Darlington Public School S&C General
Meeting: February Minutes
Wednesday 12 February 2014
Meeting opened at 6.10pm 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 mentioned that in the last meeting he had encouraged the remembrance of Nelson Mandela, his life and what he achieved and also what a good result it was that Adam Goode was named NSW Australian of the Year or his efforts to fight racism as well as playing football.

Agenda item 3. Apologies
Jen Burn, Michelle McCormack, Lesley Blackett, Penny McCulloch, Marj Treweeke.

Attendance:

Agenda item 4. Acceptance of Minutes from November Meeting
Dominique moved that the December minutes be accepted and Luci 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.
Rebecca stated that Rae had asked for her comments about the Sydney University development not to be minuted, however in the minutes Rae’s comments were written as “comments withdrawn”.
Ifeanna stated that she had not heard Rae state that she did not want her comments minuted during the meeting, but had heard from Michael Keating some time later that Rae wanted them taken out of the minutes. Since the minutes had already been written and circulated amongst the Executive for comment, Rae’s comments about the development were replaced with the words “comments withdrawn”.

[The following started out as a general discussion but then focussed on the Sydney University development, i.e. Agenda item 8 was moved forward]

Agenda Item 8. Sydney University development
Luci asked if there had been a response to the P&C’s letter [regarding the modification to Sydney Uni’s DA for the Abercrombie Precinct Redevelopment].
Michael answered that the EPA had forwarded our comments on to the Department of Planning but we have not heard any more.
Maya received a response from the [City of Sydney] Council saying that the Council’s environmental officer Irina Karli had paid a visit on 19 September to discuss dust issues and Andrew Porter visited the site on 18 December immediately after our non-compliance email on December 18 and that neither had ‘witnessed’ any issues with the construction works or development. Maya said we had asked that the council ask for the noise monitoring results and have these reviewed by a certified engineer and this has never happened. Ms Karli visited again in January and again no monitoring data was requested from the developer. The Minister for Education and the Department of Education both said they had ‘confidence’ the University were complying with the DA based on discussions (no data review) and would not pay for lead testing to prove otherwise.
Liz stated that she places the information that is sent to her on the School website every week.
Luci stated that the last time she looked they weren’t reporting every week.
Heather: this was mentioned to them and now they are now including everything.
Maya: the Council hasn’t followed through on the breach.
Heather: they are not in breach, they haven’t breached the requirements.
Maya: what about them keeping below 45dB?
Heather: that is not a breach as it is not a requirement [of the DA] that they have to adhere to. The kids are noisier than the construction noise.
Luci: what about the public holiday levels?
Heather: they do the noisier work when the kids are not there. There has been no problems reported from the teachers, etc. about the noise. Technically they are allowed to breach the noise levels occasionally.
Michael asked Liz if there had been any comment from the teachers.
Liz replied no.
Heather: a consistent noise level of the kids is a lot more than the construction noise. The quietest level is the level of construction noise.
Liz: there have been no complaints from teachers.
Heather: they are not hearing it and not troubled by it. We should only be taking forward general complaints from students and teachers.
Luci: the dust issue is harder to prove.
Heather: we had a bargaining tool and that resulted in putting air conditioning in 3 classrooms.
Maya: not kindergarten?
Heather: they don’t need protection; it is the upstairs classrooms with louvers which do.
Heather stated that she would like to suggest that we take this topic of Sydney Uni development out of the P&C Agenda. The P&C’s role is to fundraise and support the School and teachers.
Maya stated that it is not a minor issue but she did agree that it takes up a lot of P&C time.
Michael: we can talk about this for another ten minutes or so.
Heather said she thought 2 minutes was enough time.
Luci suggested the setting up of a working group or sub-committee so that the issue can still go forward.
Heather stated she would like to see how many parents were interested in meeting.
Liz stated she was happy to attend these meetings.
Heather proposed the formation of a sub-committee.
Luci: the committee can give the P&C updates.
Dominique moved that a sub-committee be set up [to deal with the Sydney University development issues] and Luci seconded the motion.
Maya asked if the sub-committee could make decisions about funding, etc.
Heather: they would need approval from the P&C Executive.
Dominique: they could work through things on a case by case basis. The working group is ok to communicate on one level but on bigger issues they should consult the Executive and/or the P&C members.
Liz said she was happy to put this in the School newsletter.
Michael asked who was going to head up the sub-committee.
Maya volunteered to lead the sub-committee and Michael and James said that they would be part of the group.
Heather stated that there was a need to work out a communication strategy. All communication should be through Liz and agreed to by her. We shouldn’t represent the School via the P&C. Parents can represent ourselves separately if we choose.
Liz stated that she should ultimately make the decisions.
James agreed that we should get a [parent/carer] survey done outside the P&C group to see what the viewpoints are.
James asked Heather if she could present the case about why she thinks the current situation is ok.
Heather stated she was happy to do that and do a presentation to show why she believes it is ok.
James stated it could be on paper, i.e. Heather’s background and why she thinks it’s ok.
**ACTION**: Heather to write something about her views on the Sydney University Development and present this to the School Community.

