

**Turner School Parents and Citizen's Association**  
**Minutes of the General Meeting 18 March 2015**  
**(Turner School Library)**

**Attendees**

Helen Bell (President)  
Ephraim Grunhard (Vice President)  
Greta Doherty (Secretary)  
Heather Kettle (Treasurer)  
David Dunstan (Public Officer)  
Clem Jones (Minute Secretary)  
Jo Padgham (Principal)  
Jennifer Hall (Guest Principal)  
Bob Edwards  
Diane Jones  
Jodi Wood  
Lasma Sinaga  
Geoffrey Kushnick  
Robyn Thurecht  
Trish Morton  
Tamou Heaton  
Liber Eleutherios  
Minhui Cao

The Chair, Helen Bell opened the meeting at 7.35pm, welcomed all present and asked Jo Padgham to introduce our guest. Jo introduced Jennifer Hall, Principal, who is in a coaching relationship with Jo and had asked to attend a meeting of the school's P&C. Jennifer thanked the P&C for the opportunity to attend.

**Apologies**

Pip Chapman  
Ilea Buffier

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Moved Helen Bell, seconded Heather Kettle, that the Minutes of the General Meeting held on 18 February 2015 be accepted. Carried.

**Matters Arising**

- P&C to write to the board seeking options to possibly change Indonesian to another language. Helen Bell has written to Board. To be considered by School Principal and the 2015 Board when appointed. **Ongoing.**
- Visit by Principal of Lyneham High School – unable to attend the meeting on 18 March but Deputy Principal is available to attend P&C meeting on 20 May. **Jo to arrange visit.**
- Wheel chair access to main stage – to be discussed under General Business, Priorities for 2015.
- Additional members/volunteers for fete committee – not urgent, committee working well but new members always welcome. **Action complete.**

- Suggestions for inclusion in 2015 budget – to be discussed under General Business - Priorities for 2015. **Action complete.**
- Advertise vacant positions on P&C. Positions of grants officer and P&C Council Rep still vacant. **Action complete.**

## Reports

### *President's report*

Helen presented her report which was focussed on Priorities for 2015. Parents, carers, students through the SRC and staff through Jo Padgham were consulted for suggestions. After speaking to many parents, this year Helen suggested that P&C expenditure this year should be focussed on projects that benefit the bulk of our students. Expenditure over the past couple of years has been directed at specific groups of students.

The list of suggestions from parents includes:

- Bits to make the cubbies more fun
- Extra bike racks
- Cover for the bike rack area
- A watering system for the gardens
- Shade covering for the Senior Enclosed Playground
- Seats for waiting parents outside the library and on the David Street side
- Upgrade of paths to remove trip hazards
- Parking.
- Review of the playground
- Upgrade of the train
- AAC (augmented and alternative communication) or other visual signs around the school
- A covered 'sensory' area
- A multipurpose hall large enough to hold assemblies, run motor skills sessions etc.
- A wild area in the playground where the grass is left long and kids can explore
- A musical playground

Helen also reported on a fundraising opportunity through family portraits: a review of the language taught at Turner and the successes of the 2015 fete Committee

A copy of the Presidents report, including more detail on the suggestions for 2015 Priorities is at Attachment A.

### *Treasurer's Report*

Heather Kettle reported that the P&Cs account balance is \$32,825.25 of which \$5,500 has been committed and another \$10,000 is to be held for known, recurrent expenditure. This leaves a balance of \$17,000 available when considering expenditure priorities for 2015.

The committee confirmed a payment of \$250 per student attending national titles (outside the ACT); the contribution towards the cost of student participation in the Pegasus program (approved in 2014) and contributions to the STEM festival and Artists and Writers festival.

However, Heather advised the Committee of the need for caution in committing expenditure as P&C has been spending more than it has been raising over the past two or so years.

Moved Helen Bell, seconded Greta Doherty that the Treasurer's statement be accepted.  
Carried.

A copy of the Treasurer's report is at **Attachment B**

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

Jo Padgham introduced her report and explained the format of her report to the many new parents attending the meeting.

