

Turner School Parents and Citizens Committee Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting 20 May 2015
Turner School Library

Attendees

- Helen Bell (President)
- Ephraim Grunhard (Vice President)
- Greta Doherty (Secretary)
- David Dunstan (Public Officer)
- Clem Jones (Minute Secretary)
- Jo Padgham (Principal)
- Robyn Watson (Deputy Principal)
- Robyn Thurecht
- Jodi Wood
- Jacqui Etherington
- Kirsty Westaway
- Rochelle Santiago
- Minerva Marlyoz
- Diane Jones
- Stuart Jones
- Margaret Makeham-Kirchener

Welcome

The Chair, Helen Bell, opened the meeting at 7.50pm and welcomed all those in attendance. The delay in opening the meeting was due to earlier presentation by Colleen Matheson, the principal of Lyneham High School.

Apologies

- Heather Kettle (Treasurer)
- Ilea Buffier (Assistant Treasurer)

Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2015 were accepted – Helen Bell, seconded Greta Doherty

Business Arising from Minutes

- Access to School Hall Stage for students with a disability This issue was further discussed, including advice from Jodie Wood on the access at Sutton School. It was decided that as Turner did not have sufficient space to proceed, the issue will be left to the Directorate to consider if and when major building changes are considered. **Action complete.**
- Visit from Principal of Lyneham High School. Meeting arranged for 20 May 2015 – **Action complete.**
- Provision of nets for soccer goals. Jo Padgham met with the senior SRC to seek clarification of what was required. A number of options were discussed. Jo Pearce to meet with the Junior SRC to seek their views. Report further to the P&C. **Action on-going.**

- Presentation of funds to SRC for “wish list” – Helen Bell attended the end of term assembly and presented a cheque for \$5000 to the SRC. **Action complete.**
- Family Portraits/Photos as fund raising opportunity. Helen Bell reported she contacted the school photographer and they said they don’t do family portraits for schools, nor do they know of anyone in Canberra doing these. As a result Helen contacted a photographer in Sydney and made a tentative booking. However, Margaret Makeham - Kirchener thought there was a supplier in Cowra who might be interested. Margaret to follow up and report next meeting. **Action on-going**
- Invite Sly Fox Coffee (on Bike path) to host a coffee stall at the fete – to be arranged and **Action ongoing**

Reports

(a) Presidents Report

Helen Bell thanked everyone for attending the meeting and Colleen Matheson Principal Lyneham High for her presentation on her school.

- Helen also thanked Di and Clem Jones and Claudia Guszich for arranging the installation of the Fairy Arches and Jo Padgham and the Directorate for the metal covers on the Senior Enclosed Playground.
- At the end of term assembly Helen presented the SRC with a cheque for \$5,000 from the P&C to go towards their wish list.
- Helen addressed incoming parents at our information evening. The demand for places at Turner seems quite high, with many of the parents I spoke to coming from out of area and hoping to secure a place for their children. It’s great to be part of such a well-respected school.
- The fete is coming along; a separate committee has been set up to organise the fete and will report to the P&C as required.
- The Class Parent Contact Rep system is also working well.
- Parents have been positive about upgrading the bike rack area.
- Tentative inquiries have been made re options for family portraits/photographs; and Helen has also contacted the company that makes the outdoor seating the teachers selected.
- Helen has written to Lions Club seeking their support to partially fund our Pegasus riders.
- Discussions have been held with the Board Chair about areas where there strong crossover with the Board. And whether there is support for the minutes being available for viewing at the front office and a protocol for accessing these minutes.

Finally, Helen added her sympathy to those of the Turner Community, for the family and friends of Leanne Lucas. Leanne was a beautiful person who enhanced our school community in so many ways. Helen also thanked Jo and the teaching staff for gentle way they communicated Leanne’s death to our students. It has been a sad time.

A copy of the President’s report is at Attachment A

(b) Treasurer’s Report

In the absence of both the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, Helen Bell presented the Financial Report.

The total balance of funds as at 20 May 2015 is \$25,502.23. Total current commitments \$24,700 (approx.) and expenditure since last meeting was \$7,409.00.

Moved Helen Bell, seconded Greta Doherty that the treasurer's Statement be accepted. Carried.

