

**Turner School Parents & Citizens
Association
Minutes of the General Meeting 16 March 2016
(Turner School Library)**

Present

Helen Bell (President)
David Dunstan (Public Officer)
Robert Edwards (Chair, Board)
Robyn Watson (Deputy Principal)
Jo Padgham (Principal)
Damien Ellwood
Greta Doherty (Secretary)
Heather Kettle (Vice President)
Diane Jones
James Turvey (Board)
Kirsty Westaway (Board)
Clem Jones (Minute Secretary)
Ephraim Grunhard (Treasurer)
Ilea Buffier (Assistant Treasurer)
Michael Quigley
Trish Morton
Anne Napier

Welcome

The President, Helen Bell opened the meeting at 7.30pm, welcomed and thanked all those in attendance.

Apologies

Robyn Thurecht

Acceptance of minutes of the 17 February 2016 General Meeting

Moved Ephraim Grunhard, seconded Heather Kettle that the minutes of the 17 February 2016 General Meeting be accepted. Carried.

Matters Arising

The three items listed under Matters Arising: IT forums; 2016 P&C Priorities; and 2016 P&C Fund Raising were discussed below under General Business

Reports

President

The President, Helen Bell reported that:

- Tonight we'll consider our direction for the year ahead, taking into account the feedback we've received from staff, students and parents and carers.
- Jo has asked the staff members what they would like to see the P&C focus upon and fund, the SRC has provided a wish list and we've reached out to the P&C community through conversations as well as a more formal survey (delivered online and as a self-completion paper survey). The feedback and survey results will be used to help inform our discussion tonight.

- It was great to see support for the IT workshops and I've begun working with Jo on the best way to deliver these workshops.
- Still on IT, the ACT Government has been promoting their Cyber Safety program – eSafe - delivered through local libraries. For more information go to <https://esafety.gov.au/esafety-information>.
- An evening with the Lyneham High School principal for families with year 6 children is to be organised for next term.
- Congratulations to the staff and the students on the fun swimming carnival. I'd also like to acknowledge the volunteers from Lyneham High School who came over to lend a hand.
- The Medical Consent forms distributed prior to the swimming carnival generated some discussion.
- Safety at the pedestrian crossing on David Street and also at the O'Connor shops has been raised, now that bike riders do not have to dismount at pedestrian crossings
- The Turner Fete will be held again in 2016. Thanks to everyone who has already expressed interest. If you'd like to be part of the Committee please let me, or Kirsty Brook (kirsty@brookonline.net) know

A full copy of the President's report is at Attachment A

Treasurer

The Treasurer, Ephraim Grunhard, reiterated the main points of the statement presented earlier at the AGM, i.e. balance of \$35,000 with the aim to spend the money to best develop the school and to look at ways of raising funds during 2016.

Principal

The Principal, Jo Padgham, reported that:

- STEM learning is underway; students invited to submit designs in a logo competition and the STEM theme this year is STEM for Humanity.
- Staffing – Jen Faul won promotion to a position in ED office; and Helena Williams has won an office position in Gungahlin College. Both will be missed.
- The ACTEW outage was a large inconvenience, but everyone coped well. Negotiations are underway with ACTEW to recover cost of generator hire.
- Safety fence officially handed over. Work on the Y1/2 courtyards should commence end of March, subject to selection of contractor; the carpark project still due to commence "start of financial year."
- New fence has brought about a great deal of engagement and anticipation from children who love the extra play areas.
- Turner School, along with 17 other ACT schools are being reviewed in 2016 as part of the ED's cyclical review.
- Thank you to all the parents/carers who volunteered at the swimming carnival.
- Thank you also to the Lions Club for continuing to sponsor the schools participation in the Pegasus riding program.
- New shelving has been installed in the P&C Store and should make

School Board

The Board report was presented by James Turvey, a parent rep on the Board. James reported that:

- The School finances are in good shape.
- The Turner School Sun Protection guidelines were reviewed by the board and are now available for community comment.

- The Board is still waiting for the Directorate to release their new Safe and Supportive Schools policy.
- It was great to hear about some of our children, parents and teachers meeting recently to identify their key learning goals (individual learning plans – ILP) for the upcoming year. We look forward to hearing about how the children progress – thanks to all those involved.
- The Safety fence has opened up a whole new space for many of our children to now explore and play in. The Board members were impressed with the quality of the work and how modest it appears compared to other school fences.
- Sad to see two staff members leaving - Jen Faul has been a key figure in the school working in many leadership roles across various areas; and Helena Williams who has contributed in many important ways to our school through our administrative team. Good luck to both of them.
- Lastly a very big thank you to the Lions Club for their ongoing support and sponsorship to help Turner students participate in the Pegasus program.

