



Cherrybrook Technology High School Parents and Citizens Association

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 31st August 2021 7:30pm, ZOOM (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:

25 connections through ZOOM.

Apologies:

Michelle, Helen, Sara, Birju and Tim.

Last meeting minutes proposed:

Tanya and Daniel

Guest Speaker:

Regrettably no guest speaker as we navigate our way back to returning to school.

Principal's report:

Return to school under COVID update

Year 12 will return from October 25, the beginning of week 4, Year 11 the following week on November 1 and Year 7 to 10 from November 8 which is the beginning of week 6, Term 4. All of this is contingent on several factors including community vaccination rates and the number of COVID cases in our LGA.

If the return goes ahead as planned students will have to abide by strict conditions including the wearing of masks. All school staff must be fully vaccinated and adhere to strict social distancing guidelines. Further details will be provided as we get closer to the return dates.

Year 12 have been advised that the HSC written examinations will now commence on November 9. A revised timetable and details of how the school is to conduct the tests in a COVID safe manner will be released by NESAs in mid-September.

Once the school has clarity, I will write to Year 12 families and hold a further Webinar allowing students and parents to pose questions. At this time, I hope to be able to provide details of graduation and how students will complete their final days of secondary schooling.

Learning survey

A fabulous response so quickly. Pleasingly, the vast bulk of students said they were coping well with the workload and mix of lessons being provided. Unsurprisingly, the thing they are not coping with is not seeing their friends and over 20% of students indicated their parents were placing too much pressure on them.

Pause for a day

The day proved to be an enormous success and the second day will be held this coming Friday. There will be a range of activities and students will have to register to participate in at least one.

Building update

Piazza complete apart from the sound which is being held up by team from QLD not being able to access Sydney. Looks terrific and will be a fabulous addition to the amenity of the school.

Cooler classrooms to commence on 20 September – three-to-six-month timeline.

New STEM building and Science labs – costing meeting this Thursday. Architects to progress from that point.

Remediation of area where demountables were is underway.

September Fed meeting 7:00 PM on Tuesday 7 September – link to register in last Network. I would strongly encourage parents to tune in and view this report.

Bus

The school bus has been delivered to the company responsible for adding the CTHS logo and crest. Should be delivered to the school early next week.

NAPLAN

In the press but not in the school. We await the report.

Check in assessment

When Year 7 to 9 students return, they will be asked to complete a “check in’ assessment to gauge how they have progressed and whether some remediation is needed in literacy and numeracy. Two 60-minute multiple choice style papers to be completed online.

Year 11 will commence their AP2 assessments online next week.

Student Numbers

At this stage student numbers for next year will be slightly greater than in 2021. Subject selection is in the final stages of processing and planning for our timetable has commenced.

Final school day for students in 2021 is Wednesday 15 December. As in past years the P&C has approved a half day attendance for students with school to finish with a short assembly at 12:30 PM. As in the past any student who is unable to be supervised until 3:00 PM will be supervised at school. The 12:30 finish allows staff to gather and reflect on the year and to farewell retiring and departing staff.

- Apologies
- Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Business Arising from Previous Minutes
- Principal’s report
- Treasurer’s report
- Canteen report
- Federation Report
- General Business

Federation Report:

There are moves afoot within the Department of Education to bring in licensing for Canteen and Uniform shops. This is in early stages however we need to be aware. will need a license to function.

Canteen Report:

We are presently looking at a November 8th re-opening of the canteen. This is on the proviso of NSW Health, NSW Government, and all vaccination requirements.

We can confirm that all Canteen employees have had both vaccinations and will be cleared to work by the end of September.

It is noted that all volunteers wishing to work at the canteen will be required to meet the vaccination requirements of the school to be allowed onsite.

Staggered recess and lunch was proposed for students. This is not manageable at present however closer to re-opening we can review all parameters then.

We are pausing on reviewing new payments and Flexi School as we navigate firstly a return to school.

It was agreed to plan the timeline for the beginning of 2022.

