

Fort Street High School School Parents & Citizens Association Minutes of General Meeting

Chair: Elizabeth Kenyon

Date: 8th September 2021

Time: 7:30 pm

Venue: Online Meeting

Re: General Meeting Minutes (Motions, Actions and Outcomes)

Meeting declared open by Elizabeth Kenyon – Vice President

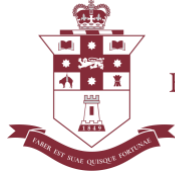
Attendance – 37

Catherine Phung, Nuryani Lay, Don Newby, Malcolm Groves, Elizabeth Kenyon, Jimmy Huang, Marion Maddox, Juliette McMurray, May Chen, David Hetherington, Lily Li, Kenny Chung, Zi Qin, Jules Davies, Tai Wai, Poh Keng Goon, Joel Morrison, Suzanne Trimmer, Manjula Suresh, Emily Wong, Gladys Ko, Robyn Elmslie, Kिरrily Druery, Ronnie Wang, Tracey Chen, Jaci Chen, Tasha Prabhakar, Kalandie Prabhakar, Jerry Tan, Rebecca Cameron, Suzanne Trimmer, Agnieszka Bachfischer, Holly Yao, Peter Bestel, Alice ???, Helen ???, Olivia ???

Note that there are significant challenges with electronic meetings in gathering full names of attendees. As most are not members, there is no expected impact to voting.

Apologies

Michael Easton, Michael Mera, Tania Koit



General Meeting Agenda

- 1 **President's welcome** – Elizabeth Kenyon
- 2 **Student Representative Council Report** – Kalanie Prabhakar
- 3 **Secretary's Report** – Peter Bestel
 - 3.1 **Apologies**
 - 3.2 **Declaration of Interests**
 - 3.3 **Table minutes from last meeting**
 - 3.4 **Correspondence**
 - 3.5 **Action Item Updates from last meeting**
- 4 **Principal's Report** – Juliette McMurray
- 5 **Treasurer's Report** – Hung Ngo and Kenny Chee Chung
- 6 **General Business**
 - 6.1 **P&C Communications** – Korrily Druery
Draft communications survey and invitation to participate in process
 - 6.2 **Gallop Inquiry into Valuing the Teaching Profession** – Michael Easton
Review and approve letter
 - 6.3 **Reusable Face Masks** – Elizabeth Kenyon
 - 6.4 **Uniform Shop fittings for new students** – Elizabeth Kenyon
How will this work this year?
 - 6.5 **Staff Support Fundraiser** – Elizabeth Kenyon
Repeat fundraising as per last year?
 - 6.6 **Acknowledgement of Teacher Activities / Achievements**
- 7 **Membership Administration**
- 8 **Next Meeting** – General Meeting – Wednesday 13th October, 2021 (Zoom)



General Meeting Minutes

1. President's welcome – Elizabeth Kenyon

- Elizabeth welcomed all attendees and outlined the meeting.
- Welcome to Country “We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the country on which we meet today, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.”

2. Student Representative Council Report – Kalande Prabhakar

- The SRC recently released 5 videos for the Fort Street Leaders Week
 1. See an overview in the [Flyer](#)
 2. See the videos on [YouTube](#)
- The videos have been a huge success and all students and community members are encouraged to take some time to watch and listen.
- SRC elections are coming up for this term and entry to the election is via a video.
- Voting for the election is scheduled for this Friday via a Google form.
- The wellbeing program continues via Instagram, with recent Minecraft competitions and do-it-yourself origami posts.

3. Secretary's Report – Peter Bestel

3.1. Apologies

- As above.

3.2. Declaration of Interests

- No interests or conflicts raised.

3.3. Table minutes from last meeting

- Deferred.

3.4. Correspondence

- Request from Macquarie University to participate in survey on home schooling.

3.5. Action Item Updates from last meeting

- Liabilities to the school need to be very clearly marked on the reports, as they are not funds available for other projects – not done.
- Letter to support teachers per the Gallop Enquiry – done.
- Get access to year 7 P&C flyer for review – done.
- A P&C executive meeting was planned for August to look at planning for the rest of the year – done.

