Darlington Public School P&C General
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 11 September 2013
Meeting opened at 6.05pm in School Staff Room

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

Agenda item 2. Apologies
Sarah Barker, Jen Burn, Katharine Vanderwal, Ian Medina.

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.

Agenda item 4. General Business
4.1 Business Arising
Ifeanna went through actions and progress made from the last meeting.

4.2 School wish list revisited
Dominique suggested that Liz get together with School staff to discuss and prioritise the wish list which had been put forward by the Steve Mead, the recent Acting Principal at Darlington PS.
ACTION: Liz to talk about a School funding wish list to staff and report back when discussions have taken place and items on list have been prioritised.

4.3 Thankyous
Michael Keating stated that it had been a huge month with 3 fundraisers. Michael wanted to thank the following people and gave his apologies in advance if he left anyone out:
MADfest – thanks to Liz and teachers, especially Graeme, Sandy and Pamela and Lesley, Martine and Robin who organised the costumes.
A special thanks to Sarah Constable who catered for the 3 BBQs in the last month.
James Lusty for the coffee machine and hours of work he put in at MADfest and on Election Day.
Penny’s husband Rik who manned the BBQ for MADfest with an injured back.
Tug Dumbly [aka Geoff Forrester] for being a great MC at MADfest.
David McLaughlin who face painted for 4 hours at MADfest.
Michael stated that in the last 3 events the kids helped out with selling food including cakes and drinks.
Katharine for organising the online clothing pool which is in progress.
Dominique for her work on the Sydney University development issues.
Garden people at the Election BBQ.
Rebecca Askew asked how much money was raised at the 3 fundraisers. Dominique replied that she had rough figures as her laptop had stopped working and the Treasurer’s report was on the laptop. These figures after expenses are: MADfest ca. $1,400-$1,500; Bunnings BBQ $1,200; Election BBQ $2,500 not including the Garden group stall which made $1,200. The Movie night is the next fund raiser. Michael stated that Rik had incurred a parking fine during the Athletics carnival when he was told by parking staff that he could park next to the School bus. Michael suggested we pass around a hat to collect money to make a contribution towards the fine which has been paid by Penny and Rik. Rebecca questioned why the P&C couldn’t just pay the fine. Dominique replied that if this occurred it could set a precedent for P&C paying for other non-school related items in future.

**Agenda item 5. Sydney University development – Dominique**

Liz, Dominique, Heather and others from the School met with the developers and few weeks ago. Dominique minuted the meeting and these were circulated to the School community 2 weeks ago. The same concerns exist now as when the development applications were looked at in 2010/11. After the meeting Sydney Uni put in a development application for the changes which they were required after the Planning committee assessment.

Dominique stated that the concerns are about the impact of the excavation and construction of the Business School and the changes to be made. Submissions can be made on the Department of Planning website and submissions need to be in by 19 September. We need to decide what sort of submission the P&C should make.

The changes include a driveway off Darlington Lane down the side of the School and also a change in height of the building due to impact on Mandelbaum House meaning they needed to move equipment onto the roof so it will be taller. At the same time the basement is lower so the height from the bottom of the building to the top is the same but the above ground height is increased. There are about 50 documents on the website which need to be looked at for the submission.

There will be a ventilation shaft from the carpark which is 9m from the School boundary. Last night was an information night where the ventilation shaft and excavation past the playground was discussed. There is asbestos under the top playground so we need to ensure these works are in the school holidays in case they come across any asbestos. The impacts of these works will be huge so the developers have to be careful.

Maya Saric stated that the School could be closed in such an event. Rae asked what the Department [DEC] would do then and if there was asbestos on their site. Dominique answered that they have bored 100 holes to test for contaminants and found nothing but that does not mean it is not there.

Liz stated that there are also some old telecommunications pits made of asbestos but these will be removed in one piece and not broken up on site. Dominique stated that we have to trust they are doing the right thing.

Dominique stated that in December there is a separate contract for the Shepherd Centre [the School’s neighbour to the north] to be demolished to make way for student accommodation. The Uni can’t tell us anything about this but they are going to pull it down, excavate and build on this site. We don’t know who the contractor is or the timing yet. Rae asked who owns that land. Maya stated that the University does.

