Darlington Public School S&C General
Meeting: December Minutes
Tuesday 10 December 2013
Meeting opened at 6.05pm in School Staff Room

Agenda item 1. Welcome
Michael Keating welcomed everyone to the meeting

Agenda item 2. Acknowledgement of Country by Michael Keating and he encouraged the remembrance of Nelson Mandela, his life and what he achieved.

Agenda item 3. Apologies
Dominique du Cros, Tim Ayers, Heather Clement, Sarah Barker, Suzy Pickles

Attendance:
Michael Keating, Ifeanna Tooth, Luci Temple, Liz Sinnott, James Lusty, Anna Butler, Michael Condon, Lesley Blackett, Kathy McDermott, Rae Cooper, Penny McCulloch, Rik Torrens, Cathie Burgess, Michelle McCormack, Rebecca Shanahan, Rebecca Askew, Maya Saric, Jen Burn, Georgina Andrews.

Agenda item 4. Acceptance of Minutes from November Meeting
Penny McCulloch moved that the November minutes be accepted and James Lusty seconded the motion.

Agenda item 5. Business Arising [items arising from the minutes]
Ifeanna: all the actions from the last meeting had been completed or were ongoing.
Since the last meeting, Cathie investigated why we did not receive any funding for Aboriginal students at the School apart from Auntie Norma’s salary as reported in last month’s minutes and spoke to Cindy Berwick, Relieving Head of Aboriginal Education and Engagement Unit in the DEC. Apparently, we and some other schools had been left off the list of schools with aboriginal students. We are now back on the list and will receive $200 for every aboriginal student of which there will be about 30 in 2014.
Michael thanked Cathie for her efforts and great result on behalf of the School Community.

Agenda item 6. President’s Report – Michael Keating
The next P&C meeting will be in February and the AGM in March 2014.
Update on traffic issues: Michael contacted Joseph Gomes, Area Traffic Engineer from the City of Sydney Council and Nicole Dobson, Speed Management Officer Sydney Region from the Roads and Maritime Services. The schedule for the rollout of flashing lights will be worked out in January 2014 with discussions between RMS and schools and the decisions made being based on local government area. The flashing lights at the pedestrian crossing will be working by December 2015. [The NSW Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Roads and Ports recently announced an acceleration of the school zone flashing lights program, which will ensure that every school in NSW has a set of flashing lights by December 2015.]
Liz: They have done the survey and because our School launched it we will be one of the first schools to receive the flashing lights.

Michael: Thanks to Sarah Constable, Adam Crease, Sam Hall, Rik Torrens and others for the sausage sizzles and Luci for her digital fundraising efforts. Thanks also to Tracie Devlin who did a lot of organising for the Election Day BBQ. Thanks to Ifeanna and Sherrie for the Pizza night as well as staff who helped on the night and with input. Thanks to Tug Dumbly and teachers for the music and dance festival, MADfest.
Thanks to the Garden committee, they are an integral part of the School and integrated into school teaching.
Michael went on to say that it had been a difficult year with the Principal retiring, Steve Mead Acting. Steve managed the transition period well. Colleen retired and she was greatly respected, especially early on with so many disadvantaged kids. Colleen managed to push on and hold the School together in those times. No matter what we felt about her, Colleen left a great legacy. Colleen mentioned to Michael that with all the fuss most retiring principals receive a bunch of flowers but thanks to Sherrie she got two tickets to the US. Michael thanked Liz for being our permanent principal and especially for overseeing the Review.

There was a lot of difficulty and tension early on this year but we have put our differences behind us in order to keep the School Community functioning. We have a lot of parents with a lot of skills and we can work together to support the School.

We need to ensure that everyone is welcome and that they can have a role to play in our community. We can be proud of the lots of volunteering from the School Community.

Looking to next year we have to deal with the Sydney University and thanks to Dominique, Maya, James and Heather for their ongoing commitment to this.

We are getting a lot of what we’d hoped for now. This has been going on for a number of years now and there are people who deserve ongoing thanks, e.g. having the original entrance to the Abercrombie St development moved. To next year: we have $22,000 in the bank [including what pledged for digital equipment]. It has been a challenging year, but we can meet in a calm and civil way, listen to one another and support the School and we’ll continue to do this next year.

Thanks to the Executive for all their help, e.g. Ifeanna for secretary duties, Cathie who is leaving this year; her last child will be attending high school next year. Kathy McDermott is also in her last year as a parent. Michael K was then thanked for his contribution.

Penny asked to make a point which follows.