A copy of the Treasurers statement is at Attachment B

(c) Principal's Report

Jo Padgham presented her report covering Learning and Teaching; Leading and Managing; Student and Community Engagement. Items Jo highlighted were:

- Passing of Turner teacher Leanne Lucas. Jo said that Leanne was a remarkable teacher who touched the lives and hearts of so many children, families and staff. It is anticipated that many staff will attend Leanne's funeral and arrangements have been made for the supervision of students during this time. The arrangements range from support from Lyneham High teachers and sports students to run sports/games with K, Y3/4 and Y5/6 while students from CIT will work with Y1/2.
- Wednesday 27 May is the "Biggest Morning Tea" and Turner school has registered as a participant and parents may wish to make a donation in Leanne's memory.
- School website being redeveloped and those who attended this evenings presentation by Colleen Matheson would have seen it in operation.
- The selection process for the replacement Indonesian teacher was unsuccessful. Jo, the Directorate, and other schools are continuing to source appropriately trained languages teachers.
- Pre-school Accreditation. The pre-school underwent an accreditation process and is now awaiting the outcome of the process.

Following Jo's report a number of other issues were discussed:

- Is Turner School participating in the public consultation as part of the review following the inappropriate restraint of students and what if any is the impact of the review likely to have on Turner School? Jo reported that at this stage Turner has not been invited to provide public input. She will advise if a request is made.
- "Play facilitators" program. The meeting was asked if this program could be expanded to include all children who needed special assistance in developing the skills necessary to engage in play. Jo explained that teachers are aware of the need and already actively look for children who might be struggling during play times. Jo said that if there was a greater need, she would be happy to look into it and that families with concerns about their children could contact the school for assistance
- School A to E" reporting template - Kirsty Westerway, member Turner School Board, reported that the Directorate had developed a draft template for reporting on each students A&E's to be used by all schools at the Kindergarten level. There was concern that the template may not be appropriate for Kindergarten students or cover Turner's special needs

General Business

Fete Update

- Halloween theme for fete. (Fete to be held on Halloween Day) The meeting did not support promoting Halloween as an overall theme for the fete. However, there was support for activities such as a Halloween stall; Halloween face painting and broken fingers etc.
- Temporary removal of a limited number of panels from the trainyard to allow greater flow between the senior and junior halls. There was support for the removal of 4 or 5 fence panels facing onto the car park. Helen to include in the fete risk assessment strategy (checking for trip hazards etc.). The removal is subject to any capital works that may be in progress at the time.

- Options for providing water – Fete Committee in considering options for supplying drinking water at the fete and sought the P&C's approval to sell water bottles and or biodegradable cups for people to use to access the school water bubblers/water stations. The meeting approved the sale of water bottles and cups.

Class Parent Contact update

Robyn Thurecht reported that the network is working very well. Lots of activities organised – Cranky bears trip to the theatre; Y3/4 Play; visit to the National Gallery; drop and run enhancements and plans for after school dinners/drinks etc.

Initial concept plans for car park alterations and containment fence will be shared

Jo Padgham reported on a meeting she has had with the Directorate where some initial concept plans were discussed. The draft plans covered a containment fence and access along Hartley Street; redevelopment and extension of the pre-school, hydro-pool and the central car parks. A barrier - a "wisteria walkway" is designed to run along the edge of the teachers' carpark, fencing the cars off from the students - this may need the existing fence to be moved to the other side of the tree line. The possible upgrade of the Y1/2 courtyards and the landscaping around the new parking areas on the David St are also being considered.

Jo stressed that these plans are in the very early planning stage and any work is subject to the ACT Government's Budget to be announced on 2 June 2015. Jo will report back to the Board and the P&C in their June meetings where she hopes to have further plans to show the community to continue the consolation process.

Bike racks

Stuart Jones reported on possible options for upgrading the bike rack area. One option was a double rack at \$175 each – would need around 50 racks. Generally accepted that existing site is the best location but that better use could be made of the space by improving the style of bike rack used. Kirsty Westerway to check site map and plans and then with Stuart Jones estimate the number and best fit of the racks. The placement of any racks **must not provide a means of access to the school buildings**. Options for raising funds for the new racks also to be followed up including possible use of Solar review funds; an application for a grant from the Teachers Credit Union and the conduct of a "Bike-a-thon". Need to check dates of other planned "a-thons".

Family portraits

Discussed under Matters Arising above.

Other Business

Replacement outdoor furniture for staff courtyard. Helen Bell sought the meetings approval to spend an additional \$750 – GST plus freight – to purchase the seating. It was agreed that the School would purchase the seating and would be reimbursed by the P&C. Helen also sought advice on the colour of the seating. The additional funds and the colour, Leadman, were approved – Moved Greta Doherty, seconded Clem Jones. carried

Next meeting

17 June 2015 7.30pm School Library

Meeting Closed

9.30pm

President's report – May 2015

Hello everyone,

Thanks for making time to come to the P&C meeting. Thanks to Colleen Matheson for her presentation on Lyneham High School.