Class Parent's Contact

- Two well attended and successful social events held – the “Big Afternoon Tea” and a drop-in dinner at the RUC.
- A reminder for parents to sign up to the class contact list. A list of Parent reps to be e-mailed to the P&C and school e-mail lists.

General Business

Priorities for the P&C for 2016

The meeting considered funding priorities presented by the P&C based on feedback from parents via on-line survey as well as personal contact; the Turner Staff; and students through the SRC.

Priority was given to expenditure on ongoing commitments, then matching items from the three groups with the balance allocated following further discussion.

The following expenditure items were endorsed by the meeting.

Operating reserve \$10,000 (insurance, affiliation, fete upfront costs, underwriting events); Stem Festival, \$2000; student entrepreneurship, \$500; resources to enhance the Indonesian program, \$1000; plants for new areas and 1/2 courtyard gardens, \$3000; playground table and seating, \$2500; additional items for the Fairy Garden \$1500; Junior Hall mirrors, \$3000 (subject to additional fundraising during the year); items for the Musical Playground, \$2500; student support as required, \$1000; a commitment to match funding for student fundraisers (e.g. support for Fiji after Winston) \$1500; Social events (such as a Trivia night) will be underwritten and operated on a cost recovery basis, \$500; capital purchase, Coffee cart, \$2000 to be used at our polling booth on election days and the Fete; garden bed & equipment for environment centre, \$1500 (we will also look into grants); and the student representative council (SRC) to purchase items they prioritise, \$5000.

The Treasurer is to submit a formal budget - \$37,500 - for approval next meeting.

Note – the Treasurer has submitted a draft budget - see Attachment B.

Fete 2016 – date, handover to incoming committee

General support for fete and new committee, with Kirsty Brook as coordinator being formed. 29 October 2016 set as the fete date.

Update on the best way to deliver parent workshops (starting with IT)

Helen Bell to discuss further with Jo Padgham.

Feedback on medical forms filled out before an excursion

Helen Bell to write to ED raising concerns expressed re the form.

Bike crossing – should children dismount or not?

Options for providing additional education to be looked into.

Update on Turner Capital Works projects (safety fence, outdoor learning environments, carparks)

Discussed in detail under the Principal's Report.

Other Business

Parent meeting with principal of Lyneham High School

Jo Padgham to arrange meeting in consultation with Helen Bell and Heather Kettle.

Next Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday 18 May 2016 – School Library

Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the General Meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

President's report – 16 March 2016

Thanks for taking the time to come along tonight. At the last meeting we asked people to start thinking about their priorities for 2016. Tonight we'll consider our direction for the year ahead, taking into account the feedback we've received from staff, students and parents and carers.

Jo has asked the staff members what they would like to see the P&C focus upon and fund, the SRC has provided a wish list and we've reached out to the P&C community through conversations as well as a more formal survey (delivered online and as a self-completion paper survey). This survey was distributed at the Class Parent Contact Network's dinner earlier in the month and then sent to everyone on the P&C mailing list as well as those who ran stalls at the 2015 Turner Fete. The results will be used to help inform our discussion tonight.

It was great to see support for the IT workshops and I've begun working with Jo on the best way to deliver these workshops. Still on IT, the ACT Government has been promoting their Cyber Safety program – eSafe - delivered through local libraries. The program is offered by the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner. It covers how to be safe online, managing privacy and security settings, removing cyber-bullying material and better understanding games, apps and social networking. For more information go to <https://esafety.gov.au/esafety-information>.

We also need to organise an evening with the Lyneham High School principal for families with year 6 children, ideally next term. Last year this was held prior to a P&C meeting. It may be better, given the interest in social activities identified through the survey, that we organise it as a separate evening, similar to the information nights the school hosted at the start of the term, or with an early barbecue dinner.

Congratulations to the staff and the students on the fun swimming carnival. I'd also like to acknowledge the volunteers from Lyneham High School who came over to lend a hand. The Medical Consent forms distributed prior to the swimming carnival generated some discussion, with several parents asking if there was something we could do to improve/reduce/remove these forms. One parent contacted the Directorate directly and has reported they are planning to review these forms and the necessity of the information they collect. If you have any feedback on these forms please let me know.

