

ST JUDE'S COMMUNITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Meeting: Tuesday 25 February 2020 (Term 1, Week 4)

St Jude's School Library

6.20pm

Attendees: Charlotte Dalton, Max Rafferty, Vic Withington, Susana Lloyd, Peter Galvin, Verna Comley, Gabrielle Adams, Tabitha O-Halloran-Kemp, Sonia Rankin, Tanya Jackson, Beth Dawn, Lauren Orders, Sarah McGrath, Clare Bowman, Kathryn Lees, Rebecca Roberts, Daniel Collins, Gemma Cabot, Sharrie Manera, Leanne Thomas, Cathy Bailie, Nick Fairbairn, Wayne Taylor, Mandy Taylor, Nicole Katz, Sarah Savage, Skye Maguire

Apologies: Nicole Robertson, Kate Reed, Father Michael Lim

Agenda Items

1. Minutes of previous meeting (3 December 2019)

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

2. Actions from previous Minutes

ACTION 3/19 FEB: Peter to investigate the issue of the bell not being heard from the new playground and netball court area and if required, organise an additional speaker – IN PROGRESS.

- Peter noted that he has attempted to resolve this issue on several occasions by engaging the services of the person that Catholic Education (CE) uses, as well as a second person. He expects that a new speaker is needed at the end of the "junior" wing and that the volume needs to be turned up on the speaker at the end of the "senior" corridor. He advised that he would chase up on this with CE.
- It was noted that the bell is also currently not able to be heard by the Year 6 classes in the new demountable building.

ACTION 2/14 MAY: Peter to progress investigating options and obtaining quotes to enhance the Year 6 eating area – PENDING.

- Peter confirmed that he wanted to commence this project this year, noting that the proposed area is at the end of the shelter shed where there are different ground surfaces. Peter noted that he anticipated the project could cost \$60,000-\$70,000.
- Max committed to looking into potential suppliers to design the space and provide a quote for the work.

ACTION 6/14 MAY: Peter and Max to look into secure bike storage options and obtain two quotes for the Community Council's consideration – IN PROGRESS.

- Peter noted that the bike cage had been installed and the concrete will be completed shortly (at the same time as the path to the water tank). The 14 bike stands to go in the cage have already been purchased and will be installed prior to the concrete going down. It is hoped this will be completed prior to the Fete.

ACTION 7/14 MAY: Peter to raise the School Toilet Project with the SRC and ask them to investigate options and associated costs, for the Community Council's consideration – CLOSED.

- Charlotte noted that this project has now been completed, with a different mural being placed in each toilet at the school. She also noted that there is potential for further work down the track on the other walls.

ACTION ITEM 1/6 AUG: Charlotte to progress advertising the Canteen Manager position within the St Jude's community in Term 3 – IN PROGRESS.

- Peter noted that the Canteen Manager position had been advertised last year, however, an applicant was not able to be found. The position was re-advertised and several applications have been received. Interviews will take place shortly and it is hoped the canteen will be able to reopen in several weeks.

ACTION ITEM 2/6 AUG: Peter to further investigate solar power installation options – PENDING.

- Peter advised that the school currently has \$121,000 in an interest-bearing deposit that could be used on a bigger project. He believes that the installation of solar panels may be a good project to invest this money in, noting that the school roof is perfect for it. He confirmed that he is not sure if the timing is right for investing in solar panels, in terms of the technology and value for money. He clarified that the intent of the project is not to make money from them. He sought assistance from anyone in the school community with expertise in this regard.
- Peter noted that the school had applied for a grant for solar panels several years ago, however, had been unsuccessful two years in a row.
- With the additional money now coming to the school from the Camp Australia contract (i.e. an additional \$100,000 per year to what we were receiving under the previous YMCA contract), there is also scope for investing more money in this project.

ACTION ITEM 2/10 SEPT: Consideration to be given to the Community Council providing a monetary donation to Surgeon Primary – ON HOLD [to be discussed further in Term 3].

