

School Board Meeting
Grovelands Primary School – 9 September 2019



Present:

Gavin Grace	Community Representative
Michelle Ninyyette	School Representative
Mark Bradshaw	Principal
Angelo Laurence	Board Chair
Kylie Gorman	Parent Representative
Leah Brown	School Representative
Emma-Mae Kapuscik	School Representative
Tony Buti	Community Representative
Ted Watts	Community Representative
Asher Trenorden	Learning Support Coordinator/Attendance Officer (Guest)

Apologies:

Naaman Dean	Parent Representative
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Welcome

Angelo Laurence welcomed everyone to the meeting. Angelo suggested a change to the agenda to enable guests to speak first and then leave. All members agreed to this amendment.

Leah welcomed Ted Watts to the Board and asked him to introduce himself. Ted is currently the President of the Lions Club for Armadale-Kelmscott. He has a varied and interesting range of roles in addition to this in the community.

Asher Trenorden – Attendance 2019 Trends

Asher reviewed the current attendance data for 2019. We are meeting our goals for the Severe attendance category, but not the other three. Our data has not significantly changed over the past three years, with a large range of movement between Severe and Indicated categories. Currently the school has 61.9% regular attenders, 18.2% Indicated, 15.0% Moderate, and 4.9% Severe. Our Compulsory Whole School Attendance rate sits at 88.2%. Our goals are to achieve attendance rates of 70% Regular, 15% Indicated, 10% Moderate and 5% Severe.

We are continuing the current class and school wide incentives and rewards. Asher and Michelle are closely working with a range of outside agencies to assist us with families.

The school is currently investigating extracurricular activities within the school day (before/after/during lunch). Last term our Year 6 students were the best attenders and this may be due to a range of activities available to this cohort during that time.

Tony asked whether we used the SMS contact system. Leah shared that we have the daily SMS for absence and this has a varied response rate. Asher outlined the range of communication methods – phone, SMS, email, notes home, online tools (Dojo, Skoolbag & website). In future we will also utilise Connect as a method of contacting families, and enabling them to use this platform to notify absences.

Gavin asked whether we had anything in place to build the capacity of our parents to assist students to get to school, as this seems an area where we are not actively engaged currently. In his opinion, we need to put the ownership back onto the community.

Mark spoke about a developing relationship with The Smith Family where we can target 6 families next year. He also mentioned the Be You program (formerly KidsMatter), which will be reintroduced next year. Gavin suggested forming a group to assist with this.

Angelo asked about families taking holidays during the school terms, and whether there was a noticeable difference between last year and this year. Asher didn't have the data for last

year, but did say that there were 346 ½ days (173 days) last semester of unauthorised vacation.

Mark reiterated that the student achievement data confirms that attendance directly impacts results.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes read and discussed. Acknowledged that these are true and correct.

Moved: Leah Secoded: Michelle

The following business arising from the minutes was discussed:

Tony queried the change to not seeing the Comparative Budget Report. He indicated that he felt uncomfortable that this information wasn't being shared with the Board any longer. Mark indicated that he didn't have a problem sharing it and will have Leah follow up to seek additional information from the Department.

Emma-Mae reviewed the Operational Plans for English & Mathematics, providing an update of our progress against set goals.

Leah Brown – Finance Update

Leah reviewed the One Line Budget Report provided by Kay on Friday. Mark indicated that the school will carry over the Forecast Cash Variance (~\$27000) through our Salary Pool. Our Voluntary Contributions collection rate has stayed at a similar rate to 2018.

Emma-Mae suggested identifying and advertising a funding target for a tangible item for the school that the Voluntary Contributions can contribute towards, e.g. infrastructure, resources, visible high value items. This may encourage families to contribute as they can see the evidence of their money going to work.

Ted asked whether we had contacted local non-profit organisations for assistance. Mark advised that this is usually for a specific need, e.g. camps, excursions, bus costs.

Gavin suggested moving to an entrepreneurial model where students create items to earn money for the school. He described a vision for the school to become self-sustaining.

Kylie asked about upskilling parents through classes, e.g. computing, work skills.

NAPLAN 2019

Emma-Mae shared the preliminary NAPLAN data for 2019. It appears that the median score for Year 3 in Numeracy and Reading is consistent with 2018 data, and the median score for Year 5 in these assessments appears to be slightly higher than last year.

Emma-Mae explained that the Writing data is not available yet as this assessment is marked offline. She further explained how NAPLAN online differed from the previous paper assessments, with all students having greater opportunity to demonstrate to their ability as the assessments adjusted student pathways, based on the responses entered.

Full data analysis and Individual Student Reports are anticipated by mid-September. This information will be presented to the board at the next meeting.

Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

Mark shared that this data collection occurs every 3 years and is completed by Pre-primary teachers.

Mark referred the Board to the graphs on page 8. It appears that our students are falling further and further behind. Mark indicated that there is a push from WAPPA members for the Department to enable schools to resource learning programs for three year olds. Tony shared that this is problematic as it is goes against the Education Act.

Discussion about access to the local Family and Parent Centre, now located at Westfield Park Primary School.

Mark initiated a discussion about reinvesting money that we currently spend on our Social Worker into a Speech Pathologist and/or Occupational Therapist in 2020. This is just an idea at this stage. Members present indicated support for this proposal.

Public Meeting Term 4

Angelo suggested that we use the first meeting in Term 4 (Monday, November 4 at 3:15pm) as our Public Meeting. Leah will advertise via the newsletter and other electronic means in Week 1 of Term 4, to ensure we meet the necessary advance notice (14 days required).

Emma-Mae suggested that Angelo present the Annual School Board Report at this meeting, clarifying that this was an outline of the Board's achievements for the year.

Change in Meeting Dates, Term 4

In Term 4 we will seek to change our meeting days to Monday due to Emma-Mae's change in work schedule.

Parent Online Election

Angelo would like to run the election electronically. Mark has initiated the process. He suggested asking the nominees to provide a paragraph about their suitability for the position and a photograph for the website.

There is currently an issue with all parents having to be emailed individually in order to access the online election platform. Leah would prefer to wait until Term 4 when "Connect" is live so that all parents can be contacted in bulk.

It was suggested that we wait until the beginning of next term and conduct the election in the first couple of weeks. This was agreed to by the Board.

40th Anniversary Celebration – Wednesday 25 September

We are going ahead with Open Classrooms between 3:30 and 5pm. The formal events will begin from about 5:15pm in the Undercover Area.

Events and demonstrations will be occurring in the Undercover Area during the Open Classroom time.

A 40th mural will be created on the night. Food will be on sale, including coffee and ice cream vans.

Tony gave his apologies that he will not be able to attend, as he will be en route to Berlin to compete in the Berlin Marathon (Good luck, Tony!).

General Business

No items noted.

Closing Statements

Angelo shared that the Fathering Project camp occurred at the weekend. He said that it was a great experience that was thoroughly enjoyed by parents and children. Angelo thanked the school and everybody involved for making this outing happen.

Angelo reminded all members to keep an eye out for the email about the booklists that will come out prior to the next meeting.

Angelo thanked all Board members for attending.

Meeting Closed: 4:55pm