

**Mount Keira Demonstration School**

**Parents and Citizens Association**

**Term 3**

**Tuesday 1st August 2023**

**MINUTES**

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| **Meeting commenced at 6.03pm** | |
| **Agenda Item** |  |
| **1. Welcome** | Angie N |
| Attendees | Tenae C, Kate G, Angie, Carolyn P, Steph R, Maddy M, Ingrid, Natascha, Sam Craddock, Shikha, Ashlee J, Allira R, Lili Z, Mel R, Tanja B, Bec S, Ashlea T, Nicki M, Kera B, Steph V, Narelle S, Jess L, Janaya |
| Apologies |  |
| **2. Confirmation of last**  **P & C Minutes** | Passed by Kera B  Seconded Angie N |
| **3. President’s Report** | **Please see attached**   * Important to recognise that office bearer roles are volunteers and Angie N wanted to make special mention of this. * Congratulations to permanent appointments on the MKDS school staff – we are all so happy to have you forever! * Progressive Dinner to be locked in ASAP. * Amazing turnout at the working bee! Thanks! * PSSA Gala Day canteen raised $600 – thanks Kera and Lisa. * Still waiting for Ryan Park’s office to release some information regarding his election promise |
| **4. Treasurer’s Report** | **Please see attached.**  Very healthy-looking accounts!  One account has been completely allocated for playground fundraising – to be discussed later tonight.  A big chunk of cash is proceeds from Mountain Markets that has not been moved to the playground account and is still existing in the everyday account.  Most recent fundraising was the PSSA Gala Day which raised a wonderful $600 profit.  ACNC lodged for the year. |
| **5. Principal’s Report** | **Please see attached.**   * Education Week/Book Week/Literacy and Numeracy Week incorporated into one. Details to follow. * Temp to Permanency have been allocated – Tanja, Bec, Kate and Lisa K (SAO/SLSO) to begin January 2024. * Playground equipment has been purchased, then had to sit in line with AMU and hopefully equipment will be COMPLETED by the end of Term 3. Possible fortnight where playground will be out of action. * NAPLAN results – above national average across the board Years 3 and 5 in each area. * SRC – lots of wonderful events and ideas in the pipeline. Thanks to Tanja and Bec and the group of students involved. * Dress option to be discussed tonight but ‘voting’ process needs much more community consultation, student voice and so on. * Lots of events this term – Public Speaking, TOM, excursions. * Out of Area applications for Term 4 and Kinder 2024 – need panel to sit with parent rep. * ProWise board purchased by P & C and installed in Lilli Pilli classroom – thank you! * Defibrillator is going to be installed Wednesday 2nd August – thanks to P & C. It will be located in the hallway just outside the library – central location. * Thanks to Working Bee organisers and volunteers – school grounds look amazing and wonderful turnout of over 40 people. |
| **6. Correspondence** | It’s time to shine a spotlight on the remarkable individuals and groups within our P&C community through the Annual P&C Federation Volunteer Awards.    These awards recognise exceptional contributions by P&C Associations, individual members, community volunteers and principals.    This year’s award winners will take home a trophy and certificate, while the P&C Association of the Year will also receive $1000 prize money.    Now is your chance to make a lasting impact and submit your nominations for the following awards:   * P&C Association Member of the Year * Community Volunteer of the Year * P&C Association of the Year * Principal of the Year   Nominations due by August 7th. Please contact Maddy ASAP. |
| **7. Ongoing Business & Sub-Committee updates** | * 1. Last meeting action items * **SmartBoard/Defibrillator purchase**   Done!   * **Learning Deck funds update**   Ash and Jess L now taking over as Learning Deck team (also includes Lili, Sam, Steph, Carolyn)  LZ gave refresher regarding Learning Deck – new space situated between compass garden and outdoor kitchen. Important to have a dedicated outdoor cooking space – moving BBQ out of kitchen. Ideally would have weather protection. Multi-functional outdoor space that can be used by children/community members. The space would open an unutilised space within the school grounds.  Some hedging and branches to be removed, worm farm relocated.  May or may not be raised due to drainage.  Won’t interfere with Compass Garden.  Plan is to do as much as possible with volunteers – TC did note that anything structural will have to go through Assets.  TC suggested that Outdoors Committee meet with TC and AN in the short term – legalities need to be sorted prior to any soil being dug.  **Plan:**   1. Brief school 2. Communicate list of tasks to community – see if any takers. 3. If immediate community cannot take on particular tasks, then look externally. 4. Re-brief MKDS community and reassess needs. 5. Series of Working Bees as needed.   KG raised idea that BBQ being housed outside may be both a security and safety issue, and gravel is not ideal for students.  **ACTION ITEM: Outdoors/Learning Deck Space committee to meet with TC and AN to discuss plan going forward.**   * **Playground funds reallocation (see 7.4)** * **MKDS rep carnival/gala day singlets (Narelle)**   $27 each approximately. Stay at school and used as a pool/shared resources.  **ACTION ITEM: LZ/AJ to look for sports singlets (Teachers cannot find) and table discussion for next meeting if not.**   * **Disco/Progressive Dinner date/plan**   Jess L/Ash J offered to take on management committee role for Progressive Dinner – thank you!  Steph Rodden offered to do invitation for both Disco and Progressive Dinner – thank you!  Disco – ***Friday 27th October 5 - 6.30***. P & C funded (ice block, popcorn)    Progressive Dinner – ***Saturday 28th October***. On site, fully self-catered by individuals, minimal decorating and ‘volunteers’. No tickets to be sold.  **ACTION ITEM: JL/AJ to coordinate Progressive Dinner committee.**   * 1. **SRC update** * SRC canteen to begin Week 5 – no more than 3 times a term. * Basic snacks that will follow Health Star Ratings * Food needs to be packaged. * Student-driven choice * Father’s Day breakfast to be held before school. * Colour Run Week 9 * SRC raised $213 from Pyjama Day and canteen. * $1648 – current SRC bank balance. All SRC funds are going straight back into students. * SRC looking to purchase coloured wheelie bins for waste sorting in the playground.   1. **Outdoor update**   Thank you so much for the working bee turnout – Ash is very grateful for Lili’s guidance as she takes the reigns and Jess’ support in running the outdoor committee.  Soft fall and gum mulch moved to the Adventure Gully. Some gum mulch sprinkled into the veggie patch and pathways. Moraya hedges trimmed. Gully ready to be reopened – TC has small list for John to do ASAP and a slight amount of soft-fall mulch that needs to be added to a certain space. Ash to see TC ASAP to make this happen.  Possible Working Bee to be scheduled before the term ends.  