Liz stated that Julie Parsons brought it up so it may be owned by the Uni. Dominique suggested that other representatives of the School community could go with Liz to the next meeting which Liz has been invited to by Sydney Uni (Julie Parsons).

Kyong asked how many floors this would be. Dominique answered 4-5 floors. Dominique went on to say that the concrete pour for the Business School will take 6-7 months. Kyong stated that 2 mornings ago there was very loud noise coming from the construction site which was very worrying.

Dominique said there had not been enough feedback from parents and teachers about effects of construction to the contractors. We need to get the message out to people; not to frighten them but to inform them. Luci has emailed them about her daughter seeing a driver smoking next to the playground and [possibly] as a consequence they have made the fence higher.
Liz stated that someone else had rung up and made a complaint and they shut down the equipment and tested it. So they appear to take feedback seriously.

Rae asked if they monitor noise.

Dominique stated that they monitor and report on it weekly in a table. There have been some louder than acceptable levels reported.

Maya stated that we need the School acoustically sealed now.

Liz stated that this would make rooms unbearably hot.

Dominique stated that teachers are the only ones who can report on the noise levels in classrooms as students can’t. Luci suggested teachers could record the noise somehow.

Dominique stated that this could be matched up with what teachers have reported.

Maya said that there will still be impact.

Dominique stated that the first thing we need to look at is the electrical power as if we shut all the windows will need air conditioning. We need a way of getting a power assessment.

Liz stated that quotes are needed and then could get someone out to do the assessment.

**ACTION:** Liz with to organise quotes for an assessment of electrical system at the School.

Dominique said Heather might be able to help getting quotes or possibly looking at noise monitoring.

James suggested we should monitor levels from our side of the fence.

Dominique stated that there is no ongoing air quality monitoring.

James stated that we would want our own consultants to do the measuring, not theirs.

**ACTION:** P&C to organise quotes for air and noise quality monitoring.

Maya stated that she looked across at the playground on the weekend and there was a yellowy orange haze dust cloud over the playground.

Dominique stated that at the meeting the project director had stated that it could not have been due to their works but something else. He was very defensive instead of thanking us for the information.

Rae stated that David from the Uni at a previous meeting had said we could contact him if there was any problem with the site manager.

Dominique stated that it was his attitude rather than anything he had done.

Lesley stated that trucks were mentioned in the Sydney Uni meeting last night.

Dominique stated that the project director had said that they weren’t their trucks.

James suggested we get some publicity.

Dominique stated that we need to put in a submission to keep the process going and the pressure on. We need to show that we are very concerned which could cause delays in the project and cost them money. Not enough people turned up to the meeting last night which gave them the impression that not many parents are concerned.

Liz stated that we are suggesting that Sydney Uni pay for the School’s power upgrade.

Rebecca stated that any time we get an agreement from them on anything they change something which then takes us back to the beginning.

James stated that we are dealing with Sydney Uni.

Dominique stated that even Sydney Uni staff have changed over the period.

Rae stated that we need to write to the University.

James suggested writing to the Vice Chancellor.

Dominique asked members of the previous S&C committee if they had a copy of the last letter sent by the former S&C to the University.

Rebecca and Anna answered that they should be able to find a copy of it.

**ACTION:** Rebecca or Anna to email letter to Dominique or Ifeanna.

Michael Condon stated that we have asked about a lot of things and we have had unsatisfactory responses and we should send this to the Vice Chancellor.

Maya added that we could also suggest that construction ceases.

James suggested we outline how we think it can be fixed, this is what we want.

Michael Condon volunteered to draft this letter to the Vice Chancellor up and James said he could help.

Dominique stated she and Heather could help too.

**ACTION:** Michael Condon to draft letter to Vice Chancellor.
Dominique suggested that it would be helpful if the teachers had some sort of form or table in their classrooms which they could fill out if there were any impacts of the construction and time of event, e.g. “dust on tables”, “very noisy at 11am”.

