

P + C 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Minutes recorded by Victoria Lush

Meeting started 7.08pm

Attendees – meeting was held in person at The Cricketer’s Arm Hotel and via Zoom

BPS: Maria Lambos, Nancy Ferguson, Felicity

P&C: Gemma Puplett, Shehana Darda-Teixeira, Victoria Lush, Paul Galpin, Cliff Philipiah

Via Zoom: Alma Dayawon, Anne Irvine, Sarah Spencer, Krishna Neelamraju

In Person: Nathalia Stone, Renate Harris, Lauren LaChapelle, Natalia d’Morias, Hamutal Mazrier, Natalia d’Morias, Tara Smith, Kate Dryden, Stuart Hunter, Gabrielle Levette, Robert Hynson, Karen Reiner

Welcome & introduction - Shehana Darda-Teixeira

Apologies/Proxies – Victoria Lush

- None received

Previous Minutes of AGM March 2021 – Victoria Lush

- Read by Paul G, Cliff, Stuart - ratified

President’s Annual Report for 2021 - Shehana Darda-Teixeira

- Please refer to the attached report at the end of the minutes

Treasurer’s Annual Report for 2021 – Paul Galpin

- Please refer to the attached report at the end of the minutes
- Audited Statement of Income & Expenditure – as supplied
- Appointment of Auditor for the relevant year
 - Rozelle PS reciprocal arrangement again again

Close of 2022 P&C AGM Business Items

P&C Elections 2022

Maria Lambos, returning officer

AGM

Before I commence my role as the Returning Officer, I would like to acknowledge and thank the entire P&C executive for the ongoing support of our students and school during 2 years of COVID-affected times. It’s been a great mix of newer members of the P&C, as well as more experienced ones.

I would again like to make special mention to both Cliff and Victoria tonight, whose ‘babies’ are now in Year 7 and are understandably moving on. Cliff has been heavily involved with the P&C, in one role or another, since I first began in 2014. Victoria has also been involved for a number of years. Both have been instrumental in some of the fabulous initiatives that have been introduced to BPS along the way. For all your hard work and dedication, on behalf of the school, I thank you.

Huge thanks to Shehana, our first female P&C President, for the past 2 years of ‘steering the P&C ship’, who isn’t leaving us, however stepping down due to other commitments. Many thanks also go to our Treasurer, Paul, as well as to Gemma, our Vice President, who I believe are both standing again for 2022.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your time and dedication.

I now declare all positions vacant...

ALL P+C Office Bearers and Subcommittee Co-ordinator positions become vacant and can be filled by nomination.

All nominees for vacant positions must be Members of the BPS P+C Association.

Election of the Office Bearer Positions:

P&C President – Nominated - Lauren LaChapelle – seconded by Cliff – all in favour – voted in

P&C VP – Nominated - Natalia Stone and Gemma Puplett – Karen & Cliff and Shehana & Paul & Renata –

- Two voted in – show of hands overwhelming!!

P&C Treasurer – Nominated Paul Galpin – seconded by Shehana & Nathalia – all in support – voted in

P&C Secretary – Nominated Renata Harris – seconded Shehana/Paul - all in support – voted in

Election of the Subcommittee Co-ordinators

- Communications / Events Co-ordinator – Karen Reiner – seconded Natalia Stone – voted in by show of hands
- Balmain Fun Run Committee Co-ordinator – cannot voted in until the committee has held 1st meeting and will appoint their own positions
 - Need an exec to attend
 - Main contact for now is Barnaby Jenkins
 - Main fundraiser for the year
 - Good time to reimagine
- Uniform Stall Co-ordinator
 - Josie Simpson incumbent will continue to run

Election of the Community Liaison

- BPS/ESC Liaison – Natalia d'Morias has volunteered/position
- Ethics Co-ordinator – kindy Dad – Dean Healan (??) already committee to the role and has started to coordinate
- Cliff – will stay on in an advisory role and bank signatory – for one year – will not run anything but will help and advise
 - Need a transition period to move over to the new committee

End of 2022 P&C AGM

Meeting Closed 8.03pm

P&C President's Report 2021 – Shehana Darda-Teixeira

Dear parents and carers,

I can safely say that my time as President of this Committee over the last two years has been nothing like I imagined it would be!

I first got involved because I wanted to help the school become a more sustainable place and with the help of 10 other parents we developed the Committee's first Climate and Sustainability Action Plan.

My plan, when I then became President, was to put that plan to action and to develop a long-term overall strategy for the Committee but then a pandemic started!

I am so proud of what the Committee has been able to do and achieve despite the roller-coaster ride that we've all been on.

We managed to hold some very successful and fun events in between lockdowns – the Virtual Trivia Night in 2020, the welcome drinks last year and the heart-warming Salvation Army Giving Ceremonies.

We also delivered some big projects for the school including:

- Getting new solar panels installed (partially funded via a grant);
- Upgrading the outdoor toilets (also funded via a grant); and
- Installing air filters in all learning areas in the school (funded through the P&C and donations).

The pandemic meant that we lost our capacity to fundraise in a meaningful way but thanks to generous donations from our community and the careful management of our budget we also funded a range of important resources for the school and ensured that we kept a savings buffer for future years. The resources included:

- Ceiling fans - \$49,250;
- In classroom resources - \$31,250;
- Readers and Library books - \$17,500;
- Art resources - \$6000;
- IT equipment (incl interactive whiteboards) - \$18,141;
- Specialist teaching support - \$20,000;
- PA system - \$2800;
- New bike racks; and
- Senior camp costs for families that needed the help.