AN raised discussion with Ash prior to working bee about purchasing soft-fall mulch.  Motion passed for P & C to pay for half of the soft-fall mulch – MKDS to cover the other half. LZ to pass invoice to Angie (approximately $1300 all up)  **ACTION ITEM: Angie to call Federation to confirm if there is a dollar amount needed to pass a motion.**  **ACTION ITEM: AN to communicate to families that school is ‘open’ for parents at both the beginning and end of the school day.**  **ACTION ITEM: AN to mention drop-zone parking in Summit and abiding by council parking regulations.**   * 1. **Fundraising update**   AN brought to the table the discussion regarding ‘playground funds’ and the reallocation issues that it has since created following AMU taking over the project management of the new playground equipment.  As discussed in the last meeting, it is proposed an announcement will be made to the school and wider community that funds raised (through UCI, Mountain Markets and other smaller fundraisers) will be reallocated to support student and school needs. AN has drafted a letter that she will share through social media (Mountain Market Instagram, etc), the Summit and the WhatsApp group. AN proposed that the letter to community reads:  *“…we would like to notify our generous donors and members of the community, that all funds raised for our playground will be reallocated to other areas of need within the school, and this will be conducted in a manner where teachers and members of the P and C will work together to support our student needs.”*  Donations directly made towards the playground totals approximately $4000. These donations are direct and do not involve the exchange of a good or service (e.g. purchasing a coffee).  Many differing opinions were discussed and some present would prefer all raised funds go towards a dedicated playground area/space as this is what the community was told the money was being raised for. Others discussed that there are greater student/school needs (laptops, sports equipment, PA system, decodable readers) that could be met with the money. AN assured everyone that the letter would offer any donations be refunded if people were no longer happy to donate to a different purchase.  AN tabled vote for the proposal of a letter communicating a redirection of raised funds. Vote as follows:  11 members present voted for the distribution of a letter communicating funds redirection now that AMU is managing playground equipment.  3 member present voted against.  A month will be allocated for community members to reach out to Angie if they wish for their donation to be refunded.  AN received email from Ryan Park on Tuesday 1/8 inviting application to the grant for $50,000 that was promised pre-election for playground equipment. Grant process appeared lengthy and involved a seminar.  ACTION ITEM: AN to read over application process as she only received at 3pm Tuesday 1st August.   * 1. **Uniform update** * Dress option   Uniform was reviewed in 2022, and the dress was marked as ‘optional’, including for new students in Kindy 2023. Proposals were documented in 2022 to review the alternative ‘polo-style’ dress as an option for all students in 2023.  For clarity, removal of the dress is not being proposed. AN emphasised that the discussion is for a preliminary review of the dress options and there will not be a vote tonight.  The polo dress offers support to reduce non-gender bias and enhance all student confidence through repetition. This was explored and presented by AN (see attached presentation) which is summarised below.  AN raised issues surrounding safety of all children and that social safety is a large issue in schools. Currently, a separate girls and boys uniform has the potential to cause bullying when a child does not fit into a gender stereotype.   * The polo dress looks similar to the new polo shirt (less ‘different’ when compared to the existing dress) * New dress can be worn five days a week, improving repetition and strengthening the connections of the brain that help children learn. * In 2021 the NSW Youth Parliament presented an inclusive uniform bill. This states that school uniform should not associate clothing with gender. Existing legislation leads to gender-based discrimination, and there is currently no legislation regarding other gender identities and their ability to wear a uniform they are comfortable in. * Self-harm is disproportionately high amongst the trans-gender community * Girls take less steps than boys, due to their uniform.   TC noted that this is just the beginning stages of discussing polo dress v traditional summer checked dress. Valid representation of student choice was not made in 2022 and this would need to be reconsidered now. We will be having a dress, the dress is not gender-specific, any student can wear the dress. NM raised that discussion between both options had happened last year based off a picture, but TC raised that the community needed to be offered the opportunity to see the dress ‘in the flesh’ rather than simply a picture. Everyone needs to be offered a valid voice. The survey was invalid as multiple votes could be made from the same URL.  Community will be given the opportunity to see and feel the options in the coming weeks/months.  **Action Item: AN to put a message in Summit to see if anyone is interested in joining the uniform committee.**  **AN moved motion to form a new uniform sub-committee – seconded by Jess L.**   * 1. Monday Munchies * Additional supplier   Monday Munchies currently have 3 suppliers. SV went to GYG to get prices. Jess L is concerned that the travelling from GYG with hot food may be too far.  Jess has looked into Dominoes and there is the potential to have the food delivered. Watch this space. Jess to communicate menu options in WhatsApp group.  Teacher wish lists   * Laptops (approximately $15k) * Decodable readers/big books (approximately $3k) * Sports equipment (approximately $4k) * Outdoor games (approximately $3k) * Outdoor PA system (SR will be able to look into this as has a contact)   **Action Item: AN to ask community to come to her with any suggestions for spending prior to next meeting (including teachers)** |
| **8. New Business** | * 1. **Christmas markets**   SV released following figures for volunteer needs should markets go ahead:   * 15 pre-market jobs * 4 coordinators needed * On the day – 18 volunteers needed for morning shift (6.45 – 11.30. Markets open 9am), 18 volunteers needed for afternoon shift (11.30 – 3.30. Markets close 2pm) * 9 volunteers for cooking and helping on BBQ for two-hour shifts across the day.   AN would like to go ahead with the Christmas market.  Potential date booked – 2nd December  **ACTION ITEM: AN and SV to liaise to begin organisation of Christmas Markets.**  **8.1 PSSA Gala Day 15/9 – Stage 2 and Stage 3**  KG asked if P & C keen to be put forward to run the canteen – KB is happy to take on if we are offered the spot. |
| **10. Close** | **9.03** |