Liz: everyone is entitled to what they believe. Moving it [the Sydney Uni development] out of the P&C is a good move.
Heather asked if we should move the Agenda items up.
Michael agreed.
**ACTION**: Maya to organise and disseminate a survey to ask parents and carers if:
1. They wished us to continue pursuing issues of dust accumulation inside the classrooms with the developer on their behalf. The purpose of this is to have more rooms sealed, including a minimum all those in the wing closest to the development but potentially all rooms facing the site.
2. They would agree for the P&C to spend between $200-$500 of money raised from last year’s fundraising to do the lead testing ourselves?
3. We have any parents or members of the community who would like to join the subcommittee for the University development issue?

Liz stated that she and Heather (as a technical advisor) had met with Sydney University and John Holland representatives today. The excavation/building works are not butted up against the School now and the basement if only under the Shepherd Centre, not the School. They have moved the building by about a sixth of the original area. Mandelbaum House cleaning – a few parents asked Liz about this. Liz stated that that the Uni are obligated to clean it every 6 months. The Uni is committed to take samples from the Boundary Lane Building. The reason for this is to understand if any lead in the dust in the attic or roof void spaces.

James: why they won’t they do this for the School?
Heather: this would only show if there is lead in the School from somewhere [accumulated over the years]. Heather agreed it would be a good starting point
Liz: they tested the paint [in Boundary Lane] and there was no lead in the paint there.
Michael: what about the soil?
Heather: they took soil samples from a 2m by 2m pit and they showed no signs of lead or asbestos or any other contaminants they tested for. We are trying to push the demolition on to a weekend. They take out the ceilings [internally] first.
Luci: what happens if they find lead in the ceiling space?
Heather: they extract it and contain it. They have to vacuum the whole space before demolition.
James: can they provide the results to us?
Liz: I can request them to do that.
ACTION: Liz to request that the University provides the School with the results of the lead testing of dust in ceiling spaces of Boundary Lane Building.