Penny said she thinks it is important for Liz to be at the P&C meetings, for the whole meeting, e.g. for fundraising issues. If Liz is not present, people may then knock on her door during school hours which will take her time away from school duties.

Liz stated she gets to school at 6.30am.

Penny stated that the meetings are only held once a month and that others too have early mornings and busy lives and that it is important that Liz attends the meetings.

Liz stated that it was her intention that she stay at the meetings.

Penny stated that she thought it was good to move up the Principal’s report [in the Agenda].

Luci stated that this issue was originally brought up so that the principal would be allowed to leave and when Colleen was principal the P&C needed to talk among themselves without her present.

Penny pointed out that it is a school community meeting.

**Agenda item 7. Principal’s Report – Liz Sinnott**

Some people have asked about the volume of staff leaving (as reported in the School Bulletin).

The majority of the teachers leaving are casual teachers. There are 2 positions and 2 teachers are filling these positions. Liz would like choir and dance to still occur. Liz is in the process of working out which teacher is on which class. The Department would like to give the School an extra person which could displace a current teacher.

Jen Burn asked who will take choir.

Liz stated she was not sure yet.

Penny asked whether Sandy Copeman was on the list [of those leaving].

Liz replied that Sandy will be taking the School Spectacular 5 days a week and will not be returning to the School next year and will be on a secondment for one year. Liz stated that dance and other programs will not be lost.

Lesley stated that there might be a paid position as a band teacher.

Liz stated that there were 2 teachers in the enrichment program and thanked them, Rod Thompson and Jeremy Covent and that the students really enjoyed this. Liz also thanked the parents who volunteered with photography and the Story Factory.

Kirrilly Brown, the new School Administration Manager (SAM) is coming in tomorrow to familiarise herself with the School.

There is a teacher from Glebe, Liz Wortley who is working as a SAS teacher [Liz Wortley will be working in the office until the end of 2013].

Kerry Vanslambrouck is coming back next year.

Over 90 people downloaded the School app.
The School is moving to opt in for School Bulletins as due to a lot of paper being used currently.
Rebecca Shanahan asked how many parents are on the School email list.
Liz replied that she wasn’t sure but at least 100.
Liz stated that the option forms at the beginning of the year will be shortened.
James asked if these could go on the app.
Liz confirmed this.
Penny stated that she thought emails were important and perhaps we can make up a package for kindergarten parents as part of the enrolment form.
Liz stated that there is already a package which goes out to kindergarten parents which includes details of how they can be added to the School email list.

Liz asked whether the feedback forms [given out with individual child reports] were useful.
Luci: they were a bit confusing as even when it stated her child could do something, it still outlined things you could do as a parent [for improvement] and this did not seem relevant.
Liz: several of these have been identified and we can change irrelevant points. It is a default in the program. The Department should clean this up.

There will be a speech therapist assessing Preschool to Year 2 and also older kids who have specific issues.
Years 1-6 will be swimming in Term 1.
There are several men currently undertaking cabling at the School and putting Wireless points in. This should be finished by the end of the year.
The two assistant principals for learning and support behaviour specific will be located at the School from next year.
$200,000 worth of school funding is now $2.5 million as they are sending all their regional staff to be based at schools [so schools are getting more funding to support these staff which are based at their school].
Rae asked what the assistant principals will be doing.
Liz stated that they will be managed by the Department and herself. They set up programs for kids with behavioural issues, e.g. here it could be anti-bullying or teacher professional learning.

Liz is trying to get air conditioning for the administration rooms/space as there are no windows which operate in this area. [This will be jointly funded by DEC and the school]

**Agenda item 8. Sydney University development**

Michael K went through what Heather had told him about the Noise Report which consultants had prepared for Sydney University, primarily that the results were not of concern as levels, even though they exceed guidelines are not very high and should get less as there is less excavation. In relation to dust there are no levels published. Levels are 100 times less than required levels for WHS requirements. On the whole Heather thinks that they are doing what they need to be doing as well as any other company.
Liz stated that she has a meeting with the Vice Chancellor of Sydney Uni next week and Heather has been good at getting the Uni to do quotes for air conditioning.
Michael stated that Heather is trying to get this in the tender.
Liz stated that people came through the other day to get quotes.
Michael stated that it looks like we will get what we were hoping for 6 months ago and that the timing is critical.
Liz: they haven’t finished at Burren St [the former site of the Uni’s Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies (Business School) where the Shepherd Centre and Boundary Lane Children’s Centre will be relocated] yet so that is holding up the demolition next door [Shepherd Centre and Boundary Lane Children’s Centre buildings to the N of the School].
Luci: Can they do sound proofing?
Liz: They are erecting sound barriers.
Maya stated that she disagreed and she distributed some pages from one of the 3 documents sent out to the School email list by Liz on 22 November, namely the ‘Abercrombie Precinct Redevelopment- Review of Construction Noise Impacts at Darlington Public School’ prepared by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd for the University of Sydney. [Noise levels were measured in the kindergarten (at rear of School) and Year 5 classrooms and included the period 1-18 October, over the holidays, weekends and during normal school days. It states in Table 1 of this document that the construction noise management levels for sensitive land-uses other than residences that the baseline for internal noise level in school classrooms is 45 decibels (dB), the external noise level for active recreation areas is 65 dB and
passive recreation is 60 dB. They note that the inside level of 45 dB is equivalent to an external noise management level of 55 dB assuming a minimum noise reduction from outside to inside of 10 dB with windows open for ventilation.

