



Minutes

Randwick Boys' High School Parents and Citizens Association
General Meeting
Tuesday 16 February 2021
7pm via Zoom

Chair: Birgit Schickinger

Item	Description	Action
1.0	<p>Attendance</p> <p>Online via Zoom: Dacre England, Emma Digan, Helena Whalebone, Jane Knowles, Janine Beck (JBE), Jason Bates (JBA), Julie Smith, Karen van Keulen, Katya Klikauer, Kevin Goodall, Lance Raskall, Laura Tamir, Leanne Bergan, Linda Nawava, Louise Kelly, Louise McNeil, Lynette Swinbourne, Michael Wright, Michelle Bradley, Neslihan Ozkan, Ngairé Smith, Philip Booth, Sarah Brill, Sean Loughman, Suzy Forrester, Walter McKenzie.</p> <p>In person: n/a.</p> <p>Quorum is 5 (fewer than 50 members): quorum present.</p>	
2.0	<p>Acknowledgement of country and welcome</p> <p>BS opened the meeting with the acknowledgement of country: <i>'I would like to acknowledge that we are here today on the land of the Gadigal and Bidjigal peoples who traditionally occupied the Sydney coast. On behalf of Randwick Boys' High School P&C, I acknowledge Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people attending today and I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.'</i></p> <p>Welcome to new financial members, observers and guests. Welcome to returning parents and those attending for the first time: Michael, Katya, Kevin and Louise.</p>	
3.0	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Roger Whalebone, Caroline Windsor</p>	
4.0	<p>Confirmation of Minutes (24th November 2020)</p> <p>Moved: Leanne Bergan</p> <p>Seconded: Linda Nawava</p> <p>LB asked that Item 7.3 be amended to remove references to the "cheque account" and "signing cheques" and replaced with "bank account" and "approving payments" as this reflects current practice with the move to online banking. Minutes were confirmed as amended.</p>	
5.0	<p>Business arising from previous meeting (November 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation Day – P&C invoice \$2,000 (LB): This has been paid to the School. ● Bank Signatories (LB): As per 4.0, Item 7.3 of the minutes of last meeting will be amended. Papers will be distributed to the new Executive after AGM in March (next meeting). ● Potential new members wishing to stand for positions or vote at the AGM will need to transfer a gold coin donation by the end of the meeting. P&C bank 	

	details are available in the Zoom meeting chat or via the website.	
6.0	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BS has received several P&C Association magazines and promotional catalogues relating to our grandstand proposal. • There have been emails from new parents regarding joining; from Rebel Sports regarding the \$600-800 of store credit we have to spend before the end of March; and regular emails from the makers of the software programs used for lay-up and mail-outs. 	
7.0	Reports	
7.1	<p>President</p> <p>BS presented the President's Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We extend a special welcome to new parents / carers. Thank-you to the School for all of their efforts with the end-of-year functions. We are hoping for much more face-to-face activity this year. All other matters will be discussed later. 	
7.2	<p>Principal/Deputy Principal</p> <p>LR presented the Principal's Report. Items noted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade update: Due to confidentiality agreements, not much can be shared at present. The final case is with Treasury; we are not sure if there will be any amendments. The School has been pushing for community consultation. Meetings continue. • Current enrolment: There are now 660 students, up from 635 in 2020. There are 125 Year 7 students enrolled. 85 Year 12 students were farewelled last year, with 85 again this year. Hoping this trend continues: with 700 enrolled through 2022, RBHS will qualify for an extra Deputy Principal position. LR reassured the meeting that the School nonetheless remains selective in accepting out-of-area students to ensure quality and maintain the School's positive student dynamic. • Year 7 camp: This will go ahead in March. • COVID cancellations: Open Night on 2 March cannot be held in person. Videos and Powerpoints will be posted online and primary schools will be asked to promote these. The Meet the Teacher Evening on 23 February is also cancelled due to restrictions on numbers and prohibition on BBQs. LR will continue talks at local primary schools. • School / Strategic Improvement Plan: The School plan ended at end of last year and we are in the process of developing its replacement, now known as a strategic improvement plan. The draft situational analysis is being worked on, and the draft plan will be ready by the end of term. LR would like an on-site forum (e.g., socially-distanced in the School Hall) to discuss in person with the parent community. This event will be publicised – please watch out for notices. • Swimming carnival: This went smoothly last week. Thanks to Mr Noreika for coordinating. • Year 10 peer tutoring: This will return this year. Year 10 students attend training courses then assist Year 7 with numeracy and literacy. • Presentation Day: Feedback on this was generally positive. Would prefer to return to in-person format, but will look at maintaining filming of event for those unable to attend. The information on accessing the 2020 recording as per the Department guidelines is available on the School website. Thanks to 	

