



O'Connor Cooperative School
School Board Minutes
Term 4 Week 3
Thursday October 27, 2022
4:15pm



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Present

Debbie Lowrey	Principal
Jennifer McGann	Board Chair
Evan Gilson	Deputy Board Chair
Lorenza VanDerKley	Staff Representative
Kirsten Sharman	Minute Secretary/Business Manager
Daniela Binder	P & C Representative
Sally Rose	Appointed Community Member

Apologies

Christie Rankin

Meeting opened

4:20

Acknowledgment of Country

Debbie Lowrey

Welcome

Debbie Lowrey welcomed and introduced Sally Rose to the O'Connor Coop School Board members

Code of Conduct / Conflict of Interest

A copy of the Code of Conduct was provided to Sally Rose who duly signed and returned the document.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on **20 July 2022** were tabled

Motion To accept the minutes of the previous meeting

Moved: Debbie Lowrey

Seconded: Daniela Binder

Business arising from previous minutes

The Disco was postponed due to the delays to the completion of the COLA (Covered Outdoor Learning Area)
Hatching Chicks – 4 chicks were kept, and now we have 3 in the hen house as 1 was a rooster, there may be an additional rooster – the children are increasingly exploring the chickens' environment and possible names for the chickens.

Local Preschool visits – Yasmine has visited 'Treehouse' and Deb has visited the 3-year-old Preschool programs in Ainslie and the childcare centre across the road from the school. We will look at visiting more and building more connections in 2023.

Parents commented that the school Art Gallery visits were great – a very pleasing event, showcasing the work in class as well as the artworks

Principal's Report - Debbie Lowrey

2022 SCHOOL ACTION PLAN DISCUSSION/ QUESTIONS/ FEEDBACK

Deb will talk through the 2022 actions and reflections and next steps along the School Improvement Wall.

O'Connor Cooperative School Mission and beliefs: we keep revisiting our Engoori Indigenous Processes: our Inquiry beliefs and practices: Literacy beliefs and practices: Numeracy beliefs and practices.

These all lead into our school actions and focus for Term 4 and 2023.

STAFFING AND ENROLMENTS 2023

- Current enrolments for 2023 are: Preschool- 16, kindergarten- 18, year 1- 19, year 2- 18. Total: 71. Enrolment increasing slightly.

- As none of our dedicated and awesome staff wish to leave this delightful school community, our teaching team will stay the same for 2023. Aren't we lucky! Class teacher allocation hasn't been decided yet until we look at classes and needs.
- Our school psychologist Fiona McKinnon will be finishing up here at the end of 2022. No updates on 2023 School Psychologist yet.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING and FOCUS TERM 4

- ACT Education Directorate Early Years Community of Professional Practice (COPP).
As part of our Inquiry and Inclusion journey, we have had a whole school inquiry focus question around: *'What happens to our community of learners when we inquire together?'*. This falls in line with our School Improvement Plan and priorities around Inquiry, Inclusion and Professional Learning Communities. We spoke about the actions and celebrations along this journey so far- more can be read about this on our School Improvement Wall in the foyer.
- ACT Education Directorate 'Finding the Balance in Mathematics and Numeracy Strategies'. Deb and Lorenza leading this through our Spiral of Inquiry with staff as part of our School Action Plan. This will be a focus in 2023.
- Literacy Champions and Coaching in literacy coaching. Deb, Renz and Rose leading and coaching staff in this area around our literacy workshops and the 10 Essential Literacy practices Preschool to year 2.
- Country as Teacher Project 2023- 2024. Connected with UC and ACT ED. Lead by Ben Wilson and David Spillman. (Reading to take home). Linking in with our beliefs and knowledge in early childhood education; inclusion and inquiry. We have been chosen as one of the four ACT schools to be accepted and involved in this project. This will primarily be funded by the Education Directorate and UC.

SCHOOL UPGRADES/ WORKS/ CELEBRATIONS

- The new COLA (covered outdoor learning area), a shaded/wet weather area for outdoor learning activities and assemblies has been completed. We are hoping for the Basketball/ netball court under the COLA to be completed later this term before our year 2s leave. This is all being funded by the Education Directorate.
- Preschool and afters verandas and doors are being upgraded to ensure safety and to create improved and more open indoor/ outdoor learning spaces – works will hopefully be completed during the January holidays depending on materials and builders' availabilities. All funded by the Education Directorate.
- A Community mural along the external wall down the laneway is being designed and painted by an ex-O'Connor Coop student with our current children.
- Our community fete is on track for this weekend. We must thank the P & C for working tirelessly to organise this fabulous community and fund-raising event.
- Year 2 transition visits continue to: Lyneham Primary, Turner Primary, The Ainslie School and Majura Primary.
- Numerous excursions organised for each year level this term to link in with their inquiries of learning. We are very fortunate, and we would like to thank the P & C for primarily funding these.
- Children's week grants and activities. Thanks to Nathan's leadership in this area and on this committee, we have been fortunate enough to win/receive four Children's Week grants which allowed our children to participate in extra activities: The Reptile man visiting; an excursion to the Southern Cross School Learn to Ride facility; Indigenous Art Lessons (date to be confirmed) and Community art mural.
- ACT School Sports Grants thanks to Lorenza. The children and teachers voted on the sports clinics for this year: volleyball, soccer and gymnastics in term 4. We have also received grants to buy new sports mats and equipment.
- Student free report writing and plannings days: Friday week 3 (teachers will begin moderating and writing reports). Second student free day Monday of week 8 (28th November) which we will use for planning into 2023.
- World Teachers' Day tomorrow Friday 28th October. Lorenza has organised a treat for the teachers. We spoke about possible School Board and/or P & C involvement next year?

