Darlington Public School P&C
October General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 9 October 2013
Meeting opened at 6.10pm in School Staff Room

Agenda item 1. Introduction
Acknowledgement of Country by Michael Keating.

Agenda item 2. Apologies
Sarah Barker, Cathie Burgess, Rae Cooper, Michelle McCormack.

Attendance:

Agenda item 3. Acceptance of Minutes from August Meeting
James Lusty moved that the August minutes be accepted and Penny McCulloch seconded the motion.
Michael Keating pointed out that one of the actions for Agenda item 5 in the September minutes was incorrect in relating to Kathy McDermott. This action will be deleted.
Anna Butler stated that she did not remember saying she would be the one to forward past P&C documents relating to the Sydney uni works to the current P&C. Ifeanna stated that the documents had been provided and thanked whoever it was who put them in the P&C pigeon hole.
Tim Ayres suggested that the way the current agenda for the P&C meetings is structured makes for a long meeting. He stated that when general business is early on lengthy discussions can take place and they may come up during the meeting under other items. Tim suggested the Principal’s report be higher up on the agenda. Michael Keating agreed this could be changed and suggested we start off with the Principal’s Report first tonight.
ACTION: Ifeanna to draft a new agenda structure and send out to P&C for comment.

Agenda item 4. General Business
Business Arising [This agenda item was moved to the end of the meeting]

Agenda item 7.-4. Principal’s Report – Liz Sinnott [This item was moved forward]
School Review: the following are being addressed:
Response to the REVIEW:
Recommendation 1: Darlington PS develops and implements clear systems, policies and procedures to support student learning outcomes
Recommendation 2: Darlington PS develops and implements a whole school strategic plan to improve student outcomes across all Key Learning Areas.
Recommendation 3: Darlington PS establishes clear communication guidelines within and beyond the school.
Recommendation 4: All stakeholders in the school community commit to working together to improve student outcomes.

Staffing: the School Administration Manager was unable to be filled as could not recommend a suitable applicant when it was advertised internally. It was advertised externally (outside DEC) today. Liz, a School parent and an administration manager from another school will be on the interview panel.
**Enrichment programs:** Executive staff, in collaboration with School staff have developed an enrichment program in IT, drama, photography, literacy, numeracy and sciences. Not every child will be involved. Liz outlined the programs. Lesley stated that there was also the Book Club and debating.

Penny asked whether the whole school is involved as in all ages. Liz replied that it was kindergarten to Year 6. Lesley stated that they are doing it in stages, i.e. Stage 1 is Year 1 and 2, e.g. maths in a small group of 8-10 kids who work on problem solving.

**School survey:** (also see below) The survey on School communication has now closed and Liz thanked those who responded. There will be another survey on performing arts at the School which will be sent out next week (electronically and on paper).

Penny asked how this survey related to the other performance review which was done as part of the School Review last year. Lesley stated that this was more open-ended questions asked of the kids.

**Programming Policy:** this has been developed and relates to the planning and evaluation of teaching and learning in each classroom and teachers are working to the guidelines within it. It is a legal requirement that all teachers have a “Program” for teaching and learning in their classes. It will soon be posted on the website.

**School App:** Liz is getting quotes to purchase a School app for parents and carers with smart phones. This will potentially enable payments for excursions online, viewing of calendar events, the School Bulletin, urgent notifications, filling out of absence notes online, policies, etc.

**Kindergarten transition** starts next week for 3 weeks and preschool orientation will occur on 5th November.

Liz has arranged for a speech therapist to work with the Kinder/Year 1 classes next year.

**Momentum ESR** is enabling staff to move our systems to electronic versions. This program has given us wider access to their modules including mark book, calendars, electronic roll marking.

**School survey (cont’d):** There were 71 replies to the survey, which is about a third or a quarter of the school parents/carers. 97% of respondents were happy with School communication. From the survey it showed that 58% of parents don’t access the assembly.

**WiFi and cabling:** Liz has obtained 2 quotes or WiFi and cabling and a plan has been prepared. The hardware will need to be investigated further.

**Electricity capacity:** Liz is waiting for the Department to get back to her regarding the assessment of the electricity assessment of the School.

**Noise monitors** were put in the Owls and Year 6 classrooms last Tuesday morning so that there can be monitoring of noise levels for a week without children around and a week with them at school.

Maya asked what the purpose of having the noise monitors is.

Liz stated that this will enable the collection of baseline data which can be compared to times with construction noise.

Maya stated that it would be easy for them to schedule the less noisy works on days when they were monitoring the noise levels.

Luci stated that the noise levels have been measured in the local area, not specifically at the School.

Maya stated that they aren’t obliged to do any monitoring.

Luci stated that they have told us they will do self-monitoring.

Liz stated that they give us a bulletin of the week’s results.

Luci stated that there is a smart phone App where you can record noise on a phone.

Liz stated that the teachers are eating inside with the kids at lunch from now on.

Martine stated that there is not much noise as yet as the Boundary Lane childcare building is still in between us and the construction site.

