties
• Approval of School ties for stage 3 boys

7. Treasurer Report
• Nimal will be taking over accounts as of 3rd Dec 2015. He will be added as signatory to the bank accounts.
• Bank Accounts as of 23.11.2015 = $21 945.73
• Disco profit = $1038.00

8. Presidents Report
• This year we have had so much success. We have raised over $35 000 not including the chq that we will be accepting for $9000 from Harcourt’s.
• I have had the pleasure of being on panels for recruiting new teachers.
• This year our P&C achievements are as follows:
  - Raffles, guessing comp, 2 discos, morning teas, End of term BBQ’s, Easter raffles, Each child going home with Easter eggs, House T-Shirts, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day stalls, Networking with the community on sponsorship, Selection panels, Represented for Kindy orientation.
• On the 5th of Feb 2016 we will be having a welcome picnic and fundraising BBQ
• The P&C will be donating $15 000 to the school for 3 panels. Agreed by members
• Looking into arm bands for the next school disco. They will have the students name and phone number in case we need to evacuate – All in favour.
• Parent Representatives – Discussion on 1 parent representative per class next year. This person will collate email addresses of parents and distribute notes and flyers throughout the year via email. This will save on paper and the executive committee’s time.
• Merry Christmas to everyone and thank you for your support throughout the year.

9. Report Re-Structure – Ms Thoroughgood
• There will be changes in the Report structure for the Semester 2 Report
• There is a learning goal structure change
• Notes will be in bullet form rather than paragraph form
• An example is attached.
10. P&C Levy
- Discussion regarding how to Invoice the P&C Levy
- Decided that the P&C will be invoicing separate to normal school fee’s. This will allow the P&C to communicate where the money will be going
- Discussion regarding lowering the amount of the P&C Levy.
- Decided to Invoice $10 per child per term. ($40 per year)

11. PSSA Shirts – Carrie Partridge
- Request that the P&C fund or help to fund sport shirts for PSSA teams
- Carrie will get costing together and we will discuss next meeting

12. High School Carols by Candlelight
- The Ponds Community are looking to hold a smaller Carols by Candlelight in the school at the High School.
- Requests for volunteers to hold and organise a BBQ fundraiser for the P&C
- No volunteers


**2016 School Enrolments and class formation**

Based on our projected student numbers of 565 for 2016, all classes will be in stages not year groups. Next year we will have 23 mainstream classes and 3 support classes.

Four demountables are on their way and will be installed behind blocks B and C.

There are two reasons why stage classes are formed instead of, or in addition to, parallel/straight classes:

1. **Administrative** - the NSW Department of Education’s state-wide school staffing formula informs a school as to how many staff will be appointed to that school and how many classes can be formed based on numbers enrolled. Students in Years K-2 attract a higher staffing allocation than those in Years 3-6 classes. This usually enables schools to keep K-2 classes smaller. According to the number of students in each year group, classes are formed to meet the staffing allocation provided by the Department of Education.

2. **Educational** - classes are formed on the basis of educational rationale, which includes the need to balance the social and academic needs of all of our students. Stage classes will allow for future enrolment growth in 2016 and assist with minimising restructures.

At this point (we anticipate more enrolments after the school holidays) the class structure will be:

- 7 Early Stage 1: (Kindergarten) classes
- 7 Stage 1: (Year 1 and 2) classes combined
- 5 Stage 2: (Year 3 and 4) classes combined
- 4 Stage 3: (Year 5 and 6) classes combined
2016 Staffing

We will welcome two more Assistant Principals, a music specialist teacher, a full time teacher for students with English as an Additional Language or Dialect, 2 support class teachers and 8 classroom teachers.

Middle Years School Program

In 2016 students in Years 5 & 6 (Stage 3) will be part of an innovative Middle Years program with The Ponds High School. Stage 3 students will be based in classrooms in the High School allowing the learning environment and programs to cater for students maturing at different rates.

Teachers from Riverbank Public School and The Ponds High School will undertake collaborative planning with an explicit and effective focus on Middle Years students and their transition to secondary school. Such programs will provide opportunities to help our students learn and grow in ways that acknowledges and respects them as individuals. Our aim is to connect with Middle Years students in ways that directs their energy, shapes their self-concept and raises their expectations. Teachers and students will have access to the facilities in the High School such as the Science Lab, Kitchens, Art rooms, a future focused Library and PDHPE facilities. This program will also allow for direct collaboration between Stage 3 and Stage 4 specialist teachers. The classes will still have recess and lunch with Riverbank Public School and participate in all K-6 activities.

