



**Randwick Boys' High School  
P&C Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday 17 September 2019**

**Chair: Birgit Schickinger**

**1. Attendance:**

Birgit Schickinger	Leanne Bergan	Rachel Daly
Dacre England	Louise McNeil	Sean Loughman
Janine Beck	Marie Harris	Suzy Forrester
Laura Tamir	Michelle Bradley	
Leah Pappin	Ngairé Smith	

- 2. Welcome** to new financial members, observers and guests.
- 3. Apologies:** Alison Bell, Sarah Brill, Emma Digan, Jane Knowles, Heike Pashley, Lance Raskall, Mary Jo Rigotti, Adriana Skleparis, Lyn Swinbourne, Helena & Roger Whalebone
- 4. Determination of quorum:** Quorum reached (quorum is 5 if under 50 members and 11 if over 50 members).
- 5. Guest speakers:** *Leah Pappin*, Head Teacher (Well-Being)

LP reported on the introduction of Stymie to the School two weeks ago. This is an online bullying or harassment notification system whose creator has worked with at-risk youth, in prisons and with police. Given that 85% of students are bystanders, Stymie provides an opportunity for students to be "the drivers of the culture of care in our School". The system allows students to make a notification about harmful behaviour anonymously, and supports the School's Social and Emotional Learning framework, including the bullying policy.

The system is available 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week. Notifications may not be read immediately if sent outside school hours, but anyone making a notification is given details for services such as Lifeline if in need of immediate support. At present, notifications are only going to LP, but this may change given the volume of use. Any mandatory reporting issues are taken straight to LR and LM.

LP noted the boys have embraced the system, using it to report a range of behaviours, including others looking sad or not having food at school. There have only been two "silly" things, suggesting the vast majority are using it as intended. Any internet enabled device can be used to make a report.

Stymie does not keep records of reports; they are kept anonymous and forwarded directly to the School. Each week RBHS receive a Stymie Focus, an issue for discussion that can be raised in

assemblies or newsletters, or perhaps added to the P&C page. Students are encouraged to embrace their own vulnerability, as well as being proactive and about early intervention.

LP requested that members complete evaluation forms to give feedback on the information provided and any further questions about aspects of the well-being program.

In response to questions, LP noted that the system is designed as an extension to existing policies, with follow-up on notifications aimed to be well-timed and safe for the students involved. As part of this, LR has set up a new Well-Being Office as a safe space for the boys. There haven't been any reports of significant alarm that were surprises or matters of which the School was not already aware. Most issues have been day-to-day things which can be supported, for example, through mediation. The system gives a good indication of how well-being is going across the School generally. It supports the focus on empowering boys and encouraging positive social interactions. The system can be used for both positive and negative comments, as well as to show concern – one student showed concern for a teacher through the system.

In response to an expression of concern that an online system may encourage boys to be passive and not implement strategies to deal with situations in the moment, LP noted that Stymie is only one part of the School's broader well-being approach. This involves the use of growth mindsets, peer tutoring, and positive education strategies in teaching and the curriculum. The School counsellor is also involved.

At this point, the system does not allow for a response to be sent back to the individual making the notification. In terms of reporting issues to parents or dealing with nuisance complaints, it was noted that the same policies and investigative procedures are followed for a Stymie report as for a personal report. The benefits of the ability to report outweigh the potential for nuisance. The system also gives the School an indication of the types of situations students want strategies or tools to help them deal with. LP is keeping the notifications for reporting / data tracking, and plans to speak to Nick Frougas regarding a system for identifying any trends.

In terms of the broader well-being policy, RBHS is becoming a "Be You" school. This is a professional development program run by HeadSpace and the Black Dog Institute about empowering students to be themselves and accept difference. "Brain breaks" are being used to introduce mindfulness into classes. These take no more than 4 minutes and give students a chance to move and re-engage.

It was suggested that the P&C could consider a well-being focus for next year. The Colour Run next term will raise money for the Year 10 project Walk the Talk to support Bayside Women's Shelter. The P&C could run a BBQ to help – perhaps the give-back BBQ? LP to give date to BS for consideration.

## **6. Confirmation of the Minutes for August 2019: (MB, RD)**

*Minutes confirmed.*

## **7. Business arising from May 2019 Minutes:**

- None noted

## **8. Correspondence:**

- Most emails this month related to Trivia Night feedback or invoices. There were also emails from SL and SB regarding the SINSW upgrades.