Safety at the pedestrian crossing on David Street and also at the O'Connor shops has been raised. Now that bike riders do not have to dismount at pedestrian crossings there is some concern that the speed at which they're crossing could lead to an accident. This is an agenda item in tonight's meeting – perhaps we could have a bike safety session none afternoon for our bike riding families.

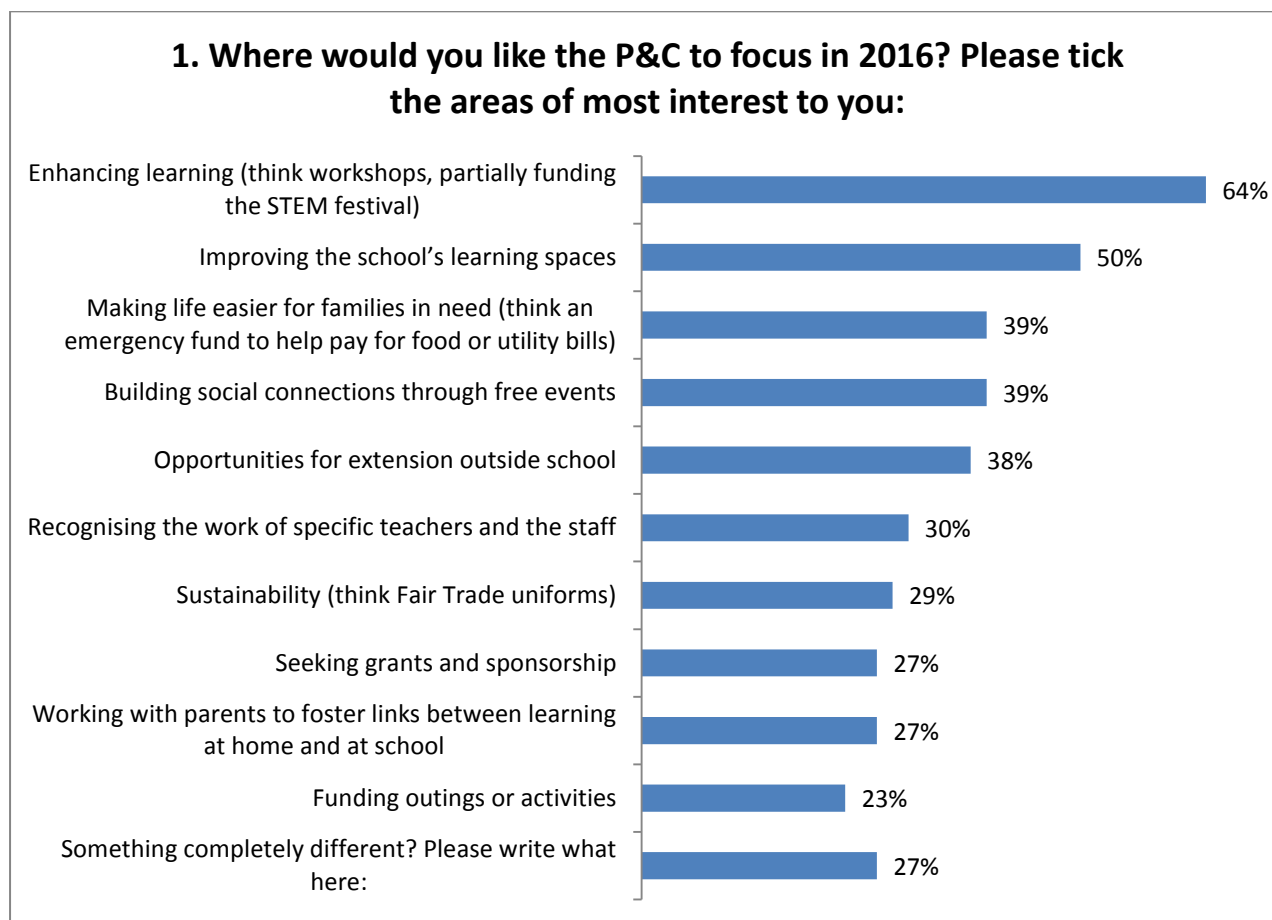
The Turner Fete will be held again in 2016. Thanks to everyone who has already expressed interest in being part of the elite organising committee. If you'd like to be part of the Committee please let me, or Kirsty Brook (kirsty@brookonline.net) know.

It's going to be another fun year!

Kind regards,

Helen.