Maya: why is there no testing of the lead at the School?
Heather: it would be the same levels as any house. To pay for the testing we need a founded belief that there is lead. James: we can say, considering what’s happened, just to do a test around the School to give a rough idea and then do another test after the demolition.
Michael stated that he had asked Sydney Uni to do the testing in the School and they had said no.
James: it would cost $250 to do 8-10 swabs [for lead testing]. We could test the garden beds in the School.
Dominique: one reason to do the test in and outside is to provide a baseline and if the development proceeds and we are worried then we have something to compare it [further tests] to.
Maya: We are all going to live with the doubt if we don’t do the testing.
Heather stated she wants to know how many people have doubt and she thinks it [the test] will come out clean anyway.
Luci: do the survey and see how many parents want the testing.
Suzy: see what the Boundary Lane results are and then see if theirs are clean.
Heather: they are doing the testing in the next 2 weeks.
Anthony: are the testers independent?
James stated that in the report they put out previously they interpreted the data the way they wanted.
There was general consensus that the P&C Executive and the sub-committee will do the survey.
Liz: The Year 6 windows have been sealed around the air conditioning until the construction is finished to stop dust going into the rooms. The seal will then be removed to allow entry of fresh air [from outside].
Kyong: which rooms were air conditioned?
Liz: Brad, Michelle, Martine and Diane’s rooms, i.e. the top level rooms with louvers. There will only be a few months of the year when the air conditioning will be on.
Heather: DEC removed the heaters and can have the air con on for heating in winter. This means the windows don’t have to be open for air circulation [a requirement with gas heating].
Suzy: for years it was said that we couldn’t get air conditioning as it was thought there was not enough electricity capacity. Does this mean that was not the case?
James: there wasn’t enough power on the board.
Liz stated she had DEC do a survey for electricity and it was all ok.
Heather: maybe it was thought that the boards were not big enough.
Liz wants DEC to pay half of the installation costs for air conditioning in the downstairs offices/rooms. They removed the cooling units due to potential Legionnaires disease risk but now it is very hot.
Liz: Boundary Lane will have full hoardings on the side of the School and plastic temporarily during demolition.
Heather: there was going to be an acoustic and dust wall to the eaves of the School building but this would have required steel members. They will first deal with the dust with a flimsy barrier [on the School’s N boundary] and will then be installing all the offices in shipping container [style demountables] and these will buffer the School from the construction.
Maya: this will happen all in 2 days?
Heather: yes.
Liz: Mandelbaum House is not moving. The construction is right around this building. They are looking at demolition over a weekend or next school holidays.
Anthony: when will it be finished?
Heather: Boundary Lane is supposed to be finished by the end of February.
Liz and Heather: the exhaust from the carpark has been moved 25 m away from us and cars reduced to 82.
Maya: does that mean it [the exhaust] is in the centre of the complex?
Heather: it will be on the boundary furthest from the School.
Liz: they are erecting some hoarding over the footpath along Abercrombie St so there will also be rain protection for pedestrians. There will be a lollypop person to direct people and traffic for the kids safety. They are extending the loading zone parking on Abercrombie St for the cement trucks.
Dominique: will the trucks come around the School?
Heather: the concrete trucks have to be parked on Abercrombie St.
Dominique: they previously said they would do the [concrete] pours from the other side.
Michael asked Colin to clarify this but this was unclear.
James stated he had seen them do u-turns at the roundabout.
Liz stated that, in terms of trucks, she was more concerned about the ones from the construction site [Heather that the trucks from Burns Civil Engineering are doing the rat run] are driving very fast and she has been filming them.
Dominique stated that she recalled that they said the concrete pour would take 4 months.
Heather: the Business School is 4 months, the student accommodation is over about a 3 month period.
Dominique: they say they time the trucks; this is an issue we need to keep an eye on. Dominique is concerned that this is a change to the agreed access plan.
Liz: they are responsive to our concerns.
James looked up the exact costing [for the lead testing] and it is $275 for 6-10 tests for dust.
Michael: a few of us spoke at the Planning Assessment meeting [Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) Meeting, University of Sydney Business School, Abercrombie St, Modification 2 at 4pm on Tuesday 4 February at Rydges Camperdown]. RAIDD [Residents Acting In Defence of Darlington] have done good work. Colin Sharp spoke along with Maya [and Michael on behalf of the P&C].
Michael said that at the PAC meeting he spoke about parents concerns relating to dust and contaminants and noise and vibrations due to the Sydney Uni development and how the noise and dust levels had already shown to be above the limits set for the development. Michael also outlined the difficulties we have with the design of the School, i.e. the louvre windows which let in air and light but do not exclude dust or noise. Michael requested that the developer undertake lead testing now and in the future. Michael also mentioned the asbestos under the current School [top] playground which has been covered for safety. Michael asked the Commission to ensure that excavation work adjacent to the playground be done during school holidays.
Liz asked if she could suggest that she has an issue with the comments regarding moving the entire School [this was suggested as an option by Michael in his address to the Planning Assessment meeting] and emphasised that it would take a lot of time and effort to do this.
Maya: it was for the demolition period: a week or two.
Liz stated that it would be up to her as Principal and site manager if this was to be decided.
Dominique: this [option] was raised by Paul Parks [DEC former School Education Director, Sydney Region] at a meeting last year.
Liz stated that the decision to move the School should be made by her. There would be books, teachers, kids, etc. to move.
Michael stated that he tried to meet with Liz to discuss this issue and what he was going to say before the meeting. Liz stated that she was not going to put the kids at risk and that this was not something that should have been said before talking with her.
Michael stated that Liz was extrapolating about what was said at the meeting. He had tried to meet with Liz. He presented a summary of ideas which had been thought up over time. The comment he made to move the school students during demolition [as per Council regulations] was a worse case scenario.
Liz stated that they are saying they [the University] will communicate information to her and she will disseminate it. Heather: we should communicate through Liz.
Rebecca stated that the [P&C] meeting had now spent an hour talking about this issue and we should move on.
Michael: point taken.
Luci: this can be taken to the sub-committee.