- BS tabled a letter from the Eastern Suburbs P& C Alliance. They met with Sarah Mitchell (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) last week, and she agreed to look into the upgrades. At present, it looks as though the upgrades at RBHS will happen in conjunction with those at RGHS, with the Department looking at shared facilities.
- BS tabled a letter regarding a liquor licence application from Green Café at Newmarket. The CBUS manager has suggested that there are likely to be 11 cafes or restaurants in the development applying for liquor licences, as they are looking to be an alternative to The Spot. There will also be 14 car spaces and retail shops. It was not felt necessary to invite the manager to a meeting to answer further questions.
- Marjorie O'Neill, Member for Coogee, has followed up with Sarah Mitchell regarding a walk-through of both RBHS and RGHS, but has not heard back as yet.
- BS has contacted SINSW to request an update and ask if they would send a representative to one of our meetings, but they have shown no interest in doing so at this point.

## 9. Reports

### ***President's Report (BS)***

In addition to the matters addressed under Correspondence, BS expressed thanks to LB for a fabulous Trivia Night. LB will discuss the amount raised in her report.

### ***Principal's Report (LM for LR)***

As LR is on two weeks' long-service leave, LM tabled and spoke to the Principal's Report. Noted were:

- An acknowledgement of MH for a great job as Relieving Deputy Principal
- Thank-you to the P&C for the Trivia Night
- The prefect and SRC investiture was held last week. We are looking forward to seeing their skills and leadership grow.
- The CAPA (Music, Art, TAS) showcase evening was held last week, as were the Music practical exams. All Year 12 Music students attended, with those in the performance stream having now completed 70% of their HSC in this subject.
- Year 12 are now in their last week-and-a-half of school, with the Formal night next week.
- Last Thursday was Basketball Day, coordinated by the SRC and leadership team for Year 12 to raise money for a gift to the School. The teachers versus boys game was won by the teachers. Thanks to Jeff Grasso.
- Year 7 participated successfully in Write a Book in a Day to raise money for the Kids' Cancer Project. One boy raised \$600.
- This is the first year that Year 10 minimum standards tests have run separately from NAPLAN. Students receive their reading and numeracy results straight away and writing later. There were only a few students who did not meet on their first try, all of whom have identified learning support needs, and will continue to receive assistance. The standards are linked to Australian Skills Framework, and are quite prescriptive, being pegged to the presumed curriculum up to Year 10. It is a similar style of test to NAPLAN, but requires minimum performance, rather than being just a check. RBHS wants every boy through the minimum standard before they leave. It is possible to receive an ATAR without an HSC certificate (just a Certificate of Study until the

minimum standards are met). The nature of the test means EALD students disadvantaged in writing (500 word minimum).

- CEO of Guzman e Gomez Stephen Marks came to speak to Business Studies boys. He gave a very New York-style presentation, which showed challenges of business. He really connected with the boys, and has agreed to return to present for Finance, Marketing and H&R modules.
- Two parent representatives are needed for the selection panel for the Head Teacher (Administration) position. The panel is to meet early in Term 4 to put an ad together and decide on questions, then meet two weeks later for the selection interviews. Representatives need to have finished the Department's Selection Panel training. LT, SF (SF to do training), and MB expressed interest.
- The Principal of RGHS has approached LR regarding a contribution of \$35,000 towards the cost of the newly-installed electronic gate at the shared entrance to the Schools on Barker Street used by teachers from both schools to access staff parking. In initial conversations regarding the possibility of installing the new gate, the Principal of RGHS expressed concern regarding members of the public accessing the parking area during the week (particularly given the residential developments underway in the area) and accessing the school on weekends. In the event, the gate was installed without consultation with RBHS, and includes on-costs such as purchasing fobs for access. LM asked the P&C to consider two questions: (1) would the P&C like to contribute \$35,000 to the cost of the gate, and (2) would the P&C support the School contributing \$35,000 to the cost of the gate? Given the size of the sum and lack of consultation, but recognising our concern to maintain positive relations with RGHS, it was felt that a contribution in the form of the School covering the cost of the access fobs for RBHS teachers would be appropriate.
- In response to a question regarding NAPLAN results, LM noted that the Head Teacher (Maths) was very happy in terms of the growth in Year 7 and Year 9 results, as well as in the top bands. Our growth and results were very positive against like schools, and very sound overall. There was a request that LR present the results at the next P&C meeting.