Q1. Where would you like the P&C to focus in 2016? Please tick the areas of most interest to you:



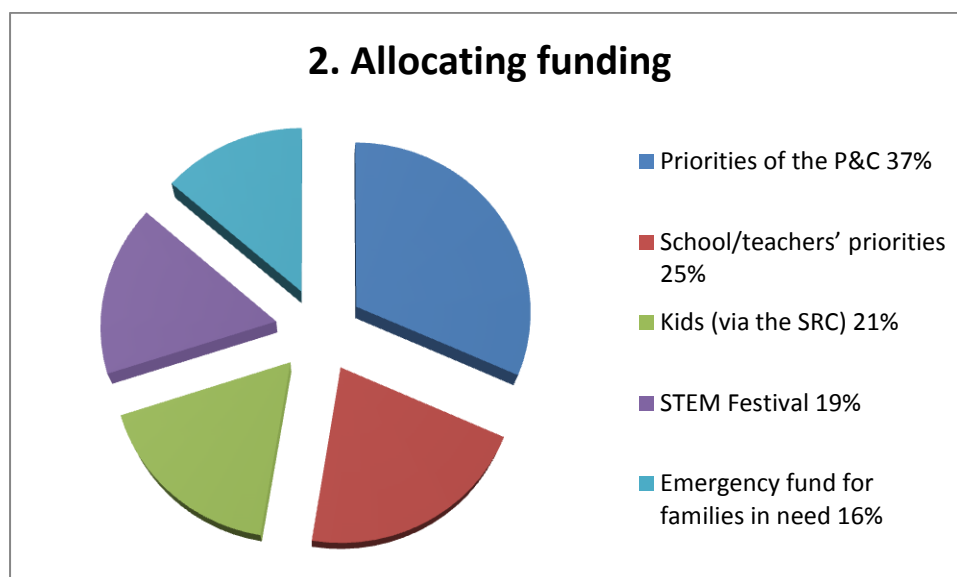
The other suggestions and comments included:

- Working with the school to foster links between learning at home and at school
- Recognising specific teachers
- Grounds work - especially plantings along outside of safety fence - a working bee - always been a lot of fun in the past.
- Identifying specific projects the school could support that build a sense of contribution to the wider world- such as helping rebuild schools in Fiji after Cyclone Winston.
- Improving kids play areas around the school/improving the school's outdoor play spaces; fundraising to support the above activities.
- Increase the links with indigenous culture and history of Australia. Stretch this to other cultures within our community.
- Grow emphasis on the school's cultural diversity through, for example, food markets/events.
- More encouragement / recognition of students outstanding sporting achievements.
- Carbon footprint and lighting audit conducted in conjunction with the school and students as forming part of the STEM festival.
- See comment below on sponsoring external experts to hold workshops or classes with teachers and students. (Also on Q2 I like the idea of the students identifying their own priorities for \$ as I think they have a really good sense of what is good to do and priority for all the students).
- Linked to workshops I think - help build an informed school community on policy issues of contemporary relevance to community/parents (e.g IT presentation that has been flagged;

behavioural framework about to be revised - current policy requires procedures be developed in consultation with school community - lets host presentation/info/workshop sessions to find out what good behavioural management looks like. then we can contribute meaningfully to what we want)

- Organise after school learning (language courses, courses of maths, computer programming, science, music, etc.)
- Air-conditioning units in classrooms
- Combining socialising with school activities
- Supporting school entrepreneurship eg Lemonade stand programs
- Forums on ICT and behavioural management best practice to fit with/inform the Board Review including to integrate special needs kids.
- Several people commented that we would need to be cautious about administering an emergency fund. I've spoken to a number of people about this and several people suggested we focus on Christmas hampers with gifts and food for families, as this is when they are in most need.

Q2. The P&C has a budget of around \$20,000 for 2016. There are a few items that are set: funding of kids to attend the Pegasus riding program, funding part of the travel costs of kids representing the school at regional, state and national events (Tournament of the Minds, chess, sports) and insurance. The remainder will be allocated to be spent in 2016. How do you think this should be split between these groups? Please provide a rough percentage estimate or write a comment.



3. People were asked to provide any comments or clarifications here. Also, if they allocated an amount to "Priorities of the P&C" above, they were asked to let us know what specific things they'd like to see funded.

28 people chose to provide a comment. Based on the comments, "Priorities of the P&C" should be interpreted as the priorities set out in question one. Other comments/suggestions are outlined below.