Maya pointed out that this report clearly states that the noise exceeds recommended levels several times most days [the mean recorded noise levels (measured every 15 minutes most days over 2 weeks 7am to 6pm) exceeded 45 dB at all times except for 2 days from 5-6 pm (i.e. outside school hours and ranged from 46-75 dB)]. They said that they are meeting predictions but they are not. They are not meeting their legal requirements. They said they need scientific evidence and what they need to comply with. 45 dB is what the level should be.

Luci: They said most of the noise was from the kids.

Rik: This should be a Health and Safety issue.

Maya: Noise as a continuous factor is an issue for learning i.e. background noise from construction.

Rae: [comments withdrawn]

Maya: They have breached their conditions and the construction needs to stop during school hours. Currently hours are 7am-6pm, we want no noise from 9am-2.30pm.

Luci: One of the uni representatives in a meeting said that if there was a breach then we can report it to the EPA.

Michael Condon: who do we make a complaint to?

Luci: need to complain to everybody.

Maya: need to complain before the end of the year.

Liz: the independent assessors monitored the noise levels.

Maya: They say levels are below the predicted average, but this is not relevant.

Rae: [comments withdrawn]

Jen Burn: uni shuts down next Tuesday 17 Dec.

Michael C: need to have some position from the School.

Liz: it is not about the report it is about the new building. [i.e. the student accommodation building to begin works in 2014]. Should say that the parents are really mad about it.

James: Liz is in a hard position as DEC may not agree.

Maya suggested that a letter of complaint be sent to the Planning Authority and to EPA to let them know that the noise guidelines have been breached with copies to the Vice Chancellor and local MPs.

Ifeanna asked who would do this and Maya volunteered to draft a letter.

Michael Condon: we should draft a letter to be sent to newspapers.

Maya moved a motion that we draft a letter to be sent this week.

Michael C seconded the motion and by a show of hands the motion was carried.

Rae: [comments withdrawn]

James said that his understanding was that the development is approved but they have to monitor what happens.

James then talked about some of his findings while doing his own research on dust and lead and handed around some copies of a prepared document [see attached]. The information they are giving us is irrelevant. What is needed is swabs on dust around the School and test these.

Maya: was the University going to send us a hygienist?

Michael K: it is difficult to get our heads around this, e.g. lead levels, the DA, etc.

James drew some information from research studies, peer reviewed in scientific journals. He looked at renovation practices for houses. There may have been lead released from the demolition of the old buildings. They should have a duty of care: legal and moral. Most of the demolition happened before the monitoring started as they only started monitoring dust in the beginning of September. Lead contamination will only be felt in our kids in 20 years time.

Maya: another document Liz sent out on 22 November was that Sydney Uni hasn’t provided enough documents e.g. the construction plan and this was prepared by the Uni’s auditors.

James stated he needs to sit down with Heather to discuss his document.

Michael K: Heather and James can talk to an engineer.

Penny: and if they find there has been contamination they can act.

James: and let DEC know.

Kathy: Does it say how we test for effect?

James stated that he is having his daughter tested for lead levels in her blood.

Luci: regardless of contamination in dust, dust itself is a health issue.

Michael K asked what the P&C should do.

James: how to take swabs/swipe the School would cost less than $1,000.
Maya: can the P&C pay for swabs?
Michael C stated that some of this information can be included in the noise letter.
Luci: can form a sub-committee to get this moving.
Rae: [comments withdrawn]
Michael C: draft a letter and include our issues in this with points 1-5 and this can go out.
Maya volunteered to make a list.
Rebecca A: the most important thing to point out is that the guidelines have been set and they’re breaching the guidelines. There are existing problems and upcoming problems.
James: we need a kit for everyone to send out.
Ifeanna asked who should be emailed about this.
Rebecca Askew: need the complaint and letter to the Uni by the end of this week.
Maya: need to get a complaint in now.
Rae: [comments withdrawn]
The motion to write a letter to the EPA, Dept of Planning and Vice Chancellor was raised by Michael C and seconded by Maya.