Liz stated that they told the School they have moved a pile driver on the construction site within sight of the playground but it will not be used for a while.

Michael Keating suggested that since we were talking about the Sydney University development we could follow on to that.

**Agenda item 5. Sydney University development**

Michael asked Luci to outline what she has been doing in this regard.

Luci stated that there was an impromptu meeting of concerned parents on the first Saturday of the school holidays to collate information. She has set up a Wiki online and people can contact Luci to be able to access this. Her email is lucitemple@yahoo.com.au
The School is considered a ‘special zone’ but this is not legally enforceable as it was not specified in the DA. There is lots of information and paperwork to read through to get a handle on what has gone on in the past and what is currently in place and approved.
Luci stated that if they are not meeting their conditions of consent, the EPA has said we can then complain to the Department of Planning, MPs, the EPA, etc.
James stated that we need a number of people to look and make sense of the technical information. We need to hold them accountable. Heather Clement is an engineer and Ben Daggar is a builder and there is some expertise there.
Liz stated that they are relying on the act that there have been a lot of changes since the initial DA was put in, in contractors, development managers as well as 3 different principals at the School in 6 months.
James stated that we need to get evidence so that our case is evidence based.
Maya suggested we email the School community to ask if there is anyone with skills who can help.
Jen stated that RAID might be able to help.
**ACTION:** P&C to send a one-liner to Liz by Sunday night so she can put the request in the Bulletin.
There was further discussion on the construction works including:
The teachers are diarising the impacts of dust and/or noise.
We need to talk to other parents and ensure all the classes are covered.
We need the School to be sealed.
**ACTION:** James to send an email out to get the next meeting organised.
Martine suggested the email should specify the type of help needed, i.e. someone who can assess the DA and work out what it means.
Beth suggested we as an architect from a university and they could use our case as a project.
Dominique said she might have some contacts at Macquarie University.
Michael Keating proposed this Saturday for the next meeting.
Luci stated that perhaps there is a point where, if we are not getting information/documents we request, that we stop talking to the University and go over their heads.
Michael Condon suggested we could go to the media.
James stated that there should be another committee to look into the media side of things.

**Agenda item 6. Updates**

6.1 Online clothing pool – no update

6.2 Movie night - Ifeanna
This will be on Friday 25 October and will not have a Halloween theme. Organisers are Ifeanna and Sherrie and we will need at least another 2 parents to help with the food with the teachers supervising the kids. Ifeanna has organised pizzas from Doughboys Pizza in Newtown and they will waive the delivery fee.
**ACTION:** Ifeanna to ask Liz to put something in next week’s Bulletin and ask Kerry if she can send out a note in bags about it with permission slip and parent/carer contact details.
Ifeanna to send out email to ask for parent volunteers.

6.3 Pedestrian Safety – no update

**Agenda item 8.->7. Secretary’s Report – Ifeanna Tooth** [This item moved forward]
Correspondence: we are officially incorporated.
Applications for new membership: There were 2 applications for membership.

**Agenda item 9.->8. Treasurer’s Report – Dominique du Cros** [This item moved forward]
Report tabled.

**Agenda item 4.->9. General Business**
Business Arising [This item was moved to the end of the meeting] /**Other Business**
Nil to report.
Crowd Funding for School Digital Equipment
Luci then presented the crowd funding video she and the teachers had put together to raise $5,000 so that the School can go digital. She showed the website and the video on the smartboard in the library. Payment is by PayPal or people can fill out a pledge form at the School office. If the target is not reached then the money that people have pledged is not paid. Luci said this is a proven way of getting funding quickly.

**ACTION:** Luci to send an email with information and the website address to Ifeanna so can be sent out via the P&C hotmail email.

The website will also be advertised in the School Bulletin.

Luci also outlined the work she had been doing in putting together a Wiki for the Sydney uni construction (see agenda item on Sydney Uni development above).

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

**Next meeting Wednesday 13 November 2013 at 6pm**

**ACTIONS SUMMARY from October Meeting**

<table>
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<td>Ifeanna</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Sydney Uni construction - send a one-liner asking for help on campaign to Liz by Sunday night so she can put the request in the Bulletin</td>
<td>P&amp;C</td>
<td>Completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Send an email out to get the next Sydney Uni construction campaign meeting organised</td>
<td>James Lusty</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Liz Sinnott</td>
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<td>Email current P&amp;C a copy of the last letter sent by the then S&amp;C to</td>
<td>Anna Butler(?) &amp; Rebecca Askew</td>
<td>Completed</td>
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<td>the University of Sydney</td>
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<td>Draft letter to Vice Chancellor University of Sydney to voice P&amp;C</td>
<td>Michael Condon</td>
<td>?</td>
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<td>concerns re Abercrombie Precinct Development</td>
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<td>Place a data sheet on the School system to enable teachers to comment</td>
<td>Liz Sinnott</td>
<td>Staff diarising instead</td>
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<td>on any impacts of the construction, e.g. noise, dust, other.</td>
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<td>Provide an itemised garden spending plan for the next meeting</td>
<td>School Garden Club</td>
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