Jo specifically reported on the:

- Great time of celebration in the school – a very successful swimming carnival with a significant increase in the number of children able to swim and compete as well as a great opportunity for the House Captains and Vice-captains to show leadership; five chess teams in competition; Turner debating team's first competitive debate and winning against a Yr 8 Girls Grammar team; the 5/6 Camp Cooba experience; Turner students selected to join the ACT Instrumental Music and Choir programmes; the establishment of the recorder Ensemble and the SRC meeting to discuss 2015 spending priorities.
- Meeting next week with Capital Works as things are not progressing as well as promised. Items on agenda include car parking; David St courtyard enhancement; upgrade to outdoor learning spaces; installation of the partial containment fence; shade cover for the senior enclosed playground; review of the costs associated with the hydrotherapy pool.
- "School Frontage" Project – Turner school invited to participate – David St entrance is being considered, however concern that it need to take into account the proposed enhancement of the David St courtyards and the outdoor learning experience.
- Other issues to be raised with the Directorate are the delays in providing replacement shade cloth for the senior enclosed playground and the need for an energy audit of the hydrotherapy pool, which is becoming very expensive to maintain and run.
- The Kindergarten Therapy Area – concept plans are great but needs a little more confirmation and progress.

Jo also reported on

- The act of vandalism at the school over the weekend. Every security light, all the evacuation hooters/speakers and some windows were damaged/destroyed. A total of around \$10,000 damage. The matter is being investigated by the ACT Police.
- The success of the *Right Here, Right Now* project which was launched at Turner School. Over 11,000 portraits from students are to be mounted over the next three weekends at the Turner School Art Room.

Jo invited questions and reminded those present that any parent who has a question or concern that she was available to meet with them.

### **General Business**

#### *Priorities for 2015*

- Following the Treasurer's advice that the P&C had around \$17,000 of uncommitted funds, the meeting considered and discussed an extensive list of items proposed by the parents and carers – see list included in the President's Report at attachment A; the 2015 staff wish list at Attachment D and the students wish list at Attachment E.

- A number of items appear on all lists and after extensive discussion it was moved Heather Kettle, seconded by Helen Bell and Carried that Committee fund the following:
  - \$5,000 be given to the school to be spent on priorities decided by the SRC. The list of suggestions, presented to the meeting, included more play equipment for the train yard, soccer goals, skipping ropes, sand toys, handball courts, an art mural on the outside wall, hopscotch and other games for the quad, soccer field markings, a flower garden, a play area for people with no hats, as well as many more items. The SRC will work with teachers to fund the items they agree are priorities given their budget.
  - \$5,000 be allocated to the school to start work on a Musical Playground. This will be a designated part of each of the playgrounds where a mixture of commercial and bespoke outdoor instruments will be fitted. It will be accessible by all children.
  - \$2,500 to be approved for additional seating in the coming month – already approved and committed.
  - \$2,000 to be given to the school for resources to support this year's Artists' and Writers' Festival.
  - \$300 be spent on bits to make the cubbies more fun (wheels, telescopes, squiggly wiggly bits to make the kids giggle).
  - \$4,700 be allocated for extra bike racks, or to re-arrange the existing bike rack area to accommodate more bikes. The options for doing this are being discussed at the May meeting, so if you have ideas on how we can improve the bike rack area (or suggestions for where additional racks could be located) please let me know.
- The P&C contribution to the SRC to be made at an All School Assembly.
- In addition there were a few items on the lists that are being worked on separately. Jo Padgham is working with the Directorate to get shade for the Senior Enclosed Playground. She is also working with the Directorate on parking, particularly on the David Street side. This project is running in conjunction with the transformation of the 1/2 courtyards into outdoor learning spaces. The P&C is working on getting more seats to enable picnic tables under the trees. As part of the Book Fair, to be held later in the year, we will ask for donations of books for the library.

Jo Padgham is also to investigate the provision of nets for the soccer goal posts;

## **Other Business**

**Family portrait fund raising proposal.** While there was support for the proposal, it was suggested that other suppliers be considered. Helen Bell to seek other offers including from the company providing the school photos.

**Parent Contact** Robyn Thurecht reported on the highly successful parent contact program. Initially over 180 parents signed up online with a further 30 being added to the list following a decision to extend the close off period. The Afternoon tea for parents and carers was also extremely successful and Robyn suggested that this activity continue each year to as an adjunct to and support for the Welcome to Turner Morning teas. The P&C and Principal agreed.