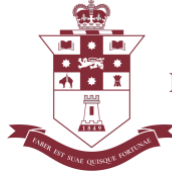


4. Principal's Report – Juliette McMurray

- The school were happy with the device free wellbeing day and thank you to the P&C for prizes.
- Another wellbeing day is coming up this Thursday to coincide with RuOK day.
- Year 11 students are in an assessment period until the end of term.
- Debating and drama club have been happening recently and all of the students are enjoying the resumption of activities.
- The school are currently working on the back to school plan for students.
- Year 12 are currently expected back in week 4 for exams in week 6.
- There are limited classes planned to allow them to get oriented and prepared.
- The school may put on some 3 hour mock trials to get students ready for the exam experience.
- There is no current requirement for students coming back on-site to be vaccinated.
- All staff will need to be fully vaccinated with both doses.
- Masks will be compulsory for everyone on the school site.
- Drama will be allowed outdoors, but no sport, band or singing activities.
- Mixing between year groups is not supposed to be happening, with staggered school start, break and end times for all year groups recommended.
- Matilda is unfortunately cancelled for this year.
- Year 7 standard vaccinations are normally due on the 17th of November, however this is now uncertain due to site plans and the requirement to not have this vaccination within a week or two of the COVID vaccination. The school is waiting on advice from the department.
- The school are interviewing for the new GA this Friday.
- Postal services are experiencing delays at the moment, impacting delivery of exam results to parents. The school are looking to deliver via Sentral.
- There was a presentation from Juliette on the review of school executive positions against existing staffing entitlements. The school feels that more time needs to be spent on planning individual student learning, setting goals and for staff development. This will involve trialling a teaching and learning head teacher next year.

5. Treasurer's Report – Kenny Chee Chung

- See attached for current accounts.



6. General Business

6.1. P&C Communications – Kirrily Druery

- Instructions have been sent to families for preparing introductory videos for the community.
- The communications survey has been finalised in English.
- Additional work is being undertaken around translation and so far Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese versions have been completed.
- These need a final review before being sent out, as even though the translation process is time consuming it is still possible that misinterpretation will occur.
- The communications team are interesting in finding faster / more automated ways to translate documents for the community.

6.2. Gallop Inquiry into Valuing the Teaching Profession – Michael Easton

- The letter (attached) was presented to the meeting for review.
- There were no requests for modification.

Motion	That the P&C send copies of the letter to appropriate destinations (for example the local member, minister for education, P&C federation, etc.)
Mover	Elizabeth Kenyon
Seconder	Peter Bestel
Result	Passed

6.3. Reusable Face Masks – Elizabeth Kenyon

- There was discussion around what is required for the upcoming back to school term.
- Using disposable masks is seen as very wasteful and should be avoided if at all possible.
- It is advised that families start stocking up on adequate reusable masks now to ensure that they do not need to use disposables.
- Masks would need to be washed after a days use and a clean mask available for each school day.
- The SRC is to run a survey on interest to have masks supplied / available from the uniform shop vs. students obtaining their own masks.
- Action item for the P&C to post to Facebook to request that families get prepared.
- A number of people at the meeting offered more quotes and Kenny has already supplied a quote for bulk cloth masks to the P&C exec.
- The schedule for making available to the uniform shop is tight if they are to be available for next term.

6.4. Uniform Shop fittings for new students – Elizabeth Kenyon

- The online shop has now been running for some time and this will make uniform size choice much easier this year (as all of the sizes / measurements are available online).
- The move of the uniform shop to a larger room will also make this easier and the changing tents are still available.
- The process for arranging fittings will probably be similar to last year, with a day chosen where existing staff and students are not on-site.
- The school is waiting for guidelines from the department at this time and this item will be reviewed at future meetings.



6.5. Staff Support Fundraiser – Elizabeth Kenyon

- The Kudoboard support initiative has been running for a while and very successful.
- The P&C are looking to provide another staff support initiative as per last year.
- This is planned for term 4 with a donations page being enabled and the proceeds to fund a staff lunch or some other support event.

6.6. Acknowledgement of Teacher Activities / Achievements

- Thanks to all of the teachers and staff for working during this difficult time.
- Thanks to Juliette McMurray for the constant communications and detailed information on what is happening.
- Thanks to Ms. Truong for the wonderful donut rewards to the students.
- Thank you to Rebecca Cameron and everyone else who was involved in organising the student wellbeing day and activities.

6.7. Other Business

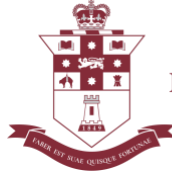
- None.

7. Membership Administration

- No actions.