**Actions from Meeting Held August 1st 2023**

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| --- | --- |
| **Person/s Responsible** | **Action Item** |
| **Angie**  **Tenae**  **Ash J**  **Jess L** | **Outdoors/Learning Deck Space committee to meet with TC and AN to discuss plan going forward.** |
| **Lili**  **Ash** | **LZ/AJ to look for sports singlets (Teachers cannot find) and table discussion for next meeting if not.** |
| **Steph R** | **Disco and Progressive Dinner invites** |
| **Ash J**  **Jess L** | **Coordination of Progressive Dinner committee** |
| **Angie** | **Angie to call Federation to confirm if there is a dollar amount needed to pass a motion.** |
| **Angie** | **AN to communicate to families that school is ‘open’ for parents to be on site at both the beginning and end of the day during dropoff/pickup periods.** |
| **Angie** | **AN to mention drop-zone parking in Summit and abiding by council parking regulations.** |
| **Angie** | **AN to put a message in Summit to see if anyone is interested in joining the uniform committee.** |
| **Angie** | **AN to ask community to come to her with any suggestions for spending prior to next meeting (including teachers)** |
| **Angie**  **Steph V** | **AN and SV to liaise to begin organisation of Christmas Markets.** |

**P&C Presidents Report:**

**Term 3  
1.08.2023**

***AGM – Thank you!***

Thank you to all our fantastic P and C representatives for putting your hand up and volunteering your precious time to our team, you are so appreciated:

* Kera Bruton *and*

Ash Jameson 🡪 Vice President 1 & 2

* Maddy Morris 🡪 Secretary
* Nicki McNamara 🡪 Treasurer
* Mel Ringer 🡪 Clothing
* Ash Jameson 🡪 Outdoors
* Jess Levchenko 🡪 Monday Munchies

***Congratulations***

Special congratulations to Mrs Bergleski, Mrs Gehrki, Mrs Kerrigan and Mrs Satori for your appointment to permanent positions, you are so valued, and it is great to know you will be a part of our school forever!