	<p>the P&C for contributing funding for prizes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Photo day: This will happen this Friday. There will be a catch-up day in a few weeks for individual photos only. ● Study skills: Seminars took place this week for students. ● Parent feedback in entry survey: This survey asks for reasons that parents / carers chose RBHS. This year's responses were particularly positive in terms of opportunity, inclusiveness, and our improving reputation. ● Teaching positions: The Maths panel underway. The advertisement was sent out twice, and the panel will meet soon, with a candidate expected to be appointed by the end of Term 1. The Science position with staffing to determine whether interview or appointment. SF willing to assist with panel. ● RGHS students: We have one RGHS Year 11 student coming for Woodwork and a second coming for IPT. ● Best Start exam data: This is used to place incoming Year 7 students. This year's results are very positive, indicating a very bright cohort. ● Masks: By Government mandate, all students must wear masks on buses, including the RBHS minibus. Please ensure students have spares in their bags. ● RBHS Facebook page: Thanks to LM for getting Facebook page up and running. LM encouraging teachers to engage by providing suitable content. It will take some time for the official page to work up through search rankings as there is an older, non-official site which appears higher in search engines at present. Unfortunately, Facebook has been reluctant to assist in removing non-official pages. The official link is on the P&C website. ● The Show: Rehearsals for The Show are going ahead. Under the current restrictions, NIDA can host performances at 70% capacity. The performances will be at the beginning of Term 3, on 12-14 July. More information will be released closer to the date. This is a great collaboration with our sister school. ● Music: Instrumental rehearsals have been able to begin again. Under current restrictions, the Choir would still need to rehearse outside with limited numbers, so this is on hold. ● Mini-gym: This is open and will be used for PE classes and elective 9 & 10 classes. All students will need to bring a small towel to wipe equipment after use, as is standard in public gyms. ● Grade sport: Summer grade sport runs for the next 3 weeks, then winter trials will begin. ● IT: There are 150 new devices in the school. There will no longer be specific computer rooms after the upgrades. Instead, we will have more laptops on secure trolleys that can be moved between rooms as needed. ● Communicating with teachers: The best way to communicate with teachers is by telephone. Leave a message with the School Office and the teacher will call you back. Department policy is not to release teacher emails. This relates in part to avoiding unreasonable expectations of responses outside normal working hours. 	
<p>7.3</p>	<p>Treasurer</p> <p>LB presented the Treasurer's Report and bank statement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The current balance is \$24,606.44 ● The net surplus for the month of January is \$40.39 ● There are no outstanding creditors or invoices. ● LR and Cassandra McKimm, the School Administrative Manager, will audit our accounts at no cost to us, which represents a considerable saving 	

	(thank-you!).	
8.0	Agenda items	
8.1	<p><i>Sustainability (recycling) (LB)</i></p> <p>The possibility of introducing recycling in the playground was discussed. LK provided contact details for Envirobank, who offer a comprehensive service including provision and collection of bins. JBA noted Waverley College has an arrangement with VISY for the collection of paper for recycling. SB noted that Randwick Council provided green waste bins which are still available on-site, but there was an issue with these being contaminated with rubbish by passers-by while on the kerb awaiting collection. Compost is still produced on-site. Interested parents who would like to contribute to activities in this area can use the contact email to volunteer. Subcommittees can be formed on the basis of interest and expertise.</p>	
8.2	<p><i>Tournament of the Minds (JBE)</i></p> <p>RBHS will participate in this program again this year. There are a series of workshops and then small teams of students participate in events in Term 3 (July). These involve problem-solving on a range of issues. The program has been very successful in the past, offering high engagement with IPT and STEAM streams. On a related note, JBE will liaise with Mr Benson to implement the GameChangers student recognition program as proposed last year.</p>	
8.3	<p><i>School Plan 2021-2024</i></p> <p>This has already been discussed in LR's report. Please keep an eye out for parent consultation announcements.</p>	
8.4	<p><i>Second-hand uniforms</i></p> <p>When it is possible for parents to be on-site, we would be happy to sort out uniforms already donated and consider second-hand stall as previously discussed. LR noted that many Year 12s have donated uniforms, so there are many larger sizes, but not many smaller. The uniforms currently on hand are being washed and redirected by the School to families who are experiencing financial disadvantage as needed. Could arrange for sorting in the near term, but any stall would need to wait for relaxation of COVID restrictions.</p>	
8.5	<p><i>Technology</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mobile phones: While the School would prefer not to have phones, it is unlikely that there will be a ban unless the Department makes a blanket ruling for all schools. At present, students are not to use phones in class unless with the teacher's permission. Phones can also be confiscated if they are disrupting classes. A small percentage of students use phones during recess and lunch, especially Year 7 and 8 as a bit of a security blanket. ● BYOD: Students are welcome to bring their own laptops, but while the HSC is a 3-hour written exam, the school will encourage students to work on handwriting. There are also an increasing number of laptops available at School if these are required for particular classes. ● Textbooks: For students who wish to access textbooks online and leave the hard copies at School, there are lockers available for rent. There are over 100 of these, with about 75% taken at the moment. 	
8.6	<p><i>Microwaves accessible by students (LB)</i></p> <p>It was suggested that microwaves could be made available to students to heat</p>	

	lunches if the SRC were willing to take on responsibility for their supervision and cleaning – LR will put this proposal to them at an SRC meeting. If this is not feasible, consideration could be given to providing them as part of a senior common room if such a space were included in the upgrade. LR noted that many students bring insulated flasks with hot food from home as an alternative.	
9.0	<p>General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Homework Centre: The School will resume this as soon as possible once COVID restrictions on mixed-year activities are lifted. ● The Show: JBA is looking to approach contacts in the theatre industry to contribute to sponsorship. He will contact the coordinators for details. ● Procedure for next meeting: The next meeting is the AGM followed by an Ordinary Meeting. LR steps in as Returning Officer, declares all positions vacant and seeks nominations. If there is more than one nomination for a position, there will be a secret ballot. Members must be financial to nominate for a position and/or vote. The general meeting will take place straight afterwards. With the current restrictions, we may be able to have the AGM in the Hall or Library. ● ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools): The School will be participating in this UNSW-run program as usual this year. ● Facebook: Groups are now available by year for parents of Year 7 and Year 8 students. 	
10.0	<p>Close of meeting Meeting closed at 8:20pm.</p> <p>Next meeting is Tuesday 16th March 2021, starting at 7:00pm with the AGM followed by an Ordinary Meeting. These will be held via Zoom unless otherwise advised.</p>	