Coding Lessons

In Term 3 next year all students at Riverbank PS will have coding lessons at a cost of $50 per student. The program offers 40 minute lessons per week where the students explicitly learn how to engage with technology and incorporate it into their school work. We know that the students can use technology to play games and ‘generally consume’ the apps and websites available to them, but we have employed ScopeIT Education to offer our students a computer coding program that takes our students education one step further. ScopeIT will extend our students learning in technology to include:

- How the internet works
- How to build basic apps, websites
- Safe use of the internet
- Logical thinking, problem solving techniques and creative design using technology
- 3D printing and robotics

2015 School Survey

As part of the school’s annual performance review a survey will be sent home this week. Please take the time to complete the survey. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Semester 2 Report

Semester 2 Reports will be sent home on Monday 7 December. The only slight change to the format will be instead of a Literacy and Numeracy comment, teachers have set learning goals for students to be working towards.

Excellence Assembly Awards
Please join us in acknowledging our students’ achievements as we celebrate excellence and effort. You are invited to attend our Excellence Assembly on Thursday 10 December in our School Hall from 9.30am -11.30am. Please note the date and time on your calendar. Parents and carers will be notified in advance if their child is receiving an award. Please note, however, that some awards are only announced on the day. To celebrate our first year, the Excellence Assembly will be for all students K-6. In 2016 there will be Excellence Assemblies for years K-2 and 3-6.

Class awards are:
1. Academic
2. Improvement
3. Citizenship based on our school values

There are also awards for 100% school attendance, Sports Awards, Creative and Performing Arts, Outstanding Effort, Outstanding School Service, and Outstanding Academic Achievement.

2016 Priority Areas

School Plan – 2015 - 2017
1. Building a Culture of School Excellence and Leadership.
2. Building Quality Teaching and Learning Programs.

Programs:
• L3 Language, Learning and Literacy (L3)
• Focus on Reading
• Targeting Early Numeracy

RAM Funding

Resource Allocation Model (RAM) Funding.

In 2012, the NSW Government announced its Local Schools, Local Decisions (LSLD) reform for NSW public schools. This reform gives principals and school communities a greater say over how they use the available resources to best meet the needs of their students. To enable the shift of resources to the school level, a Resource Allocation Model (RAM) was developed. On 21 October 2015, the NSW Premier, the Hon Mike Baird MP, and the Minister for Education, the Hon Adrian Piccoli announced the next phase of the RAM implementation. In 2016, $113 million in additional funding has been allocated to NSW public schools through the RAM. These additional funds have been allocated in a way consistent with the recommendations of the Gonski Review.

2016 School Calendar and Invoices
Our school calendar for 2016 and Semester 1 invoice will be sent home Monday 1 Feb. All payments will be made as a semester rather than paying for activities as they occur.

**Canteen Tender**

I would like to announce “All About Canteens” has been successful in the tender process and will commence from day 1 2016. Their menu provides a wonderful selection of fresh produce.

**Technology**

The Department of Education has reimbursed the school for the cost of interactive panels in all 21 classrooms. In 2016 all stages will have access and share a set of 30 devices to support teaching and learning programs. Staff are now planning on the type of device that best supports the students; i.e. I pads or netbooks.

With the support of the P&C and school funds, 9 interactive touch screen panels have been ordered for the new classrooms.

**Landscaping**

Landscaping around the school’s perimeter fencing will be replaced during the January School Holidays.

**School Tie for Stage 3 Boys**

A School Tie has now been ordered for Stage 3 Boys during winter.

**Walk a Thon**

We are pleased to announce that our inaugural walk-a-thon raised $10,787.85. The money raised will be used to purchase 25 HP430 Notebooks with touch screens. This is a tremendous effort and I am very proud of all the students and community for supporting our first walk-a-thon.

**Kindergarten Transition to School**

Over four transition to school sessions we welcomed 145 kindergarten students and their families to Riverbank PS. The students enjoyed activities in their new classrooms and were all very excited to be at big school!

**Celebration Lunch and Year 6 Farewell**

Please join us on Wednesday 16 December from 1.15pm for a picnic lunch followed by our final assembly for 2016. The assembly will commence at 2.15pm. During this time we will announce House and Vice Captains for 2016 and Year 6 will receive their graduation certificates, followed by a farewell arch.

**Term 4 Overview:**
This term Riverbank PS celebrated:

- Ridges Musical Festival
- Science Incursion
- Remembrance Day Service
- Grandparents Day
- School Tours
- PSSA
- Walk a Thon
- Kindergarten Transition to School
- Scripture Assembly
- Stage 3 Camp to Narrabeen Lakes
- Excellence Assembly
- Year 6 Farewell Dinner
- Talent Quest
- School Disco
- Chess Club
- Yr 6 Transition to HS
- K-2 Concert
- Movie Day
- Family lunch and final assembly

Reminder Newsletters are available on our website and school app.

I look forward to welcoming you at our first Excellence Assembly on Thursday 10 December at 9.30am.

Meeting closed 8.45pm

Next Meeting 24th Feb 2016 – AGM followed by General Meeting