**Visit to National Gallery** by students. Arrangements have been made to visit the gallery to enable students to look at art by the artists whom their classes are named after.

#### Next Meeting

- The next meeting is at 19:30 on **20 May 2015** at Turner School Library
- NOTE: The meeting will commence at 7.00pm if the Deputy Principal, Lyneham High school accepts an invitation to attend the meeting.
- Meeting Closed at 9.15pm

#### ATTACHMENTS

- A. President's Report
- B. Treasurer's Statement
- C. Action List from P&C Committee Meeting 18 March 2015
- D. Turner Staff 2015 Wish List
- E. SRC Wish List - 2015 suggestions from students

## ATTACHMENT A

### P&C President's report, March 2015

Thanks for taking the time to come along to tonight's meeting to share your ideas on our priorities for 2015. In the last month I've asked parents and carers for their suggestions. The kids have been consulted via the SRC network and Jo will have suggestions from the teachers. Last year we spent the bulk of our funds on making the cubbies wheel chair accessible and contributing \$250 per child to children representing the school (Tournament of the Minds, Chess and Pegasus) and much of our time on the fencing proposal. After speaking to many parents, this year I'd like to focus on projects that benefit the bulk of our students.

The list from parents includes:

1. Bits to make the cubbies more fun (wheels, telescopes and squiggly wiggly bits to make the kids giggle) (estimated cost \$220; telescope \$20, periscope \$30, steering wheel \$20, other items \$150)
2. Extra bike racks (in existing location + near Afters)
3. Cover for the bike rack area so the bikes don't get wet in the rain
4. A watering system for the gardens
5. Shade covering for the Senior Enclosed Playground
6. Seats for waiting parents outside the library and on the David Street side
7. Upgrade of paths to remove trip hazards
8. Parking. There are insufficient spaces on the David Street side and parents are now arriving at school earlier (2.45) to secure a space. It would be great to have a plan with delivery dates that could be shared.
9. Review of the playground to make it more inclusive through organisation such as Touched by Olivia Foundation <http://touchedbyolivia.com.au/inclusive-playspaces/> (who Jodi has said had a role in the Boundless Playground, and have set up many all accessible playgrounds, including schools). They have a great knack of upgrading existing playgrounds to make them more accessible, and are currently involved in a project at Jindabyne and at Batemans Bay. Now that we are getting that side of the school fenced, they may have some great suggestions to try and incorporate the senior enclosed playground (surely it can be relocated?), the train yard and the new equipment into a more all-inclusive area.
10. Upgrade of the train yard – painted murals on the asphalt, more sensory things, tidy up of the sandpit, wall to enable tennis and handball.
11. AAC (augmented and alternative communication) or other visual signs around the school – playground, toilets, hall, kitchen etc. Some great examples include the Mini Q room at Questacon, the Black Mountain playground and the new playground at the Canberra Hospital in the Women and Children's Wing
12. A covered 'sensory' area – could be a fantastic area for children to get busy, especially during cold or wet weather. This could easily cater to ALL of the children if classes rotated through. The enclosed Kindy playground (if Turner playground is fenced) could be an ideal place to develop something like this, or the grassed area between the preschool and the Kindy rooms is also a good spot
13. A multipurpose hall large enough to hold assemblies, run motor skills sessions by teachers (small group teachers have to continuously set up and put away bulky, heavy equipment in rooms that are not set up to run these kind of activities), indoor play area during wet weather. Again, not necessarily closed in – need to think 'outside the square' for the best solution
14. A wild area in the playground where the grass is left long and kids can explore
15. A musical playground

In other news, we have been offered a fund raising opportunity where families can have their portraits taken, with the P&C receiving \$15 to \$20 for each sitting. I'll talk about this in the other business section.

Following on from the last meeting, there has been a lot of positive feedback from parents supporting a review of the language taught at Turner. I've written to the Board asking for a review of the language taught at Turner.

The Fete Committee is going well – it's great to be part of the 2015 team. We're going to time the next meeting with the Thursday night Trivia Competition at the RUC, so we'll probably win. I'll keep you posted.

Kind regards,  
Helen.