***Progressive Dinner:***

Progressive dinner to be early term 4. Date TBA and will be shared via WhatsApp and the Summit.

***Working Bee***

Thank you to all the families who gave their time to clean up our school grounds. The community spirit was high – an amazing effort by all!

***Ryan Park:***

I have chased up Ryan Park on his election promise to donate $50,000 and have been advised only today, that this was a nomination to make a submission for funding, via an application process. We will begin this process based on school needs, and will not link this application to a playground, as Tenae has had a successful application approved for the entire playground amount.

***PSSA Gala Day***

What a fun fundraiser lead by the amazing Kera and her sidekick Lisa Cooney, all up, we raised over $600.

Angelina Neira,   
MKDS P&C President

**Dress Review 2023 – Summary Presentation by Angie**

We are in a situation where we have an opportunity to review the MKDS dress option.

In reviewing this dress, there is also an opportunity to protect minority groups.

The polo dress offers support to reduce non-gender bias, and enhance all student confidence. *I explore this below.*

Children who do not “fit the mould” socially, should be in the forefront of our minds when considering this change.

“Social safety” is a highly prevalent safety issue in schools. The polo-dress *looks* similar to the polo shirt and therefore is less ‘different’ which reduces a target on young children and therefore, enhances safety.

Having a “girls” and “boys” uniform creates tension / discomfort / and grounds for bullying when someone does not fit the traditional stereotype.

The polo-dress enhances repetition as it can be worn 5 days a week >> Repetition is proven to help to improve speed, increases confidence, and strengthens the connections of the brain that help children learn. Children will no longer worry at the gate if they are in the wrong uniform, and will no longer require assistance from parents to do the zipper up at the back.

*Note 1:*

*Taken from the Inclusive Uniform Bill 2021 (NSW) – passed by NSW Youth Parliament.*

The Inclusive Uniform Bill indicates in Section 5 that the NSW School Uniform Policy offers no legislation regarding other gender identities ability to wear clothing they are comfortable in.

Existing legislation implements gender-specific requirements for clothing, leading to inequalities and gender-based discrimination when an individual chooses to dress outside of traditional gender stereotypes.

Existing legislation does not provide scope for gender diverse students to express themselves or be comfortable in the uniform options available to them.

Section 7 also says that School uniform policies should not associate clothing with gender and instead provide a range of uniform options that are equally encouraged.

The discontinuation of gendered uniforms will ensure the inclusion of all gender identities.

*Note 2:*

*This information is taken from an AUSTRALIAN peer-reviewed study published in 2021.*

*12 per 100,000 population is general suicide rate in Australia (.00012%).*

Rates of self-harm and suicide are disproportionately high amongst the trans-gender community - 63 % (of trans-gender people surveyed, 928 participants) reported previous self-harm and 43 % had attempted suicide.

In the US, data indicates that 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth.

*Note 3*

*Information taken from the Asia-Pacific Journal of Health, Sport and Physical Education in 2012*

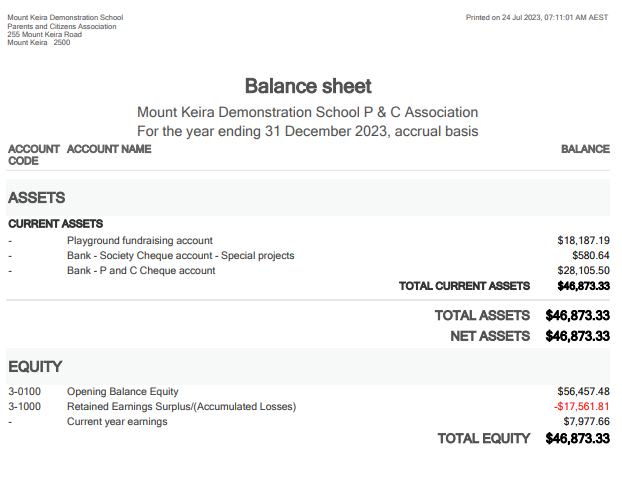
Girls are less active during the school day than boys due to their uniform.

A 2012 repeat cross sectional study of 64 Grade 6 students from one Western Australian school, found that girls took significantly more steps during break times when wearing sports uniform (1134.1 steps) compared to their traditional uniform (933.3 steps)

*Note 4:*

Food For thought as to why change is important:

Teachers were allowed to smoke on outdoor playground duty until 1991.



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