- It was agreed to discuss this item further in Term 3, prior to the Mini Missions Fete.

ACTION ITEM 5/10 SEPT: Skye to report back at the next meeting regarding the quote received for a new electronic message board – IN PROGRESS.

- Skye advised that a quote had been obtained from an electrician to supply power to the message board site, which came in at \$2,750.
- A number of electronic message board options are available, with single and double sided versions and a range of different sizes. In total, the cost including the electrical work would range from approximately \$20,000 up to \$30,000 (with additional customisation options for 3D logos, LED night lighting and a clear protective layer also available). There is also the cheaper option of retrofitting a screen to the existing message board frame, which would cost \$8,000 to \$18,000 depending on the size.
- A question was asked regarding if insurance would cover any breakages. Skye noted that the brochure advertised that the boards are hard to break or smash.
- The issue of needing to consider the affect on neighbouring houses was also raised, in terms of brightness at night time.
- The question of what value the board would bring to the school was also raised. It was noted that being able to communicate key messages to the school community was the primary benefit.
- There was consensus that a new shade sail for the new playground would be a higher priority than a new electronic message board, and it was agreed to put the decision regarding the message board on hold until the cost of the shade sail and Year 6 eating area project are known.

ACTION ITEM 10/10 SEPT: Dan/Peter to investigate replacing the marine carpet on the flat surfaces of the old playground – IN PROGRESS.

- Peter noted that people had been organised to replace the marine carpet on the old playground on two occasions, however, they both pulled out the day before the work was due to be completed. A third person has been organised to come next week to look at doing the job.

ACTION ITEM 2/29 OCT: Verna to progress obtaining quotes for a set of fluoro vests – IN PROGRESS.

- Verna advised that she had commenced making enquiries on the set of fluoro vests last term and will re-commence her investigations. It was clarified that the purpose of the vests is to make students more easily identifiable when they re on excursions (noting that an uncommon colour may be preferable).

- Gabrielle advised that the ELC had recently purchased vests, with the De Luca family having assisted with personalising them with “St Jude’s ELC” on the back. Lauren confirmed that she had organised the vests for the ELC and would provide the relevant details to Verna.

ACTION ITEM 3/29 OCT: Verna to progress obtaining a quote for a St Jude’s portable indoor display banner – CLOSED.

- It was noted that Dennis who provides signage for the Fete could likely provide an indoor display banner. Charlotte advised that he had previously quoted \$150 for a similar item.
- It was agreed that the school would purchase this banner and the item could be closed.

ACTION ITEM 5/29 OCT: Verna to provide additional information on the STEM kits at the next meeting – PENDING.

- Verna noted that she was unsure if the Council wished to progress this item. It was confirmed that additional information was sought, largely on the cost of the consumable items, prior to a decision being made. Peter confirmed that the school would be happy to commit to purchasing any required consumables.
- Verna noted that the kits range from \$220 to \$300.
- Lauren advised that at a Professional Development event she had attended recently, she was advised of other kits that are available where everything can be reused. She agreed to follow up with the other teachers who attended the event on this, so she could provide the information to Verna to progress further. It was also agreed that Verna would look at what kits are needed for which grade/s, so she can report back the exact numbers at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM 6/29 OCT: Verna to provide additional information on the outdoor area for art/science activities at the next meeting – PENDING.

- Verna confirmed that this item relates to possible grants available in this space, with further research needed around what grants are available for schools that we could apply for.
- Gabrielle confirmed that the ELC has previously utilised initiatives from Bunnings, who have come to the school and undertaken specific initiatives.
- Peter noted the initiatives available through the “Sustainable Schools’ Group”. Gabrielle noted that “Weeds for Plants” is another potential initiative, which is a part of Sustainable Schools.
- Sonia advised that the Department of Industry offers grants for science projects and undertook to keep an eye out for anything that may come up that may be relevant to St Jude’s.