SRC

There was strong support for giving the SRC a large, round figure and several people proposed \$5000. "I think it's particularly great to give the kids (via SRC) a budget" was a common comment.

Social events/links

- To be advertised a long way in advance
- Free events building social connections through free events!
- A quiz night.
- Also, the idea of linking parents through 'events' like Friday afternoon BBQs, coordinate park meet ups, walks, dog parks or something based on a common / community of interest would be great for taking pressure of one-to-one relationship building. Perhaps a first step is to set up a P&C facebook/social media presence to connect parents socially.
- Social / thinking things - random ideas as they pop up
- Invite the Afters kids to the Friday picnics.

Enhancing learning

- After-school courses of maths, science, computer programming.
- Excursions/incursions.
- STEM Festival - the bubble guy, lots of free resources available, pay for experiments.
- Carbon Footprint quote of \$3,080 inc GST. Lighting energy audit TBC approx. \$1,500, which would then provide potential savings for the school and provide a great learning experience for the students.
- Bringing in external people with particular skills to spend a day or two working with children would be good, eg young scientists from interstate for the STEM festival, young women who would be role models for the children, or a children's author or someone (Eg teacher/academic) from another state with innovative ideas on learning that the school could learn about.

Learning spaces

- Bike rack improvements / activities like getting serial numbers for bikes for kids to take home
- Tree planting/plants/plantings, with a suggestion that we could also seek sponsorship
- Installing more kids play equipment, plants to provide the kids more play spaces, sports equipment, upgrade of quadrangle.
- Helping with proposed development courtyard areas alongside classrooms David St
- Building on the work already done with supporting the provision of imaginative outdoor play spaces
- Purchase of big ticket climbing frame (eg to extend frame already located near sand pit)
- Train yard landscaping
- Not appropriate for the P&C to pay for painting & general school maintenance.

Sponsorship

- I think effort to achieve sponsorships to cross subsidise otherwise high effort events (like Fete) would be great.

Support

- supporting community including families who are lonely or in need in other ways - swapping equipment, sending a kid on holiday, inviting newcomers
- Some teachers are resourcing rooms out of their own pockets. This can include furniture, storage items, games, books, craft materials etc. Should some money be allocated to this? Also, some staff are purchasing breakfast items, fruit, snacks and hygiene items and other emergency items. Perhaps a petty cash system could be implemented?
- P&C breakfasts - social event to help kids in need.

Other

- Indigenous and other cultural group activities- celebrations and understanding. All linked to curiosity, similarities and appreciation.

- Air Con or better insulated window coverings but when visiting / helping out in the the 5/6 rooms I couldn't help but notice how incredibly hot they get in summer and the air con in Leonie's room is so noisy she can't put it on because it's hard to talk over the top the noise it produces and is a distraction to the students so they sit there and sweat.
- Theoretically I like the idea of recognising great teachers, and Turner has lots of them - not sure how it can be done with sensitivity....Don't put too much weight on my allocations - a little bit of a stab...

And a few final comments

- They are all good things to spend the money on.
- I think P&C fund raisers should control how the money is spent. The stronger the nexus the more motivated will be the fund raisers.
- Hard to split without knowing the costs involved.
- Doing what you/ we are doing - we should be pretty proud!"

I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the survey and to Jo and Deb who provided valuable insights into what could be possible.

TURNER P&C

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES 2016 --- TOTAL \$35,000

SRC	\$5,000
STEM	\$2,000
Garden items (safety fence planting, equipment & soils)	\$3,000
Sustainability items (environmental garden/wicking)	\$1,500
P&C Student Support	\$1,000
Playground Music	\$2,500
Outdoor tables/seats	\$2,500
Fairy Garden	\$1,500
Indonesian facilities	\$1,000
Student Community Fundraising Project	\$1,500
Junior Hall	\$3,000
Student Entrepreneurship	\$500
Operating Reserve (including Fete, Pegasus, PSSA/TOMS support, coffee cart)	\$10,000

ACTION LIST FROM P&C COMMITTEE MEETING 16 MARCH 2016

Action	Who	By	Remarks
The Treasurer is to submit a formal budget - \$37,500 - for approval next meeting.	Ephraim Grunhard	May meeting	
Feedback on medical forms filled out before an excursion	Helen Bell to write to ED raising concerns expressed re the form.	May meeting	
Options for providing additional education to be looked into.		May meeting	
Meeting with Lyneham High	Jo Padgham to arrange meeting in consultation with Helen Bell and Heather Kettle.	Second Term	