So much has happened in the last two months! Thanks to Clem and Di for organising the Fairy Arches, and also to Claudia for keeping this project moving last year. The arches look fantastic. I'd also like to thank Jo and the Directorate for the metal covers on the Senior Enclosed Playground. These were something parents requested last year as a priority, but it was beyond the budget of the P&C. They look great.

At the end of term assembly I presented the SRC with a cheque for \$5,000 from the P&C to go towards their wish list. They were pleased and we received a second thank you from the school captains at the Turner information evening in May.

I had the pleasure of addressing incoming parents at our information evening. The demand for places at Turner seems quite high, with many of the parents I spoke to coming from out of area and hoping to secure a place for their children. It's great to be part of such a well-respected school.

The fete is coming along. The monthly meetings are fun and productive. The Class Parent Contact Rep system is also working well. We're looking forward to the National Gallery trip this Friday.

Parents have been positive about upgrading the bike rack area. Stuart Jones has offered to help with the upgrade and has sent through some information on bike racks and storage. Over the last 2 months I've begun to learn about bike storage. I've noticed bike racks like never before. Stuart will talk about this later in the meeting.

I contacted the school photographer and they said they don't do family portraits for schools, nor do they know of anyone in Canberra doing these. As a result I've made a tentative booking with original supplier for the 21st of November. I've also contacted the company that makes the outdoor seating the teachers selected. Again, more on this later in the meeting.

This week I wrote to Lions Club seeking their support to partially fund our Pegasus riders. We have asked for \$2,500, which, if successful, will combine with the donations from the P&C and the SRC to cover the entire cost of the program (with parents still paying an annual insurance fee of around \$80). I anticipate we will know if we are successful by mid-June (following their next meeting).

Between meetings I've been contacted by parents about areas where there strong crossover with the Board. Bob has offered to discuss with the Board whether there is support for the minutes being available for viewing at the front office and a protocol for accessing these minutes. I'm looking forward to hearing how that goes.

Finally, I'd like to add my sympathy to those of the Turner Community, for the family and friends of Leanne Lucas. As Jo said earlier this week, Leanne was a beautiful person who enhanced our school community in so many ways. I'd also like to thank Jo and the teaching staff for gentle way they communicated Leanne's death to our students. It has been a sad week.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Bell
P&C President

**Turner School P&C - Treasurer's Report
P&C Meeting – Wednesday 20 May 2015**

Account Balances

Our account balances at 20 May 2015 were:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| • Internet savings account | \$23,430.32 |
| • Operating cheque account | \$2,071.91 |
| • Less un-presented cheques | -\$0 |
| • Total | \$25,502.23 |

- | | |
|------------------------|---------|
| • Library Fund account | \$25.94 |
|------------------------|---------|

(The P&C library account is still to be closed).

Expenditure (since 18 March 2015)

- \$5,000 – SRC contribution
- \$2,409 – Fairy arches

Total \$7,409

Financial commitments

Budget commitments

- \$10,000 Ongoing P&C commitments including insurance, P&C affiliation, Pegasus, contributions to students representing the school at national events
- \$5,000 Musical playground (refer minutes 18 March 2015)
- \$2,500 Outdoor seating (refer minutes 18 March 2015)
- \$2,000 Artists' and Writer's Festival (refer minutes 18 March 2015)
- \$4,700 Bike rack options (refer minutes 18 March 2015)

Total current commitments – approximately \$24,700

Heather Kettle

Treasurer

20 May 2015

ACTION LIST FROM P&C COMMITTEE MEETING 20 MAY 2015

Action	Who	By	Remarks
Provision of nets for soccer goals.	Jo Padgham	June meeting	
Family Portraits/Photos as fund raising opportunity	Margaret Makeham-Kirchener to advise Helen Bell	June meeting	
Bike racks – Plans and further options for fund raising to be considered.	Kirsty Westerway/Stuart Jones	June meeting	
Review of inappropriate restraint of students	Jo Padgham	When/if school is invited to participate	
Play facilitators	Jo Padgham	As requested by families	
Initial concept plans for car park alterations and containment fence will be shared	Jo Padgham	June meeting	
Greater links with the School Board		June meeting	
Invite Sly Fox Coffee (on Bike path) to host a coffee stall at the fete	??	June meeting	