Dominique called for people to contact her if they want to be involved in the submission writing and also talk to other parents. Others may have skills they can bring to the process, etc.

Michael Condon stated that we need to raise the issues.

Rebecca stated that we have already raised the issues and we thought this had been dealt with.

Kathy stated that some parents are like her and don’t have contact with other parents. She suggested it would be good to write down the history of what has been done so far, including concerns raised and what we’ve discussed tonight, what we propose and send this out to the School community as an update and continue with more updates. It could be emailed and put in school bags.

Rae suggested we could draw up a pro forma such as was done for the last submission.

Kathy said she could help with this update.

Rae stated we put the submission into Planning [Department].

Dominique agreed that we will have something to circulate to parents.

When the submission is submitted [online] note that people need to identify whether they are ‘objecting’ or ‘commenting’ and there are check boxes for each and need to select ‘object’.

Michael Condon stated that we can get the letter together as a separate document to the submission.

Dominique stated that we need to talk to the teachers and School community.

James asked what Liz could do.

Liz replied she could put it [the data/running sheet] up on the system like a critical incident form online to tick a box for ‘noise’, ‘dust’ or ‘other’ impacts to be recorded.

Dominique asked if this was the same as a school incident report.

Liz replied that it was not as formal as that and is more for internal data use.

**ACTION:** Liz to put a data sheet on the School system to enable teachers to comment on any impacts of the construction, e.g. noise, dust, other.

Maya stated that there was a distribution list for parents and that last year she was very concerned about lead. Maya could supply her own views of last night’s meeting with Sydney Uni which could then be circulated.

Fenanna stated that parental views on the Sydney Uni development and P&C to email this out to the School community via the P&C hotmail account.

**Agenda item 6. Updates**

6.1 Online clothing pool – Dominique

The PayPal account is under construction as the P&C needs to be incorporated first and this is taking a bit of time.

Rebecca stated that a couple of parents had mentioned to her that the current lost property bin is too deep for some shorter people to reach into and search for lost items and could there be a new bin?

Lesley stated that in the past there were baskets on top tied on but someone took the ties.

Liz stated that she should be able to find another piece of furniture which might be suitable.

6.2 Movie night - Dominique

This will be on Friday 25 October and will not have a Halloween theme. It is better for the younger kids that it is not for Halloween. The P&C will organise this closer to the date. Organisers are Ifeanna and Sherrie.

Rebecca asked when the P&C started organising movie nights as the School had always done it in the past.

Lesley stated that this was when Stephen Mead was acting principal and because some of the staff who had helped in the past were not around anymore and it was organised that parents to help with the food with the teachers still supervising the kids.

6.3 Canteen

The Purple Goanna cafe in Redfern has been providing kids with lunches on Fridays. Comments from kids have been that it works ok.

Luci asked if we could get the numbers of kids who order lunches as this might be useful. Marj has their phone number which Luci can get from her to contact the cafe.
6.4 Pedestrian Safety
Michael and Liz said that the State government launched the new pedestrian crossing lights outside the School and media were present. [There is no change to the current pedestrian crossings near the School]

Agenda item 7. Principal’s Report – Liz Sinnott
School Review: all classroom teachers have enrolled in professional learning relating to the NSW English syllabus. There were 4 days where staff from each grade had a half day meeting with Michael Genner (Curriculum Leader Sydney Region). Staff seem to be enjoying this.
The Learning and Support Team structure is helping kids with learning difficulties with assistance from Cat Robertson (Every Student Every School Project Officer Sydney Region).
There has been a technology audit by regional staff with the aim that there will be new cabling installed and wireless where possible. There have been 2 quotes to remove the blue chords. There could be a fundraiser to fund this, including funding proper computer desks.

Staffing: the interview panel met and the School is in the process of filling the School Administration Manager.
Maya asked if that was Kerry's position.
Liz replied that Kerry is the School Administration Officer but stepped into the other role but since Jane Byrne retired the position needs to be filled.
An Enrichment Officer position will be filled next term to work on IT, numeracy, literacy and sciences.
The School is still being cleaned and with the 4th skip being filled.