**Agenda item 6. President’s Report – Michael Keating**

Michael thanked Tracie [Devlin] and Ifeanna for the Tea and Tissues morning tea on Monday and the others who helped out.
Michael stated that he won’t run as President of the P&C in 2014 due to job demands and family commitments. He feels he won’t be able to give the time the position needs. He stated that it has been an honour to be in the position.

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

Liz is negotiating to continue the programs in the School such as band, choir and dance. There are performances happening as well as teacher professional learning during school hours. They are part of the school curriculum but may not be as regular as in the past. Something that was left out of the newsletter is that she is legally responsible for the School and all paperwork on those in the School has to be up to date. There is a fee structure being introduced, for example the band has a number of tutors but to be fair need to ask for fees from the tutors as they are not not for profit. Liz met with Richard Brus who teaches band at the School and for the band program they will be charged $7 per week which is around 50 cents per student per week. This is a community user agreement which treats everyone the same.
The speech pathologist comes every Wednesday and Liz has paid for this out of ‘specific needs’ funding which she found last year. Preschool to Year 2, including the 2/3 class are included.
Drama – Jeremy is at the School for 2 days and every week every class will do drama. The teachers will learn new skills as well as the class benefitting.
Mathletics – This costs the School $2,000 per year to have every child included.
Anthony: for 200-300 kids it would actually cost $3,000 which includes Spellodrome and Reading Eggs.
Luci: how many teachers use it? Her daughter has not had any effective learning through it.
Anthony stated that both his kids liked Mathletics and it was good as a parent or teacher can go into it and monitor how the child is doing. What is Justin doing with it?
Liz stated that year 2/3 use it. Liz stated that she is not a fan of Reading Eggs and Spellodrome. The new curriculum says that quality real life literature is more beneficial.
Luci: ask teachers if they will use it.
Anthony: have to include the total number of students in the School, not partial.
Liz stated she would get Justin to do a survey of the teachers.
Anthony: we may be able to get it cheaper.
Michael asked Anthony to do the costing and he agreed.
Liz: parents are looking at more bike racks.
Kyong: internally in the Golden Grove entrance as the Abercrombie St entrance is only open some of the time.
Anthony: some people might want to put their bikes on the street. Rebecca [Shanahan] liaised with Council to get the bike racks on Abercrombie and Golden Grove Sts on the footpaths outside the School.
Liz asked if anyone wanted to organise quotes for bike racks and there were no volunteers.
Liz stated that the School bus needs to be brought up at the next meeting.
Enrolments: the same as last year. Years 5 and 6 are full. Kindergarten is full, at capacity. All other classes are almost full.
Luci: last year there was some concern that the reduced Preschool numbers might reduce student numbers at the School.
Liz: almost the whole Preschool cam through to kindergarten.
Luci: if numbers continue to grow, School will have to accommodate kids who are in area.
Liz: one option is a reconstruction of the Preschool and turn it/some of it into classrooms.
Sylvia: due to the changes, the Preschool has double the numbers for half the time.
James: is there enough capacity to go to non-composite classes?
Liz: that depends. There was a big Year 5 class and a big Year 6 so the decision was made instead of having a Year 6 class and a small group of Year 6s in with the Year 5s they would divide the kids in half to make two 5/6 composite classes. The Year 6s do some things separately from the Year 5s.
Maya asked Luci about the Go Digital funding and if the videos would be distributed.
Luci: didn’t get everything finished last year but today sent out all the standard videos and the rest will soon be completed.
Everyone thanked Luci for her efforts in this great crowd funding effort to raise money for computers and tablets.

