



**Chatswood High School P&C General Meeting (via zoom)  
Tuesday 17 August 2021, 7.30pm  
Minutes**

**Attendees:** Alex Hudson, Apurva Kamat, David Osland, George Dragoi, Jenny Biggin, Karyn Cardew, Katherine Alexander, Kylie Barter, Matthew and Marcia Baird, Phillipa Sobb, Rebecca Cleary, Sarah Boyd, Tali Friedman, Angela Todd, Aimee Ipson-Pfederer, Angela Huo, Anna Kornilova, Cathy, Diwa, Gayathri Harish, Hyunyoung, Jacky D, Jeanette Armenal, Julin Li, Kristin Proctor, Linda, Nargis, Nixon Mak, Nokhez Akhtar, Noot, Paul Haynes, Purva, Sheena Y, Sukesh, Tsample001, Wei Tang.

**Apologies:** Lynn Donohue.

**Previous Minutes**

**Motion:** *To approve the minutes from the previous meeting without alteration.* Moved by Jenny Biggin and seconded by Karyn Cardew. Motion passed.

**Actions Arising from the Previous Minutes**

(nil)

**President's Update**

George Dragoi welcomed everyone and provided a brief update on the development of the new website for the P&C, soon to be completed, and P&C facebook page that was launched in Term 2, with input from Jenny Biggin (leading the website work) and Rebecca Cleary and Tali Friedman (managing the FB page). George thanked all three parents for their significant work.

George also advised that the P&C is liaising with the school about hosting an online event for current Year 12 CHS students and former Year 12 CHS students from 2020 to discuss coping with the HSC during COVID and life after the HSC. It is hoped this event will occur later in Term 3.

**Principal's Update**

David Osland summarised the results from recent surveys with students and parents about the home schooling arrangements during Term 3. The survey results and monitoring by teachers suggests that many students are coping well but approximately 25-33% do not seem to be fully engaged with online learning activities. Teachers are following up with personal calls. The results also suggest some opportunities for teachers to refine the amount of work expected of students and the level of difficulty.

The parent survey similarly showed that most parents were coping with home arrangements, though there were challenges for some parents who have requested assistance. David is keen to work with parents to support all students' well-being. There is growing evidence that COVID restrictions are impacting students' mental health, particularly teenagers, and the school staff

are checking in with students regularly. David encouraged parents to ensure that children have regular breaks from screens and enjoy some outdoor physical activities.

The new Student Leadership group for 2021-22 from among Year 11 students has been elected. The school is trialling a new model of introducing the group mid year so that the current Year 12 students can focus on HSC preparations. This year, 180 students will sit for the HSC. There have been various changes to the HSC trials and final exams, with regular communications to the Year 12 students. Graduation events will be delayed until after the HSC. Testing and assessment processes for all other students will be at the discretion of the teachers and various adjustments will be made, noting the COVID disruptions.

David also advised that the 2021 NAPLAN results had just been received by the school. Chatswood HS students in Years 7 and 9 achieved excellent results, with particularly strong performance in numeracy. The writing results were also well above the state average. It should be noted that 79% of CHS students come from families with non-English speaking backgrounds.

David also reported on the 2020 HSC results for the school. 157 students sat for exams. A comparison of results from 2014-2020 showed very consistent results, despite the disruptions due to COVID last year. In 2020, 16.6% of CHS students achieved results in Band 6 (highest) compared to the NSW state average of 7.3%; and 33.9% of CHS students were in Band 5 (compared with 21% for NSW).

The Building Program at the school is also progressing. Works ceased temporarily during the early COVID restrictions in Term 2-3, but work has resumed (though the number of workers on site has reduced). The roof on Building R is being erected. Discussions have already commenced regarding furniture for Building R. Work on Buildings C, D and E is also progressing.

The school is anticipating that 2022 enrolments may be higher than earlier forecasts, and planning is under way for extra capacity.

Parents at the meeting raised some questions about zoom lessons, the possibility of using break-out rooms to facilitate smaller discussion groups, and the use of online cameras during classes to enhance interactions.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Apurva Kamat provided a summary of the Treasurer's report for January to July 2021 (circulated in the agenda papers). Apurva confirmed that the P&C had applied for the government's COVID small business grant, and was awaiting further advice from Service NSW regarding the Job Saver grant scheme.

### **Uniform Shop**

Alex Hudson advised that the Uniform Shop is closed due to COVID restrictions. Online ordering is available but there has been little demand. The Uniform Shop team is focusing on preparations for the new 2022 students, and hoping to offer appointments for new uniform fittings in Term 4 if possible. David advised that current estimates for Year 7 in 2022 were around 325 students.

## **Building Program Update**

(see Principal's update)

## **Other Business**

*P&C Well-being events:* The well-being events scheduled for Term 3 have been postponed due to COVID. Karyn Cardew advised that the P&C will explore whether they can be held in Term 4, otherwise next year.

*Request for funding for sports program:* George summarised a funding request from the school's sports department for external coaches for before and after school sessions. The P&C had included funding in its budget, but the cost for 2021 was higher due to extra training sessions.

**Motion:** *To approve up to an additional \$1500 for before and after school sporting activities for 2021.* Moved by Sarah Boyd and seconded by Angela Todd. Motion passed.

*2021 Year 12 P&C graduation gift:* In recent years, the P&C has contributed funds for printing of the Year 12 Year Book.

**Action:** David Osland to confirm if a P&C contribution for printing of the Year 12 Year Book is wanted.

*Term 4 Orientation Day planning:* Orientation Day is usually held on site at the school in Term 4 for new students and families commencing the following year. David Osland advised that, at this stage, it will be planned as an online event. Further information will be provided closer to the time.

*Locker Coordinator:* A new volunteer coordinator is needed. Interested parents can contact the P&C secretary at [secretary@chatswoodpandc.org.au](mailto:secretary@chatswoodpandc.org.au)

*Business without notice:* David Osland provided an update on the Powerful Owls that have been nesting in trees in the school grounds and have been protected during building works. Two chicks have emerged from the nest!

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday 7 September 2021.

**Action:** David Osland to confirm if a P&C contribution for printing of the Year 12 Year Book is wanted.