



O'Connor Cooperative School
School Board Minutes
Term 2 Week
2023
3:45pm



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Present

Debbie Lowrey	Principal
Jennifer McGann	Board Chair
Christie Rankin	Staff Representative
BJ Field	Board Member
Phong Ngo	Board Member
Kirsten Sharman	Minute Secretary/Business Manager
Sally Rose	Community Member

Apologies

Lorenza Van Der Kley

Meeting opened

Acknowledgment of Country by Debbie Lowrey

Welcome

Code of Conduct / Conflict of Interest

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on **16 March 2023** were tabled

Motion: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting

Moved: Jen McGann Seconded: Debbie Lowrey

Business arising from previous minutes

Nil

Principal's Report - Debbie Lowrey

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND UPDATES

ENROLMENTS

- Currently, we have 20 accepted preschool enrolments, but having to hold 2 places for 3-year-olds who may be vulnerable in our area/ community. At the start of term 4, we can offer our last two spots, which we have people on the waiting list waiting- this will make our preschool full with 22 children. We recently gained approval to increase our preschool class to 22 students from 21 due to our larger outdoor learning spaces. Kindergarten is at 20 enrolments but have someone wanting to fill this last spot (so effectively full). Year 1 is at 20. Year 2 is at 18 (our largest year 2 class in many years, which is great). Total of 80 accepted enrolments. Enrolments have increased.

STAFFING

- We have advertised from one classroom teacher position: K-2 for 2024 (5-year permanent position). We have had 12 applications for one position, so we are really pleased with the strong field and quality of applicants.
- We are supporting more students, with additional needs, or for learning needs- intervention and extension, so have employed Emily and Ollie this term as educators. Di is also in class supporting children as needed, one the days our Business Manager Kirsten is here.

- We will increase Kirsten's Business Manager role to 60% either in term 4 or term 1 2024 to allow for her to take on more of the Business Manager role, so we can also have Di in the classroom supporting children in their learning (which she loves).

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

- We have continued our Cultural Integrity and Country as Teacher (CaT) professional learning, and we are now starting to explicitly integrate it into our curriculum planning and implementation.
- We are continuing our professional learning around Inquiry teaching and learning. We have Kath Murdoch (International Inquiry leader who leads and coaches schools in Inquiry) working with us later this term and also in week 0 of 2024- which is exciting for us.
- As part of our School Improvement priorities, we have invited and engaged a, Education Directorate Instructional Mentor in Numeracy. Brendon has been involved in various data and planning discussions with teachers and leaders. We will continue this partnership and spiral of inquiry into our Numeracy School Improvement priorities and next steps actions, eg, differentiation and using the new version 9 of the Australian Curriculum (ACARA).
- I will attend the 2023 Australian Council for Educational Leaders Conference in Brisbane in our next stand down time. This conference has international speakers in leading schools in all areas.

STUDENT COMMITTEES UPDATE AND CONCERT

- As part of our community spiral of inquiry into student agency, we now have student committees that all children kindergarten to year 2, helped to choose, and then got to choose their two to three committees that they would like to be involved in during terms 3 and 4. The chosen student committees, to help with our school improvement, for the remainder of 2023 are: Sports and P.E; Outdoor Environment; Arts; Numeracy; Literacy and Library; Science/ STEM; Animal Welfare; and Community, Culture and Student Wellbeing.
- From these discussions it became apparent that some children wanted more 'arts' activities. This has led to our units of inquiry around 'the arts' this term. The children also asked for some sort of concert/ performance at the end of this term. Once again, from class discussions, preschool to year 2, the children have chosen songs and are in the process of choosing props and other details for the school concert in week 9 of this term.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT REVIEW/ PLAN 2024- 2027

- Thank you for all being involved, supportive, open and very valuable in this process
- Overall Commendations (Stand outs that you would bring other leadership teams in to see) and Affirmations (The foundations that jump out at the review team and have been implemented- just not embedded with results yet) but to 'stay the course- give it time for the roots to embed deeper.' Commendations, Affirmations and Recommendations shared with School Board members.
- Recommendations: coaching and differentiation

SCHOOL UPGRADES AND CAPITAL WORKS

- I have written requesting funding to receive an upgrade for our front carpark. It was advertised in Canberra Times that our school was receiving \$150 000 for a carpark upgrade so I followed this up. We may need to contribute some money to this- approx. \$15 000. It has been quoted for approximately \$70 000.
- We are also receiving quotes for side weatherproof blinds for the COLA area for colder days, when we have outdoor learning, assemblies and community singing.
- We are also receiving quotes for a library verandah for the warmer/ sunnier days ahead, so children can continue to read and relax on this outdoor verandah space. It also helps protect the area during wet weather.

Discussion Arising

Year 2 numbers are increasing but only at 16-18 – question? is this a function of students previously dropping out? Some students may leave due to siblings graduating and going to another school. This is not happening as much.

Carpark safety – visibility not great – signage is good. What else can we do for this area?

Teachers Report – Christie Rankin

School Experiences

- Week 1 - K-2 Excursion to the Canberra Theatre to see 'Are We There Yet?' as provocation for our arts inquiry unit of learning
- K - 2 attend Turner School for their Student African Drumming Performance ~ week 2
- P- 2 excursion to the National Gallery of Australia for a visual arts workshop ~ week 3
- Sporting Schools Grant - Yr 1 & yr 2 - weeks 3 - 6 soccer clinic
- P - 2 incursion ~ Duncan Smith: Aboriginal Art & Culture ~ week 4
- P - K incursion ~ Healthy Harold ~ week 4
- Footsteps Drama with Georgie ~ K-2 ~ weeks 5 - 9
- Science week ~ Innovation: Powering Future Industries ~ week 5 ~ P-2 multi-age groups for science rotations on Wednesday 16th August
- Book week character dress up parade and reading with families ~ week 6
- Coop Singing performance at Turner School hall ~ 2 performances on Tuesday 12th September

Sporting Schools

This term our Sporting Schools grant is giving the year 1 and year 2 children the opportunity to participate in soccer with a coach from Football Australia. The children have 4 sessions over 4 weeks. We were also able to purchase a small electric compressor, a hand-held whistle and a new set of cones.