Alumni report:

Growth in Social Media numbers -

LinkedIn – 1525

Facebook - 598

Instagram - 109

Contact List from questionnaire – 601

- Monthly Alumni Profiles now uploaded onto the website and will be featured school's newsletters
- "Who are we" also on the website, featuring the Alumni committee
- Brett has found out Rosemary Little (CTHS Alumni) is completing at the Paralympics, trying to make contact with her through LinkedIn & Insta
- Weekly social media posts via our platforms
- Ongoing requests for Alumni Profiles

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 of \$123 per month as long as we remain a customer. Depending on how the situation continues to evolve, the relief package may be extended. This is yet to be confirmed.

P&C representation:

Not at present.

Other Business:

We received 9 questions from our request to parents for the general meeting which Gary kindly addressed. They were:

- 1) Will the school systems still be updated this year to be able to support having both parents' email addresses for notification or has that been delayed further?

Answer: *The DoE controls the data source that ultimately means only one is shown. This originally came from Ern now from Ebs: however, outcome is still the same.*

- 2) With the extended online learning, how can parents be made aware of when their child needs to be in a class call each day/week since the calls aren't always at the start of a scheduled class period?

Answer: *It depends on what each teacher does*

- 3) Considering the extended time away from the school, what is happening with regards to learning and marking for classes that have practical elements normally requiring physical projects and classroom activities in labs/workshops?

Answer: *PDHPE: Teachers are typically setting a variety of activities such as YouTube fitness classes, asking students to go for a walk, even helping with family chores. We have enough marks from practical units prior to lockdown which can be used in end-of-year reports.*

The stage 5 classes have been more rigorous and have asked students to send in screenshots from fitness apps or complete soccer juggling drills and skills in the backyard. They have also "front loaded" the theory component and will focus solely upon practical work when we eventually return to face-to-face teaching. Outcomes will be adjusted on end of year reports where necessary.

In most cases in TAS, teachers have been able to alter their assessments to ones that allow for either small practical tasks at home that allow students to demonstrate similar skills such as cooking at home for some food technology students or have been able to replicate these online using simulators or other virtual versions of the tasks. For example, STEM, Electronics, Graphics, Multimedia and Engineering students have been able to continue relatively unhindered online by using online CAD software, circuit simulators, drawing programs and following online tutorials to use practical software we would have used in class anyway. For subjects that would normally use machinery and equipment to produce physical projects, these syllabuses also include a lot of content which focuses on teaching Drawing, Design, 3D Modelling, Planning and Management skills. In most cases teachers have been explicitly teaching this content instead, and will assess the practical outcomes once we return to school later in the year, and in other cases students have taken home kits of resources which they are using to produce practical projects at home

Science: lessons targeting revision of the compulsory practical investigations (many of which can be completed via simulations and watching videos of the practical activity) during the face-to-face lessons in week four/five we will complete any practical activities in the laboratory which may not have been possible during the online learning period.

- 4) For this year 10 maths exam, will it be postponed to next term or not? What will happen with their exams.?

Answer: *Yes – students will be provided with details this week*

- 5) Will the canteen return on 8th November 2021 when the whole school returns?

Answer: *Yes – if the P&C are comfortable providing this service*

6) Staggered recess/lunch? How will this work?

Answer: *Probably not possible – instead we will work to keep students within their cohort in separate sections of the playground.*

7) Returning to school; will fully vaccinated volunteers be allowed to return to the canteen?

Answer: Yes

8) Should all students be vaccinated before going back to school?

Answer: *Not at this stage but strongly recommended by the DoE and the Health Department*

9) Will out of area students, especially those in 'LGA hot zones' who come to CTHS, be required to be vaccinated?

Answer: *Not at this stage*

General Business:

Additional parent question.

“After long isolation where my child cannot play volleyball with friends, we look forward to playing volleyball again safely. In anticipation of returning to school, can CTHS provide an area to play Volleyball? Normally they are asked to play on the oval, however I am wondering if something else can be arranged.”

Response was the oval will remain the only option with numbers of students and outdoor area required for all.

Thankyou to all who attended and keep well. Should anyone in the school community have any concerns whatsoever in these times, please also feel free to reach out to the P & C. We are here to help and serve.

Correspondence in/out:

Nil.

Important dates:

School holidays begins Saturday 18 September

Next meeting: Tuesday 12th October 2021 at 7:30pm (Microsoft TEAMS or ZOOM tbc)