- Year 2 Graduation and celebrations: Friday of week 9 (9th December)

Discussion Arising

2022 Early Childhood Australia Conference was attended by most teachers. It was a fabulous conference with national speakers, at the National Convention Centre

Teachers Report - Lorenza Van Der Kley

End of Year Celebration

Children's voice is an integral part of our planning at the Cooperative school. With this in mind, the school ministers had a meeting to discuss the process of choosing the end of year celebration. The ministers went back to their class and in a class meeting, they gathered the ideas that the children had for a celebration, voted and shared these at the next ministers meeting. A discussion ensued, followed by voting which resulted in the four most popular ideas being taken back to children and teachers for voting. These ideas included: Talent show and picnic, school play and picnic, games/fun day and picnic, community singing and picnic.

The voting sheets were distributed, and children and teachers selected one only from the list. The votes were collected and tallied. The result was announced at the school assembly last Friday.

The winning idea was a School Games and Fun day and afternoon community picnic. Half of the school's children voted for this end of year event.

Upcoming events

- Kindergarten and the year 1/2 classes are participating in the Frog Watch program. At the moment we have a number of tadpoles that will hopefully turn into frogs.
- Sporting schools grant - Gymnastics this term for year 1 and kindergarten (year 2 will be at Aquasafe). Term 3's grant was solely used to purchase equipment including trolley for mats, new gym mats and a wedged mat.
- School transitions will continue to take place during the term.
- Week 3: Children's week - 2 successful grants - inter school excursion to Southern Cross Early Childhood school (thank you to the P&C are subsidising the expense of the bus). Incursion - Reptile Show
- Week 4: Botanic Gardens - Preschool and Kindergarten excursion
- Week 5: Hall School House Museum - year 1 and 2
- Week 6: Aquasafe - year 2 at Cisac . Kindergarten and year 1 Gymnastics coaching clinics.
- Week 7: Healthy Harold/Life Ed incursion for K - 2
- Week 7: Preschool will host their first assembly: Wednesday 9:15- 10
- Week 8: Well Being Day - Wear Whatever Day on Friday
- Week 9: School Fun and Games End of Year Activities: Community Picnic Afternoon (Tuesday 6th December)
- Week 9: Year 2 Graduation will be held Friday
- Week 10: Swimming Lessons - year 1 and kindergarten at Cisac

Christie Rankine - Classroom Teacher

Lorenza Van Der Kley - School Leader

Finance Summary at a Glance

January to September 2022

	YTD Actual	Full Year Budget
Income	(\$116,977)	(\$107 080) (109%)
Expenditure	\$77,254	\$95096 (81%)
Trust, Grants, Sustainability & Activities	(\$2825)	(\$3800) (74%)
Operating Outcome (Surplus)/Deficit	(\$42,548)	(\$15,784) (270%)

Bank Account Balance	\$359,328 as at 30th September 2022
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Discretionary Income

Significant Areas *under-trending* are:

Ledger	Notes
Hire of Facilities	12% of Income to date – Invoices sent

Significant Areas *over-trending* are:

Ledger	Notes
Directorate Funding	\$27,252 additional funds received for payment of Fort construction

Discretionary Expenditure

Significant Areas *under-trending* are:

Ledger	Notes
Communication	Quarterly billing by Shared Services
Directorate Funded Payments	Includes Student support
Educational Resources	Excessive Budget when compared to overall spend in 2021 of \$10,032

Significant Areas *over-trending* are:

Ledger	Notes
Security	Shane away over Christmas holidays, paid for patrols
Assets & Leases	Includes Furniture/fittings, Plant/equipment – Overspend primarily due to payment for Fort Construction (\$27,252) which is offset by additional funds received from the Education Directorate (see above)

Library/Building Trust Fund

Opening Balance	\$3,542
Income	\$1,575
Expenditure	\$2,652
Closing Balance	\$2,464

Motion: To accept the Finance Report as tabled

September Finance Reports

Moved

Lorenza Van Der Kley

Seconded

Gavin Gilson

August Finance Reports

Moved

Debbie Lowrey

Seconded

Daniela Binder

July Finance Reports

Moved

Jennifer McGann

Seconded

Sally Rose

Accepted

P & C Update

Everything is on track for the school Fete. Staff to assist with selling tickets. Shane will be onsite all day to assist.

Correspondence In / Out

Correspondence IN Nil

Correspondence OUT Nil

General business

Looking at doing a Sustainability and environmentally friendly lighting upgrade using the REG funds generated from the Solar Panels.

Our School is up for the ACER School review process in 2023, which is a little bit of a surprise as we were under the impression that it would be in 2024. We are unsure of the exact timeframe yet. This will be a whole school community process of school review which will go for approx. 4-5 days.

Discussed 2023 Budget. Deb and Kirsten will be working on this next week and will present at our next board meeting.

Meeting Closed

5:30pm

Next Meeting to be held

6:00pm Monday 21 November – Venue- Ainslie Football Club

Debbie Lowrey
Principal

Jennifer McGann
Board Chair