**Turner School P&C - Treasurer's Report  
P&C Meeting – Wednesday 18 March 2015**

**Account Balances**

Our account balances at 18 March 2015 were:

• Internet savings account	\$28 348.83
• Operating cheque account	\$4 476.42
• Less un-presented cheques	-\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32 825.25</b>

- Library Fund account \$25.94  
(The P&C library account is still to be closed).

**Expenditure (since 1 January 2015)**

• \$160.00	2014 audit
• \$500.00	Gecko Gang - deposit for 2015 fete
• \$363.00	Kaldi Coffee – 2014 fete expenditure
• \$350.00	Kidsafe – fairy arches plan inspection
• \$62.50	Bunnings BBQ expenses
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1435.50</b>

**Financial commitments***Budget commitments*

- \$3 000           Fairy arches
- \$2 500           Outdoor seating.

**Total current commitments – approximately \$5,500**

Heather Kettle  
Treasurer  
18 March 2015

**ATTACHMENT C**

**ACTION LIST FROM P&C COMMITTEE MEETING 18 FEBRUARY 2015**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Visit by Principal of Lyneham High School. – Deputy Principal is available to attend P&C meeting on 20 May 2015.	Jo Padgham	In time for May P&C Meeting	
Jo Padgham is also to investigate the provision of nets for the soccer goal posts.	Jo Padgham	May meeting	
Presentation to SEC for funding proposals to be made at Assembly	Helen Bell	Next all School Assembly	
Family portrait fund raising proposal. . Helen Bell to seek other offers including from the company providing the school photos.	Helen Bell	May meeting	To be considered by Fete Committee
Parent Contact “Coffee on the Bike Path” get together. Coffee supplier to be asked if interested in having a stall at the Fete.	Trish Morton	May meeting	To be considered by Fete Committee

**Turner Staff 2015 Wish List**

The staff would like the P&C to consider funding:

1. Developing over time an inclusive “Musical Playground” area – this would be a designated part of each of the playgrounds where a mix of commercial and bespoke handmade outdoor instruments could be fitted. It would be accessed by all children (\$5000, same as in 2014)
2. Additional outdoor tables with seats for outdoor learning (\$2500)
3. \$2000 for library resources (books plus other resources)
4. Resources to support this year’s Artists and Writers Festival (\$2000)
5. More play equipment for the Trainyard (\$2000)
6. Bag Hooks outside classrooms(\$18,000 to do all K-6 classrooms)
7. Once the upgrading of all the courtyards outside the 1/2 classrooms has been done by the Directorate we would like to have some fixtures added to enable outdoor learning (\$5000)
8. Additional iPads for classroom use by students (iPad Airs with cases – approximately \$800 per unit once all extras added on – so whatever amount you think)
9. Wall mirror for placement in one of the halls/MP room to enable visual awareness and feedback from performance and presentation skills (\$?)
10. Wheel chair swing(\$35,000)
11. Mobile ramp for stage access for wheelchairs (\$?)

## ATTACHMENT E

### SRC 2015 Wish list

A blue star \* indicates the number of classes that suggested this item. Suggestions the teachers really liked have red star \*.

More handball courts\*\*

Bubbles on the bike track

Art mural on an outside wall

Soccer nets \*\*\*\*\*

Hopscotch and other games on the quad \* \*

Soccer field markings\*\*\* \*\*

Picnic tables under the trees \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*

Pillows in classrooms

Slide on the dirt hill \*\*

Flower garden \*

Veggie gardens around the school \*

Nets on basketball hoops \*

More play equipment for the Train Yard \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Shade for quad \* \*\*\*

Play equipment under trees on the oval \*\*

More cubbies with tables

Play area for people with no hats \*

Shade on the oval between the football fields  
\*\*

Spider web back up in Senior Enclosed  
Playground

Shade for Senior Enclosed Playground 8 \* \*\*\*

Skipping ropes

Removable seats beside soccer fields \*

Monkey bard for quad

Disability/wheel chair swing \*\*

Hairdressing station

Jumping pillow \*

Ping pong table

Foosball tables

Pool table

Mobile ramp for stage – access for  
wheelchairs \*\*\*\*

Arrows on the bike track

Bike helmets, bikes and tricycles

Electric pencil sharpeners

Bubblers on the far side of the oval \*

Sand toys \*\* \*\*

Jelly bean bin for quad equipment

Bag hooks \*\*\*\*\*

Library books \*\*\*\*\*

Activity books