We helped last year's Yr6 Committee raise enough money for all the Yr6 events and commitments [the Yr6 Day Out, the Yr6 School Gift & the Yr6 Graduation] so that they were free for all students. The Committee also raised enough to donate \$700 for charity and leave \$500 as seed money for this year's Yr6 Committee. An awesome achievement during a tough year.

I am particularly proud of the fact that since being elected in 2020, we dramatically increased the transparency of this Committee and decisions made with regular updates sent out at least once a month, it's something I would encourage the new Committee to try and do as well.

Even before the pandemic hit and lockdowns became a thing, we tried to introduce video conferencing as an option for P&C meetings. We found out that there was an old-fashioned rule that didn't allow P&C votes to be tabled online and so during the pandemic we worked hard behind the scenes (with others) to lobby for that rule to be changed. It was and the rest is history! We also lobbied for the rules in schools to be brought more in line with the rest of the community and were grateful that the Government responded. It was fantastic to be allowed back into the school after nearly a year away but sadly the pandemic struck again.

As things ease up and we all get used to living with Covid, I would urge the new Committee to remain vigilant about the restrictions set for school as opposed to the general community and to speak up if the Department is too slow to change. It really doesn't make sense that you can go to a concert, to a restaurant, to the cinema, to a play centre but you can't walk into the grounds of your child's school.

We should never forget how important it is for our children to see us involved and part of their school life. There is a mountain of research that shows that the more a parent is involved in their child's education, the more the child benefits. It literally translates to better grades and motivation.

Our children have missed all that over the last two years. There are memories my older sons have of their early years at primary school that my son in year two will never have. Hearing his parents clapping and cheering at assemblies and carnivals; having a parent come in to help with reading or the special thrill when mum or dad is in the canteen for that day, having a parent there for excursions or watching him perform in a play or playing music.

It's really sad. I hope we can go back to how things should be.

Another important project that we sadly weren't able to get to was developing a three-year strategy to help prioritise and plan P&C funding. We wanted to involve parents and the school leadership in developing that strategy and to have it outline what the values that this particular school community thinks are important and how we work with Maria and teachers to make sure they are a lived experience for the whole school community. And how we engage more with parents so that they know what's going on and find it easier to get involved?

Hopefully that's something the new Committee can take on as well as getting on with our Climate and Sustainability Action Plan. But of course, I'm sure they will bring their own ideas to the table and we look forward to supporting them as they go on.

Before I finish, I want to say a huge thank you to the rest of the Committee – Alvin, who was our treasurer in 2020, Paul, Victoria, Cliff and Gemma. It's been a delight to work with you all. Thank you for your work, your humour and your genuine enthusiasm for helping make Balmain Public School the best place we can imagine for our children.

I also want to thank Maria and all the teachers at Balmain for your care, dedication and support of our children, especially these last couple of years. Thanks also for your work with the P&C - we should all be proud of what we have achieved together during this time thanks to our combined efforts and enthusiasm.

Finally, I want to thank all our incredible parent volunteers who do so much to help the school every year – our school's success is entirely dependent on your involvement, and we are so lucky to have such community minded and generous parents and carers at Balmain.

Shehana Darda-Teixeira
P&C President 2021

Treasurer's Report – Balmain Public School P&C – March 2022 AGM

Overview

- COVID has resulted in another tough year for the P&C's finances
- Fund-raising has suffered from the lack of key events most notably the Balmain Fun Run (missing now since 2019) plus the Trivia Night
- To put those in context BFR brings in around \$35k and has contributed more in the past
- And Trivia in its virtual form brought in \$20,000 the year before
- So a combined \$50k-\$60k reduction in income from a 'normal' year (as a newer parent to the School I struggle to imagine what one of those might look like)
- Aside from the finances it should be noted that for both of these events people volunteered their time and effort to organise them but were ultimately defeated by the restrictions which is a great shame
- On the outgoings side the P&C has continued to support the School without scaling that for the lack of income. There hasn't been a single request turned down
- This has largely been achieved through prudent financial management in prior years, building reserves for a rainy day (probably apt!). Plus I would point out also that the uniform stall is a quiet little earner and helps the bottom line year in year out
- For context when I took this role over a year ago Alvin, the previous Treasurer, told me that there was about \$50k in year in 'core' donations that the P&C makes across library books, school supplies, reading support and other sundries that always come up
- This year so far we have over \$40k of projected costs and without operating slavishly to a budget the current Exec are keen to project spend where possible
- I'll take you through the detailed finances now and please feel free to ask questions as we go



In

- ❑ Voluntary contributions \$7,929
- ❑ Interest \$31
- ❑ Net fundraising \$3,487
- ❑ Trfs from other P&C a/cs \$50,000

Total in \$61,446

\$98,978



\$3,021

Out

- ❑ PY liabilities paid in CY \$41,702
- ❑ Prepayments / deferred income \$44,844
- ❑ Donations to School \$41,702
- ❑ Other expenses \$3,598
- ❑ Band liability reduction \$360

Total out \$152,403