



Cherrybrook Technology High School Parents and Citizens Association

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 12th October 2021 6:30pm, ZOOM Meeting due to lockdown.

Welcome:

Thank you to those parents who have joined us online in this time. Further thankyou to the P & C Executive team and Dr Aftab Rizvi for hosting both the ZOOM for the P & C Executive meeting along with this meeting.

Attendance:

26 connections through ZOOM.

Present:

Tim, Ron, Esha, Tanya, Tyson, Carl, Aftab, Daniel, Birju, Sara, Gary Johnson, Matt Townsend, Alison Gatt

Apologies:

Sarika, Michelle, Helen

Adoption of previous minutes proposed by:

Carl and Birju

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

Nil.

Principal's report:

Curriculum and Administration

- End of lockdown and school return. Following three significant and poorly communicated changes it now seems settled that Year 12 will return on 18 October and the remainder of students i.e., Years 7 to 11 inclusive will return on 25 October. Details of the return were provided in my COVID update email of Friday 8 October. Staff are busy preparing for the return and are very conscious of safety issues and the anxiety that many students will have.
- The HSC exams remain a challenge for the school. At this stage we are looking at over 700 room changes per week in order to accommodate the social distancing required. Hopefully, we won't have to keep students at home in order to free up enough space, but it may come to this depending on circumstances.
- The Year 12 graduation, which we had hoped to hold in week 4, can no longer proceed until after 3 December, the final day of the HSC. The DoE communicated this decision last night. The school will now, once again, return to planning for the final few weeks of term.

- Year 11 students have now commenced their HSC courses. Their Year 11 reports are in the process of being finalised.
- Year 11 into 12 information night will be held next Tuesday evening 19 October commencing at 7:00 PM. The event will be held via TEAMS – details will sent to all Year 11 students and parents in the near future.
 - Tell them from me survey results are in. We will need to break these down.
- Work has commenced on the 2022 timetable and will continue for the next few weeks. Student numbers are approximately 2020. This is approximately the same as last year.
- Piazza cover is complete – looks excellent and should be a great addition to the amenity of the school.
- The progress on our new building continues to be excellent. Details of what is envisaged provided. Finance remains a challenge.
- Bus has been delivered and Bus Bay next
 - Pre-tender meeting with AMU and the contractors is on Thursday at 10am
 - Tender closes 01/11/2021
 - Expecting works to be completed during Christmas break
- CCP (Air-Con)
 - D block - plumbing and electrical works almost complete. Ceiling units currently being installed
 - E block - plumbing and electrical works currently underway
 - G block - will commence once works completed in D block
- STEM
 - High-level costing report (version 2) expected end of this week with meeting to be held shortly after to discuss next designs
- Science demountables
 - Have officially been handed back to the school
 - Furniture has been returned from storage
 - Awaiting gas compliance certification from the plumbers to allow for the delivery of gas bottles from the supplier
 - Will be ready for occupation when students return
- The school's annual planning weekend conference has had to be abandoned due to COVID restrictions. The executive are planning a one day planning meeting in Week 8.

Welfare

- Year 10 Peer support leaders will now have to be trained post HSC. Hopefully, in preparation for our incoming 2022 Year 7.
- Disappointingly, there will be no Year 7 camp in 2022. Given the health risks, the cost and the organisation involved a decision was made that the risk was too great.

Other

- Staffing: We are currently in the process of filling a number of vacant positions and trying to get additional positions to advertisement in order to ensure the school has staff with the correct "fit".

Federation Report:

Firstly, congratulations to Tim Spencer on becoming an employee of the Federation.

The Federation is reviewing licensing arrangements for P & C's. This is in the early stages. The agenda will see P & C's required to hold a license for Canteens, Uniform Shops and Ooshes.

Further changes will be coming to 'working with children' in-line with tightening probity within P & C's and Schools.

Canteen Report:

With school returning sooner than previously stated, the Canteen will re-open on Monday 25th October.

We can confirm that all Canteen employees have had both vaccinations and are cleared to work on Monday 25th October. Vicki & Chris are also confirming Volunteers vaccinations to ensure all DoE and DoH requirements are met.

Discussions are underway on how to approach serving the students in their cohorts. Looking to manage three (3) separate lines for each cohort. Further news to come later this week Network Newsletter.

We welcome back our Canteen Managers and staff, along with our wonderful volunteers who all help make this Canteen a great service to the school and community.

Alumni report:

LinkedIn alumni connections are now over 1600. A gain of 500 more alumni so far this year.

We are continuing to post weekly on our 3 social media outlets and website.

Currently planning an Alumni event early next year, however this is on hold until restrictions have lifted.

If you know an ex-student please reach out to them to connect to share their journey.

Coming up we have an ex-student who is a film maker to share their journey.

Treasurer's report

We did not have any report as there was no financial change or payments made in lockdown. Noted that Westpac is providing a Merchant refund for June, July & August and September of \$123 per month as long as we remain a customer.

Once the Canteen commences trading in October full merchant fees will apply for that month and subsequent months.

P&C representation:

Not at present.

Other Business:

We received 4 questions from our request to parents for the general meeting which will be addressed then.

CTHS P & C parent questions raised for this meeting:

- 1) Is mask compulsory for kids too?

Answer: Absolutely

Wondering would it be optional to send kids to school?

Answer: This is not optional.

2) Would it be optional to send kids to school?

Answer: This is not optional.

Can they continue zoom lessons?

Answer: Lessons will be in the classroom.

If the kids are not vaccinated then what?

Answer: The school has no power to enforce vaccination. The recommendation is to consult with a Doctor. In school face masks will be worn in class and surrounds of the school, excepting eating and active sports.

3) How do we explain the absences. Would you need a letter from the GP?

Answer: The school procedure for absences has not changed.

4) My son had made professional hair braids during lockdown. Is he allowed that way or needs hair cut?

Answer: If your son wishes to wear his hair that way to school, he can.

Additional questions asked during ZOOM meeting:

Year 11, are they in year 12 or are they in year 11?

Answer: They are still noted as Year 11, however they have started the HCS course. The situation with the HCS delay has seen Year 12 (2021) remain at school. This time last year the HCS had commenced today.

Thank you for not changing the PE Uniform.

Noted as a comment.

Year 12 HCS gift

In 2020 the P & C provided funding for a gift to Year 12 because of the disruption of the pandemic.

Once again we find ourselves in a similar position with 2021 Year 12. In fact, today would have been the first day of the HSC.

We have agreement to commit to a gift. Gary will provide further information in the coming month.

Correspondence in/out:

Nil.

General Business:

Year 7 camp has stopped with COVID.

2022 camp has been stopped and we will have a 'bounce back' day.

Correspondence in/out:

Nil.

Important dates:

Friday 29th October 2021 is the day in Australia that we celebrate World Teachers Day.

On behalf the P & C, all parents and students, we thank Gary Johnson, Matt Townsend, Brett Clements, Alison Gatt and all of their wonderful team of Teachers and aids for all that you give to our children (your students) and our community in general.

Stay safe and thank you.

Next meeting: Tuesday 23rd November 2021 at 6:30pm (Location TBC at this stage. Would be great if we could meet onsite.)