**ACTIONS:**
Maya to draft a letter and send it to those in the Executive involved in this action.
Michael K to email completed letter to Ifeanna for emailing to EPA, Dept Planning, State and Federal MPs and the Sydney University Vice Chancellor.

**Agenda item 9. Secretary’s Report – Ifeanna Tooth**
There was no (apart from bank) correspondence nor applications for new membership.

**Agenda item 10. Treasurer’s Report – prepared by Dominique du Cros, presented by Michael K**
The report was circulated.

**Agenda item 11. General Business**
Penny asked whether we were getting gifts for the teachers who are leaving.
Lesley said this sometimes happens but not for casual teachers.
Penny said that she could get some pottery gifts from a shop she knows in Newtown for $60-70.
Penny will email Liz about this.

Michael said that Glynnis did not give the bus to the School.
Ifeanna said that Colleen had told her the bus was donated to the School by the Redfern Foundation.

**ACTION:** Ifeanna to email Liz these details.

Luci: on looking at the Treasurer’s report it appears the digital amount is not listed as committed.
Jen Burn: do we want presents for teachers as well?
Penny: no, not presents for current teachers.
Rebecca Askew stated that speaking as a parent rather than a partner of a teacher she thinks the P&C should say thank you to the teachers.
Penny suggested a nice contribution to the teacher’s dinner.
Liz: or the breakfast.
Jen: in previous years the P&C have funded the whole breakfast.
Rebecca Askew said she thought this was appropriate.
The amount was worked out to be about $20 for 15 people at Cafe Ella.
Rebecca Askew: can send cafe Ella an email and they can send the invoice to the P&C.
Michael K suggested a ceiling amount for the breakfast of $500 and this was eventually agreed upon.

**Fundraising Summary – Luci Temple**
Digital Fundraiser Summary:
Web payments: $6,236; Paypal get $172 of this
Cash & cheque: ??TBC
Direct deposit: ??TBC
Pledged but not confirmed: $247
Total paid to us $7,500 less $100 fees and another $400 which may not come through.

Luci’s latest request for ideas: 1 person emailed a photo. No. 1 issue was playground equipment and hooks for bags.
Penny asked why we lost the old play equipment.
Lesley: it was old and unsafe, the rules changed so it was removed. Now the grassy area where it used to be is not big enough.
Luci: should investigate playground design options and get quotes. We need to apply for grants. Gonski said that there was lots of money schools could access via grants and there may be an intermediary to help schools apply for grants. Luci moved a motion that the P&C would pay $200 to get access to online help to apply for grants and Rebecca S seconded it and the motion was passed.
Penny asked if we have room for equipment.
Liz: on the basketball court. There is a plan to have softfall under the trees in the top playground and this could have tracks, toy roads, hopscotch, etc. Also the poles in the top playground are starting to rot.
Michael K suggested a subcommittee be set up for playground equipment.
Liz: need to think of OH&S for kids and legal implications.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm

Next meeting Wednesday 12 February 2014 at 6pm

ACTIONS SUMMARY from December Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>RESPONSIBILITY</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Draft a letter and email it to those in the Executive involved in the Sydney Uni Development.</td>
<td>Maya/Michael</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email completed letter to Ifeanna for emailing to EPA, Dept Planning, State and Federal MPs and the Sydney University Vice Chancellor</td>
<td>Michael Keating &amp; Ifeanna</td>
<td>Completed Michael Keating finalised letter. Michael Condon emailed letter to EPA, Dept Planning and MPs. Ifeanna emailed VC.</td>
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<th>ACTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email University to add P&amp;C to their email list</td>
<td>Ifeanna</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact John Holland and ask to be provided with dust data</td>
<td>Heather Clement</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Send email to P&amp;C email list to ask for bus driver once a week for sport and other occasional trips</td>
<td>Ifeanna</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Glynnis [owner of School bus]</td>
<td>Michael Keating and Rae Cooper</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<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>Organise quotes for School power system assessment to work out if air conditioning is an option</td>
<td>Liz Sinnott</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organise quotes for independent air and noise quality monitoring</td>
<td>P&amp;C &amp; Liz</td>
<td>Completed</td>
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