



RAMSGATE PUBLIC SCHOOL

P&C Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7pm

Location: Via Zoom

Present: Karen Yacoel, Vasily Shchegolev, Rebecca Yagan, Leonie Wood, Prue Torrs, Lea Batalha, Mary Paull, Lorraine Simmis-Taylor & Pablo Fernandez

Apologies: Macarena Aliste-Soca & Nicholle Taylor

Confirmation of Previous minutes - 8 June 2021 at RPS Library

Motion: Pablo Fernandez

Seconded: Rebecca Yagan

Correspondence:

- Email from Prue Torres saying thanks for the improvements in communication between families and P&C and asked about family with Covid
- Jacinda Kluck - Colour Fun Run has confirmed the fun run has been postponed and options moving forward
- NSW Gov re updated Covid Safety Plan (has since been actioned)

Principal's Report – Lorraine Simmis-Taylor

- Many of our plans from the last meeting have been put on hold. Our current period of remote learning is going well and has taught us about the resilience of the students, teachers and families. The teachers worked hard during the mid-year school holidays to get this up and running at very short notice.
- At the beginning of the lockdown period there were still quite a few students (4-5 classes-worth). The message was given that the school was open to any students that needed to be there, but that students should be kept home if possible. The school's position is that for anyone who sends their children to school it is recognized and accepted that this is essential for them and they are welcomed. However as the school's LGA became recognized as an "LGA of concern" staff numbers were greatly reduced, down to a maximum of 5, the message from the school was reinforced to emphasise that parents should keep their children home if at all possible. In response to this, student numbers were reduced slightly.
- The student from RPS that contracted Covid has now recovered (as has his family), and is now back at school. The result of the case of Covid within the school community resulted in a dramatic reduction in students attending school (from 80 down to approximately 26 per day). The message from the RPS family who contracted Covid is that all families should have a Family Covid Plan ready to put into place in the event that one family member develops Covid (how to isolate within the home, etc).
- Regarding remote learning, there have been some parents complaining that their children are not being given enough work. On the other hand, some have been complaining of too much work. Some parents who are having to send their children to school are worried that they are not getting enough help, with the low teacher to student ratios. The message from the school is that parents should not worry. The children are learning no matter what they are doing. A term or two away from face-to-face learning will not significantly impact them in the long run. A study done on the effects of Covid lockdowns on learning, based on Melbourne's extended lockdown in 2020 has concluded that there is no significant impact on education outcomes as a result of remote learning for this time period.

- Ground works – the work on the proposed running track with obstacles in Stage 2/3 playground is due to commence in 2 weeks.
- The first week of the new leaseholder's tender of the markets at RPS was last Saturday, 4/9/21. They have a lease with the DOE and have met all the guidelines. One being no dogs allowed on premises. This has always been a rule but the previous tenants seemed to let this slide. Some customers might be lost or gained by this rule being enforced. I work closely with the Head of operations Steven so any feedback would be great. There have been some issues raised by parents regarding why these markets are allowed to go ahead when school is not allowed to be open. The reason is that outdoor food markets are allowed, whereas schools are not (except for students that have no other option).
- I received the Naplan results just today and I'm glad to say we haven't slipped backwards.
- Thank you packages were sent out last week & we received thanks. I noticed on facebook people had commented about receiving a nice gesture from the school.
- We have no idea if Kindy orientations will be happening again this year. Pablo & Kara will meet next week to discuss what the plan will be. Traditionally orientations are normally in week 8 or 9 of term 4. Next term has 11 weeks. Vasily mentioned his experience last year with his daughter starting kindy, he said the communication by the school was good last year & if they keep this same approach it should be a success again.
- Year 6 Farewell will possibly go ahead.

President's Report - Karen Yacoel

- No President's Report. Replaced by a Q and A session

Treasurer's Report - Presented by Karen Yacoel (Nicholle absent)

- Father's Day online raffle was a success! - 10 Prizes total tickets sold 1,710
 - Total cost of prizes \$1,146 + set up fee \$39 + service fee \$148.39 =
Total expenses \$1,333.39. Total revenue \$2,698 **TOTAL NET PROFIT \$1,364.61**
- Bank balances: P&C: \$27,209.39 Canteen: \$19,188.81

Canteen Bookkeeper's Report - Virginia Sinalo

- Nothing reported

Q&A Session - Returning to school - Latest updates from Rainy, Pablo & DOE

- What will the guidelines be? Rainy sent out on enews a few days ago the latest information from the DOE, **This is an important message from the NSW Department of Education .**

Students will be returning Under level 3 plus in cohorts as follows:

25 October 2021- Kindy & Yr1

1 November 2021 - Yrs 2 & 6

8 November 2021 - Yrs 3, 4 & 5

All staff will be expected to be double vaccinated before returning to work and the wearing of masks is mandatory for all staff. Children are encouraged to wear masks too. If our LGA Bayside is still a 'hotspot' it looks like we will not be allowed to return to face to face learning. Hopefully our LGA restrictions will ease before 25 October 2021. Rainy will keep us all up to date with any new information she receives. Rebecca Yagan asked, 'will the double classrooms be closed off or stay open as one and have you thought about installing air purifiers?'. Rainy's reply was, 'those classrooms will stay open as most of them don't have the facility to be closed off. Air purifiers will not be necessary because we are also very lucky to have lots of windows in our school so we will have fantastic ventilation. Air Conditioners will not be allowed to be turned on and with that we might have some complaints about being cold or hot. Students are often reminded to stay apart while playing and no cuddling is allowed. Rainy mentioned she has to regularly remind the students of this rule. There will also be no assemblies, sport or PSSA, singing groups, music, after school activities (the greek lessons) or volunteers during this stage.

- In light of the information from the NSW government regarding the pathway to "back-to-school", if Bayside remains an "LGA of concern" on the date of the scheduled reopening, will RPS stay as they are, doing remote learning?

Yes, if Bayside is still an LGA of concern, nothing will change. Rainy's personal opinion is that we will remain an LGA of concern until the end of the school holidays, in order to minimise movement, and then may be re-evaluated. We will wait and see..... Whatever happens will depend on case numbers and vaccination rates.

- What date will the canteen be allowed to re-open & what will the staff requirements be?
(Volunteers)

All canteen staff and volunteers will be required/expected to be double vaccinated upon returning to school. Margaret and Athena will be notified of this mandatory requirement asap. As a result of the restrictions that will be placed upon students, it would be impossible for the canteen to be open to students directly. Only online orders will be allowed and no over the counter sales. Students will be separated into "cohort" – maybe class, grade or stage cohorts (as yet undecided), and will not be allowed to mix. Playground times will be separated. No volunteering will be allowed with the proposed opening of the canteen at this stage.

- Will double classrooms still be used?

Yes, many of the double classrooms cannot be closed. They will remain in place, and the students involved will be in a cohort group.

- What sort of Covid-safe measures will be put into place in classrooms when school reopens?

- Increased ventilation – opening windows, air-conditioning off, increasing outdoor learning.
- No gathering in staff rooms.
- As mentioned before, separation of "cohorts"
- Following the Dept of Ed recommendation regarding masks – mandatory for staff, encouraged for students.
- Encouraging the 1.5m rule as much as possible, which is obviously very hard for children.

Canteen Convenors Report - Presented by Karen Yacoel (Maca absent)

- The freezer door has been fixed for a total cost of \$209.00 including labour, part and GST.
- Still looking for a new Canteen Convenor to take over from Maca.
- Covid safety plan has been updated by Virginia. This will be printed and will replace the existing plan that is in the canteen.

Business arising from previous minutes: Karen

- Father's Day raffle was a success, using the online platform, Rafflelink. \$1364 profit. All prizes have been picked up. Well done and thank you to Karen and Vasily for organising this!!
- The P and C will organise another online raffle with a bigger budget for Christmas. Hopefully we will be able to share more widely through social media to increase ticket sales.
- P&C executives have decided to contribute \$10K to the Stage 2/3 playground equipment. Karen to discuss with Rainy how this will be delivered.
- P&C Federation membership has been renewed. Cost was \$450. We now have a current Certificate of Currency on google drive.
- Survey results - Have been discussed within the committee. The main outcome was that people would like more communication between P&C and the families to be improved. We have some new plans for how this will be carried out.
- Colour Fun Run has been postponed. We were given the options to postpone until later this year, postpone until 2022, or cancel. If we cancel we would need to send everything back at our cost. Decision made to postpone until 2022. Date still to be decided.
- The old P&C 'Bible' document/pamphlet folder has been located. These loose papers were updated by the 2018/2019 team and created the proper google drive. All files and notes are recorded in the appropriate folder. Karen has created a new spreadsheet called, 'Yearly Event Planning Guide', this will include every detail about what happens throughout the year and when planning needs to take place also with links to websites, contact names and details.
- Uniform shop still hasn't been relocated due to the current covid lockdown
- Year 6 Farewell - hopefully will take place in some form, but as yet no plans have been made.

Upcoming events:

- *Colour Fun Run* Date Friday 8th October 2021 (week 1, term 4). **POSTPONED** for early 2022.
- *Kindy Orientation* - maybe week 8 or 9 in Term 4. Waiting to hear the outcome of the meeting with Pablo & Kara.
- *Christmas Family Fun Fair* - Proposed date Friday 3rd December 5:30-8:30 will likely be postponed again but will keep being optimistic that we might get to have the event. Regardless of if we have the Christmas Family Fun Fair we will still organise a *Mega Christmas Raffle*. Budget to be set and prizes to be sourced asap.

General Business:

- Nicholle reported that the audit will be completed by next week. Nicholle asked a friend to complete the audit.

Minutes by: Karen Yacoel & Leonie Wood

Meeting closed at: 8.10 pm Next meeting: Proposed Tuesday 19 October 2021 at 7 pm