8. Next Meeting – General Meeting – Wednesday 13th October, 2021 (Zoom)

Meeting closed at 8:32pm

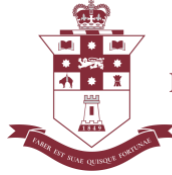


Tabled Documents – Financial – Hung Ngo

Profit and Loss

Fort Street High School P&C Association
All Business Units
1 August 2021 to 31 August 2021

	P&C	Uniform Shop	Total
Income			
Fundraising - Other Revenue	267	-	267
Total Income	267	-	267
Gross Profit	267	-	267
Less Operating Expenses			
Accounting/Bookkeeping Fees	-	420	420
EFPOS and Card Fees	-	42	42
Memberships and Subscriptions	27	-	27
Wages & Salaries	-	58	58
Total Operating Expenses	27	520	547
Net Profit	240	(520)	(280)



Balance Sheet

Fort Street High School P&C Association As at 31 August 2021

31 Aug 2021

Assets

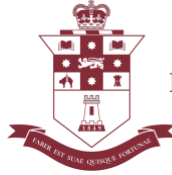
Bank	
IMP SUB Cheque Acct 29-3216	87,945
P&C Cheque Account	141,044
Uniform Shop Westpac - 24-4959	40,086
Total Bank	269,075
Current Assets	
Inventory	64,756
Petty Cash	99
Term Deposit - 673038	80,000
Term Deposit - 673046	80,000
Total Current Assets	224,854
Fixed Assets	
Furniture & Fixtures Accum Dep (12110)	(5,470)
Furniture & Fixtures at Cost (12100)	5,470
Plant & Equipment at Cost	4,545
Total Fixed Assets	4,545
Total Assets	498,475

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	
GST	(29)
Payroll Clearing Account	58
Rounding	-
Superannuation Clearing	58
Trade Creditors	(73)
Total Current Liabilities	15
Total Liabilities	15
Net Assets	498,461

Equity

Current Year Earnings	110,083
Retained Earnings	388,377
Total Equity	498,461



Tabled Documents – Community – Gallop Enquiry Support Letter

02 September, 2021

Gallop Inquiry – Future of the Teaching Profession

Fort Street High School is a selective co-educational public school in the inner west of Sydney. It is one of the oldest schools in Australia, and will be celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2024.

Students and their parents choose Fort Street so that they may take advantage of its longstanding reputation for academic excellence, and the culture of the school which emphasises the value of education in all its facets. This, of course, rests entirely on the quality and motivation of the teachers, a fact which is deeply appreciated by every one of us.

Skilled, dedicated and caring teachers are fundamental to the future flourishing of our society. Yet, teachers, as a profession, are undervalued and poorly treated. Not only in terms of remuneration, but also in terms of career structure, and the ever-increasing demands placed on them.

The appeal of teaching as a potential profession for our children suffers as a result. We have heard that over the last ten years, the school knows of only two students who indicated that they would seriously consider entering the teaching profession. Given Fort Street's position as a selective high school, this is tragic.

How did it come to this? At our last meeting, the members of the Fort St HS P&C were introduced to, and taken through, the findings of the recent Gallop Report, which we understand is the first in-depth, independent examination into the profession since 2004. We found the results concerning:

- Decline of teacher salaries to the point where they are less than 50% of GPs, solicitors and other relative to other comparably qualified professionals, leading to 1250 unfilled vacancies in NSW at the start of the 2021 school year and an attrition rate of 1 in 8 teachers over the first 5 years of their career.
- Lack of career certainty, and over-reliance on temporary and casual positions – we have direct experience of fantastic teachers leaving the school because it was not possible to offer them a permanent position.
- The work required of teachers has changed almost beyond recognition since 2004 with Increased burdens of administrative and other responsibilities, significant increases in student need, technology changes and not to mention the remote-learning demands associated with the covid pandemic in the past two years. This has eroded the time teachers need to prepare lessons and monitor student progress. Let teachers teach!

We strongly urge the NSW Government to take immediate action to address this critical situation.

We call for the NSW Government give serious consideration to the recommendations of the Gallop Report and to their implementation, including:

- Removal of 1.5% salary cap and granting of 10% - 15% increase in wages.
- Revised career structure including new categories of 'expert teachers', and reduced use of temporary and casual employment.
- Minimum increase of 2 hours per week preparation time

We look forward to your response and to discussing this further with you. We take education very seriously, and will be paying close attention to how your government addresses these matters.

Yours sincerely,

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Michael Easton
President
FSHS P&C Association