ACTION ITEM 9/29 OCT: Rebecca to contact sporting clubs (e.g. the Giants) to see if they have any old drink dispensers they would be willing to donate to the school – PENDING.

- As Bec was not in attendance, no update was available on this item.

ACTION ITEM 1/3 DEC: Susan to transfer the \$5,000 contribution from the Community Council through to the ELC – CLOSED.

- Susan was not in attendance, however, it was noted that this item would have been progressed.

ACTION ITEM 2/3 DEC: Max to discuss further with Charlotte the drafting of a letter/submission to the ACT Government regarding the parking situation on Mulley Street – IN PROGRESS.

- Charlotte confirmed that she had submitted a letter to the ACT Government on behalf of the Community Council on the issue of parking on Mulley Street, and has not yet received a response. She undertook to follow up with them further.
- Sonia noted that she had also sent correspondence to the ACT Government on this issue, including detailed information regarding the signage displayed and the current guidelines in place. She advised that the response she received did not address the issues she had raised and that she intended to send them through further correspondence on the issue.
- It was noted that no one was aware of any further parking tickets having been issued since the initial incident.

3. Chair's Report – Charlotte Dalton

- Charlotte noted that she is very pleased with the great turnout at tonight's meeting.
- She advised that further correspondence regarding the Fete and volunteer sign up would be coming out shortly.

4. Principal's Report – Peter Galvin

Peter provided attendees with a hard copy summary of current key issues at the school. The following points were discussed:

- Two classroom transportable building – the new building is now set up and it is a good fit for the Year 6 students.
- School Fees 2020 – of the approximately \$1,000 fee charged per student per term, approximately \$400 of this comprised the tuition fee, which goes directly to CE (as well as the Building Levy). The remainder of fees are set at the local level. Due to the additional revenue from the Camp Australia contract, some fees for St Jude's have been able to be reduced. Overall, school fees have risen around 1.7% for 2020 for one child, which is significantly lower than increases that have been seen other schools in the diocese.
- Enrolment survey – CE is currently considering its future direction in Weston Creek/Molonglo.
 - The land in Molonglo has still not been released – this has been delayed until April/May 2020 (previously scheduled for June 2019). CE has submitted an EOI for this land, however, Peter has been advised that they do not believe they have any chance of acquiring the block.
 - St Jude's has a role in providing Catholic education in Molonglo, however, this should not be at the expense of Holder, Duffy and Weston (the historical catchment area).
 - It was noted that the historical issues at St John Vianney's are separate to St Jude's and Molonglo, and should be treated as such.
 - CE has come up with a plan and the consultation phase has commenced. Peter noted that what this consultation process brings up does not mean that is what CE will go ahead with. A consultation meeting will be held in the St John Vianney's hall on 11 March 2020 (exact date to be confirmed) and the school community is strongly advised to attend to have their say. This will be the only public meeting. Details will be included in this week's newsletter.
 - A staff survey had already commenced and a parent survey will be sent out tomorrow (26 February), and will be open for approximately two weeks. The community is encouraged to respond. A parishioner survey will also be distributed.
 - It is expected that all information from the surveys will be collected before the meeting on 11 March, with the ideas put forward at the meeting based on the survey results.
 - It was noted that the only option people are currently hearing about is the possible amalgamation of St Jude's and St John Vianney's (i.e. into a junior and senior campus). Peter noted that this would be the least preferred option of all the options available, and that he did not believe this would be progressed. However, he did note that CE would make a decision based on what they think is best for CE in the area.
 - It was noted that the retention rate for boys in Year 4 at St Jude's is approximately 75%, with this figure only 25% for St John Vianney's. If the two schools were to merge, there was consensus that the retention rate would significantly reduce.
- Canteen – Peter confirmed that interviews will be held this week for the Canteen Manager position.
- Enrolment survey – CE recently surveyed parents to obtain feedback from enrolment applicants on the key reasons for choosing a Catholic school and their experience with the process. Key findings of the survey were provided.