For the wish list, the School community could have a working bee where all can help with the clean up.
Liz will soon send out the surveys to parents around performing arts and communication. An online survey program, SurveyMonkey has been purchased to help achieve this.
The auditor comes next Wednesday to audit the School’s finances. This happens every time there is a new principal appointed to a school.
Michael Keating asked when the working bee will happen.
Liz replied that she will ask the teachers for their preference next term.

Agenda item 8. Secretary’s Report – Ifeanna Tooth
Correspondence: there was no correspondence for the month.
Applications for new membership: There were no applications for membership.
Ifeanna has printed some membership forms. Dominique asked whether we could leave some of these at the School. Liz suggested leaving them at the office with Kerry.

Agenda item 9. Treasurer’s Report – Dominique du Cros
The Athletics carnival BBQ raised around $75 as most of the takings paid for the oval, other amounts raised at fundraisers were mentioned earlier.

Garden Funds: The School Garden Committee/Club received a grant from the City of Sydney Council for $5,000 and there is spreadsheet with monies spent and what items were purchased. Since then they have held fundraising at events and raised money for the garden for ongoing funding.
There is a need to endorse the funds previously raised and earmarked for the garden. There are some records of specifics about where the funds were spent. We need to draw a line and have the amount of money agreed on for the garden committee and the group have a plan on how the money will be spent so it’s the money and the plan together. Then as receipts come up they can record these.
There won’t be a separate garden bank account as it can be managed as mentioned and it can come under the umbrella of the P&C and not be entirely separate.

Dominique moved a motion that $600 from the 2009 fete, $372 from the February Election, $566 from the March 2012 State Election, $1,259 from the 2011 fete and $1,200 from the Election last weekend which totals around $4,000 will form the garden fund moving forward. Nichola stated that she had a draft plan which she can work on to present at the next meeting.
The motion was carried by a show of hands.
**ACTION**: The Garden Club provide an itemised spending plan for the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.22pm

**Next meeting Wednesday 9 October 2013 at 6pm**

**ACTIONS SUMMARY from September Meeting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>RESPONSIBILITY</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dominique and Katharine to set up PayPal account for online clothing pool</td>
<td>Katharine &amp; Dominique</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian safety – contact University of Sydney Abercrombie Precinct Development consultants re funding</td>
<td>Michael Keating</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organise quotes for School power system assessment to work out if air conditioning is an option</td>
<td>Liz Sinnott</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organise quotes for independent air and noise quality monitoring</td>
<td>P&amp;C &amp; Liz</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Email current P&amp;C a copy of the last letter sent by the then S&amp;C to the University of Sydney</td>
<td>Anna Butler &amp; Rebecca Askew</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft letter to Vice Chancellor University of Sydney to voice P&amp;C concerns re Abercrombie Precinct Development</td>
<td>Michael Condon</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Place a data sheet on the School system to enable teachers to comment on any impacts of the construction, e.g. noise, dust, other.</td>
<td>Liz Sinnott</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide an itemised garden spending plan for the next meeting</td>
<td>School Garden Club</td>
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## ACTIONS SUMMARY from August Meeting

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<tr>
<td>Ifeanna to email James Lusty Liz’s email address for SAM recruitment panel</td>
<td>Ifeanna</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ifeanna to email Liz for Kelly’s email address to have P&amp;C events calendar added to School website</td>
<td>Ifeanna</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add P&amp;C fundraising events to School Facebook page</td>
<td>Luci</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Sheri Joseph &amp; Lesley to work out program for Fathers Day Pizza &amp; Pyjamas</td>
<td>Ifeanna</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draw up volunteer table to be used at MADfest</td>
<td>Cathie</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Draft letter to parking people from Sydney Uni to ask for leniency regarding parking fine incurred by volunteer during Athletics carnival</td>
<td>Ifeanna to email Penny McCulloch to get details of fine. Ifeanna &amp; Shelly to draft letter on P&amp;C letter head.</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sort out garden finances</td>
<td>Garden group &amp; Dominique</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Send Abercrombie Precinct Development meeting minutes to Ifeanna for circulation</td>
<td>Dominique</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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