### ***Treasurer's Report***

LB tabled the Treasurer's Report and bank statement. The current bank balance is \$54,124.64.

LB reported that the Trivia Night was just shy of \$8,000 net profit, up nearly 39% on last year. There were 11 tables, 57 pre-ordered pizzas, and 105 pre-booked tickets, with some extra purchased on the night. There were around 70 auction items, only a couple of which were passed in and will be offered again for another event. Feedback regarding Time for Trivia was great – the host was very professional and friendly. Rocket Boy had the pizzas ready a little earlier than initially planned, but this meant attendees could eat straight away. The two main learnings for next time were to set up a system for electronic payment for items at the end of the evening, and to have trays for glassware and garbage bags ready at the end of the night to facilitate clean-up. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed.

*Motion 1:* That RBHS P&C contact Bunnings to organise a fundraising BBQ as discussed at the previous meeting. (SF, RD)

*Motion accepted.*

LB will follow this up.

*Motion 2:* That RBHS P&C run a give-back BBQ for staff and students (possibly in conjunction with the Colour Run), with a budget not exceeding \$400. (BS, RD)

*Motion accepted.*

The give-back BBQ was a great success last year. BS to liaise with LP and School Exec regarding most appropriate timing.

## **10. Agenda Items:**

### ***Proposal for a School Infrastructure Upgrade sub-committee***

*Motion 3:* That a School Infrastructure Upgrade sub-committee be established.

Moved: SL

Seconded: *tbc*

BS noted that this proposal had been discussed last meeting. The purpose of the committee is to potentially be in contact with SINSW. Once they get back to the School with plans, we should hopefully have a parent representative at these meetings.

SL noted that he had proposed this motion as he was under the impression that getting the planning process underway would be a long-term issue, where a sub-committee would offer a bit more clarity. However, as the announcement is now due before 30 September, he was happy to withdraw the proposed motion to discuss other ideas.

BS confirmed that a recent Estimates Committee for Education was asked for a timeline, scope and funds attached for both RBHS and RGHS. The Minister is obliged to answer by 30 September, although the answer may not be particularly informative. MB mentioned using the Tell Them From Me survey to express concern over the delays. The School has had no contact on the matter from SINSW. The planning consultant who visited was very focused on doing things with both schools together in terms of shared facilities, with a community access requirement.

In response to a question regarding the maintenance list provided by the School, LM noted that low-level maintenance is happening, but with no real response to the feedback apparent. While we have reasonable access to needed technologies, our access to flexible learning spaces is quite limited. For example, a STEM room is an initiative the School would like to see happen. While learning is not compromised by the current facilities, there is a concern that prospective parents judge the School based on the state of the physical infrastructure, which is unfortunately not currently a funding priority.

To assist us in identifying suitable projects for our fundraising efforts, LM will ask LR to bring a wish-list from the School to the next meeting. In response to a suggestion regarding new textbooks, given the poor state of some in circulation, MH noted that Maths have just introduced a new curriculum for Stage 6, so may have been focused on these rather than Stage 4 or 5. Some of these texts are also available in PDF format.

It was decided that further discussion would be deferred to the next meeting, following the announcement of the Minister's response.

## **11. General Business:**

- NS wished to discuss the P&C's Facebook page. In particular, she expressed concern regarding possible misinterpretation of a post relating to the Climate Change Rally on the page. This was a repost of a post from Randwick Council informing parents of what action is required if students wished to be absent from school to attend the rally. NS was concerned that the post may put the P&C in the position of appearing to support illegal behaviour (in that school attendance is mandated by law) and that additional text above the post was not clearly attributed. LM noted that the School had received an email today from Deputy Secretary stating all students are expected to be at school as part of administering the Education Act. Normal procedures should be followed if a student is absent; that is, if a student is absent, a parent can send a notice regarding absence. In that sense, the post provides information regarding the appropriate explanation of a student's absence. There was some discussion regarding the possibility of clearer guidelines on distinguishing between posts expressing the views of the P&C, reposted items, and comments including individual views, as well as communication with the School regarding the timing of posts including important announcements. It was noted that the School Executive have not expressed any discontent regarding the P&C's page. Discussion was deferred for a future meeting.

## **12. Next Ordinary Meeting**

Tuesday, 22 October 2019

## **13. Meeting closed: 9:10pm**