5. Treasurer's Report – Susan Rowell

Provided as part of the AGM – please refer to 2020 AGM Minutes.

6. OSHC Provider Report – Tabitha O'Hallaron-Kemp (Camp Australia)

- Tabitha noted that their new Regional Manager had commenced – Leanne.
- Holiday Club bookings are now live and can be made online. Cathy flagged that the link provided does not work, with St Jude's not coming up as an option. Peter noted that this issue has been ongoing and that a special code is needed to register (which he would include in the newsletter). Tabitha undertook to raise this issue with Leanne.

7. Subcommittee reports:

• ELC Report (Gabrielle Adams)

- The ELC had had a positive start to the year, with all three classes full.
- Four parent representatives have come forward, with Lauren to be the lead representative. Kate Reed will be provided with the details of the representatives so they can receive communications relating to the broader school as well.
- So that the part-time ELC students are able to take part in key school events, a second Mufti Day and Cross Country carnival will be held for the Stingrays/Lobsters who miss out on the main event.
- The ELC's formal assessment/rating is scheduled to occur this year. Once the one month notice period of the onsite assessment has been provided, the Quality Improvement Plan will be submitted for review. Two assessors will attend to undertake the assessment, over a two-day period. Gabrielle asked for feedback from families, either positive or negative, to be provided to her, to be included in this assessment process.

• Parent network (Kate Reed) – Nil

• Canteen (position vacant) – Nil

• Uniform shop (Susana Lloyd)

- Recent issues have been encountered with the suppliers of the school jumpers, which were ordered last year. It is hoped that the stock will arrive shortly and backorders are able to be filled.
- The shop continues to be open on Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoons, which is working well.
- Susana queried whether the Fete Committee wanted the Uniform Shop open on Fete Day. Charlotte advised that it was up to her, and she would need to ascertain how many volunteers she would need etc (noting that Skye and Alison Egan – the other Uniform Shop volunteers – are coordinating other stalls and would not be able to assist on the day). Tanya advised that she would be happy to assist on the day.

• Fundraising Committee (Max Rafferty)

- The newly formed Fundraising Committee will convene its first meeting shortly.

• Fete Committee (Charlotte Dalton)

- Fete plans are progressing well. Carnival rides have been organised this year, with a \$25 all-day pass available. If enough passes are sold, the company has committed to setting up extra rides (at no additional cost). Additional information will be coming out this week on the Cake Stall and volunteer sign-up. A meeting for stall coordinators will be held shortly.
- It was noted that a small committee has historically organised the fete. Charlotte confirmed the intent to expand this next year, with people allocated specific jobs (e.g. sponsorship, rides).

- **Parish Report** (Father Michael) – Nil

8. General Business

- Shade sail – Peter noted that two quotes have been sought for a new shade sail to go over the new playground, as a potential major project for the Community Council to support.

NEW ACTION ITEM 1/25 FEB: Peter to report back to the Community Council on the quotes received for a new shade sail over the new playground.

- Gate to car park – Skye noted that a concern had been raised with her by a member of the community regarding the yellow gate at the entrance of the car park, and the difficulty that some people experience in opening the gate. There was consensus that others had not encountered any issues with the gate, and as such, it was agreed that no further action is required at this time.
- Basketball backboards – it was noted that the new backboards have been purchased, however, a tradesman to fit them is still being sourced. This will likely be undertaken by the same person who replaces the marine carpet on the old playground.
- Car park safety – potential improvements to the car park to further enhance safety were discussed, including the addition of a visual crossing area/s, to direct families who have parked in the middle area (near the green shed) to cross the car park safely.

NEW ACTION ITEM 2/25 FEB: Peter to investigate potential improvements to the car park to further enhance safety, including the addition of a visual crossing area/s.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 24 March 2020 (Term 1, Week 8) – 6.00pm