[NOTE: Agenda item 8 was moved up the Agenda and follows Agenda item 5]

**Agenda item 9. Secretary’s Report – Ifeanna Tooth**

There was no (apart from bank & fundraising) correspondence nor applications for new membership.

**Agenda item 10. Treasurer’s Report – Dominique du Cros**

The report from December was circulated as it had not changed since then.

Suzy asked if the Tea and Tissues morning tea cost anything.

Dominique said there were some costs which will be worked out soon. Luci had given her a cheque for $120 and $120 in cash from the digital fundraiser.

There will be an independent audit where we send the paperwork off after the AGM.

Rebecca asked if there was a timeframe in which this had to be done.

Dominique: within a month of the AGM.

Once the P&C agrees with the School on priorities we can then draw up a plan.

Liz: can do the ordering of the digital equipment soon.

Dom: once the audit is done and want list prioritised we can look at a term deposit with what is left over.

Heather: the School could use the money instead of it being in a term deposit.

Suzy: can ask people for their ideas on what they think is needed, i.e. ask the teachers.

Liz: will ask the staff as well, e.g. top up readers.

Dominique: it is usually maths and reading resources so they are evenly distributed through the School.

Luci: did a survey last year and playground equipment was a popular request from parents. Need to work out where it goes and it would be around $40-50,000 so expensive. Also bag hooks were an idea, same category as extra bike racks. They could come under a working bee and handy person.

Luci: it could be put in the School newsletter: working bee, let us know if you’re interested in contributing.

Michael: can we bring the wish list to the next meeting?

Suzi: a skeleton list, yes.

Heather: Need to get focus. We need a fundraiser every term. The Trivia Night is coming up and art works so we could have an art night. The working bee could be at the end of Term 2. Need to list priorities so we work to a calendar. In the next bulletin could have a volunteers list with specific jobs. The Trivia Night is now Friday 4 April and not Saturday 5th. It will be at the School and we can get a one off alcohol licence for the night and order pizzas. Sam Hall is the RSA (responsible server of alcohol) person who will be on the licence.

Michael: in the way we handled Sydney Uni we have done well as a group so congratulations to us in how we dealt with it.

Dominique called for any more memberships. Several people paid $1 P&C membership.

Luci: should we include this in the newsletter?

Dominique: we’ll send out an email as well.

**ACTION**: P&C to send an email out to the School community about the general meeting and the AGM with details about voting.

Liz: needs the information for the Bulletin by the Saturday night before.
Agenda item 11. General Business
There was no further general business.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm

Next meeting will be the Wednesday 12 March 2013 at 6pm, followed by the Annual General Meeting

ACTIONS SUMMARY from February Meeting

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
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<th>STATUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heather to write something about her views on the Sydney University Development and present this to the School Community</td>
<td>Heather</td>
<td>Completed (in Bulletin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Send out a survey to ask parents and carers if they have any concerns about the development and their views on testing for dust at the School</td>
<td>Maya/Ifeanna</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Request that the University provides the School with the results of the lead testing of dust in ceiling spaces of Boundary Lane Building</td>
<td>Liz Sinnott</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Send an email to School community about the P&amp;C general meeting and the AGM with details about voting</td>
<td>P&amp;C</td>
<td></td>
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ACTIONS SUMMARY from December Meeting

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<tr>
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<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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