Footsteps Drama

The children K-2 began their drama sessions this week. Over the next few weeks they will be learning the 3 fundamentals of drama - Movement, Voice and Imagination through games and other fun activities. The children were really engaged and enjoyed participating in their first session all about the first fundamental - movement.

Preschool

In preschool the children are examining Aboriginal paintings and symbols. The children have looked at different art paintings and they had to predict what the story is telling us in the art. After, Yasmine would read the story and the children would then hear and see what the message was. The children also had Duncan Smith visit teaching the children many Indigenous stories, songs and dances.

The preschool children attended the National Gallery and observed paintings, sculptures, and weaving. The children then had the opportunity to create their own piece of art and discuss if it is art or a functional design.

Kindergarten

Art Inquiry

The kindergarten children enjoyed going to the National Gallery with preschool. This was a great opportunity for the children to be immersed in art and to draw a picture relating to the art piece that they observed.

Summa came in and painted each child's face of an animal or a character from a child's book. The children are looking forward to Summa coming in on Fridays to do more Art with us so we can add pieces to our end of term art gallery.

Duncan Smith and the Wiradjuri Echoes came into the school and the children listened to aboriginal stories and listened to the didgeridoo. The children enjoyed the dancing and the singing. We are blessed to have an indigenous Elder come in and share his knowledge with us.

We had a visit from Healthy Harold. The children engaged in activities based around looking after your body, the importance of healthy eating and listening to your body's cues.

Year 1 & Year 2 Inquiry Unit

Year 1/2 have been exploring different art forms from artwork, sculpture, dance, music to drama. The children have been engaged in hands-on activities that not only supports their understanding of art but also lets them express their thoughts and ideas freely through different mediums. The children continue their inquiries into various artforms through parent engagement activities.

Year 2

The Year 2 children have continued to be involved in events with our neighbouring schools to support their transition at the end of the year. During week five, year two attended Turner School to see a Kulture Break dance performance. Following the Lyneham Primary athletics carnival we attended last term, three year two children attended the district athletics carnival and participated in 70m 100.

Professional Learning:

Term 3

- Zones of Regulation PL ~ all teachers attending ~ week 3
- Preschool Network meeting ~ Yasmine O'Brien ~ week 4
- Symposium: Celebrating Generations Past, Present and Future at Greenhills Conference Centre ~ most staff ~ Week 4
- CPR refresher ~ week 6
- Kath Murdoch PL ~ all teachers attending ~ week 10

Finance Summary at a Glance

July 2023

	YTD Actual	Full Y-+* ear Budget
Income	(\$109,127)	(\$120,496) (91%)
Expenditure	\$65,862	\$119,746 (55%)
Trust, Grants, Sustainability & Activities	\$4,125	\$25,034 (16%)
Operating Outcome (Surplus)/Deficit	(\$39,141)	24,284 (-161%)

Bank Account Balance	\$401,642 as at 31 July 2023
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Discretionary Income

Significant Areas *under-trending* are:

Ledger	Notes

Significant Areas *over-trending* are:

Ledger	Notes
Contributions & Donations	177% - \$9,259 against Budget of \$5,224
Bank Interest	131% - \$9,841 against Budget of \$7,500

Discretionary Expenditure

Significant Areas *under-trending* are:

Ledger	Notes
Educational Resources	40% - \$7,995 against budget of \$19,868. Expecting to purchase a large volume of guided reading books.
Communication Budget	4% - \$207 against Budget of \$4,904. Significant delays in telephony billing from DDTs. Provision for Annual Internet Charge \$3,400 - unbilled

Significant Areas *over-trending* are:

Ledger	Notes
Maintenance	106% of Budget - \$16,856 against budget of \$15,950 – Playground Softfall \$4,494 and Fence repairs \$6,430. A further \$2,735 paid for burst water pipes (Aug 2023). We expect this to continue to over-trend

Library/Building Trust Fund

Opening Balance	\$2,512
Income	\$2,217
Expenditure	\$325
Closing Balance	\$4,405

Motion: To accept the Finance Report as tabled

March 2023 Finance Reports

Moved Sally Rose

Seconded BJ Field

April 2023 Finance Reports

Moved Sally Rose

Seconded BJ Field

May 2023 Finance Reports

Moved Sally Rose

Seconded BJ Field

June 2023 Finance Reports

Moved Sally Rose

Seconded BJ Field

July 2023 Finance Reports

Moved Sally Rose

Seconded BJ Field

Accepted

Correspondence In / Out

Correspondence IN Nil

Correspondence OUT Nil

General business

Discussion on National Wellbeing Grant Funding – BJ enquired about the guidelines and suggested possible an education program for parents regarding screen time.

Last Years Y2 students have transitioned into their new schools very well. School leaders from neighbouring schools have commented on our delightful students. NAPLAN data shows continual growth and predicted results for our students.

Deputy Chair needed – Phong Ngo elected unanimously.

Meeting Closed

5:00pm

Next Meeting to be held

October 23, 2023 at 3.45pm

Debbie Lowrey
Principal

Jennifer McGann
Board Chair