



O'Connor Cooperative School

School Board Minutes

Term 4 Week 3

October 23, 2023

3:45pm



ACT
Government
Education

W coop.act.edu.au

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Present

Debbie Lowrey	Principal
Jennifer McGann	Board Chair
Phong Ngo	Deputy Board Chair
Lorenza Van Der Kley	Staff Representative
BJ Field	Board Member
Sally Rose	Community Member
Kirsten Sharman	Minute Secretary/Business Manager

Apologies

Christie Rankine

Meeting opened

Welcome

Acknowledgment of Country by Lorenza Van Der Kley

Code of Conduct / Conflict of Interest

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 August 2023 were read and tabled

Motion: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting

Moved: Sally Rose Seconded: BJ Field

Business arising from previous minutes

Nil

Principal's Report - Debbie Lowrey

STAFFING AND ENROLMENTS 2024

- Current enrolments for 2024 are: Preschool- 22, kindergarten- 21, year 1- 21, year 2- 20. Total: 84. Enrolment increasing from 72 in 2023, and 69 in 2022.
- We had 12 strong and experienced applicants apply for our one advertised classroom teacher position in the ACT teachers transfer round.
- We will have three new and experienced classroom teachers in 2024. Simone Hobday, Rosemary Radford and Gabrielle Jackson.
- Class teacher allocation to classes hasn't been decided yet until we look at classes, needs and teacher expertise.
- Our school psychologist Sophie Carroll will continue at our school in 2024- one day a week allocation.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING and TERM 4 Priorities

- ACT Education Directorate and University of Canberra Affiliated Schools Project 'Country as Teacher'. As part of our staff inquiry and commitment to Indigenous perspectives, we have spent this year learning more about relating with Country and using Country as Teacher pedagogies. This partnership and inquiry will continue into 2024 as we work with Aboriginal knowledge holders and leaders in 'Country as Teacher' across Australia. We have begun to incorporate Country as Teacher pedagogies into our units of inquiry

and daily inquiry approaches. Deb and Yas have also committed to further study with UC through the Graduate Certificate in Country as Teacher pedagogies with other teachers and leaders across Australia.

- We are continuing our ACT Education Directorate 'Finding the Balance Mathematics and Numeracy Strategy and Inquiry Cycle'. Rose, Deb and Renz have been leading this through our Spiral of Inquiry with staff as part of our School Action Plan. Christie and Yasmine are attending professional learning in numeracy teaching and learning with a cultural integrity lens, in a few weeks. This will continue to be a focus in 2024.
- Literacy Champions and Coaching in literacy. 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.

SCHOOL UPGRADES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- The library veranda is planned to be upgraded to ensure sun safety and to enable that area to be waterproof. This will also create improved and more open indoor/ outdoor learning spaces as well as another Sunsmart area for quiet reading and games.
- We have been working with ACT Capital Works to have our carpark upgraded in the upcoming months, to ensure its safety and to minimise mud being walked into our buildings. This will also ensure we have optimum carpark and have a professional looking carpark/ entrance. We will keep you posted once it is approved and moving forward.
- Our community fete is on track for near the end of term 1 2024. We must thank the P & C for working behind the scenes already to organise this fabulous community and fund-raising event.
- Our student committees have been actively meeting and have chosen actions that each committee member has voted on for term 4 priorities. Some examples of these student chosen actions are: Soccer lines on the oval (Sports and P.E), Sphero coding robots (STEM/Science) library beanbags and plants (Library and literacy) and the Community Picnic (Community). More details were also listed in the last newsletter that was emailed home and also on the school's website.
- Year 2 transition visits and requests from students are happening throughout this term. Ella, Rose and I are liaising with our year 2s, Lyneham Primary, Turner Primary, The Ainslie School, Majura Primary and Aranda School to achieve a smooth transition with this next step at their new schools.
- Children's week grants, awards and activities. Thanks to Nathan's leadership in this area and being on this ACT committee we have been fortunate enough to receive one Children's Week grant which allowed our children to vote and participate in The Reptile man visiting. Dr Susan West and our community Indigenous artists are also receiving an award for their connections and activities they have participated in with our children this year.
- ACT Public Education Awards: this Friday 27th Oct. Yasmine has been named a finalist in the Early Childhood Teacher of the year category; and Dr Susan West is a finalist in the Volunteer of the year award.
- World Teachers' Day this Friday 27th October. As far as I know, the P & C are trying to organise something for our teachers.
- Year 2 Graduation: Friday of week 9 (8th December). 'Moving Up' children's transition morning: Tuesday of week 10 (12th December.) Community Picnic and celebration: Thursday of week 10 (14th December) 4:30-6pm. P & C are organising a sausage sizzle and our student Community Committee are organising a few other stalls.
- Our teachers are busily doing their final moderations and observations of children's learning, to enable them to write their end of year student reports, including BASE (ACT kindergarten assessment) These end of year reports will be emailed home on Monday of week 10.
- We will share our draft 2024 Budget with you all at our next meeting.

School Experiences

- Week 3 ~ Children's week - Canberra Reptile Zoo incursion ~ Disco in After School Care
- Weeks 1-6: Relating with Country walks and experiences: Nature Park, Wetlands, Haig Park
- Week 6 ~ AquaSafe ~ Year 2 children only
- Week 9 ~ Year 2 Graduation (8th December)
- Week 10 ~ Moving up morning for all year groups
- Week 10 ~ Community picnic (14th December)

Country as Teacher Pedagogies

The children P to yr 2 are participating in this relational experience with Country. The preschool children have been going out on Country every Thursday morning for quite some time now. They have been learning about Country each week through play and imagination. More recently as part of their experience, the children have been spending a short time sitting on Country looking, listening, feeling, learning and loving (6Ls) and following this up with an oral reflection through a yarnning circle process.

The children in kinder through to year 2 have begun their journey on Country this term as part of their unit of inquiry. For the past two weeks, Kinder to year 2 have been to Horse Park where they have listened to First Nations stories, spent an increasing period of time sitting on Country, looking, listening, feeling, learning and loving (6Ls), and then orally reflecting on their experience through a yarnning circle. The children have also recorded their reflections into their personal journals for yr 1 and yr 2 or drawing their responses in kinder. Time is also spent playing on Country where they can imagine, connect and create. We will be walking a little further in weeks 3 - 6 by going to the David Street Wetlands area and perhaps Haig Park. Thus far, it has been a very valuable experience for the teachers and the children.

Footsteps Drama

The children finished their drama sessions last week. The children learnt what the 3 fundamentals of drama are - Movement, Voice and Imagination through games and other movement activities. The children were really engaged, and we would definitely recommend having them back next year.

Preschool

In preschool, these young learners are actively delving into their curiosities. Their initial explorations revolve around the world of animals, starting with a focus on lizards. They are eager to learn about where these creatures reside on Ngannawal land. The preschoolers are also displaying a keen interest in trees, as they inquire about the names of the trees within their surroundings. Additionally, this term in the preschool classroom, they have tadpoles. Now there is a fascination while observing tadpoles, with a particular emphasis on their development, life stages, and the process of metamorphosis.

Kindergarten

We are currently focusing on letter writing and the kindergarten children are relishing the excitement of receiving our letters delivered by the postman. We have enthusiastically participated in a letter exchange program that connects us with 190 other classes spanning across Australia. Within this initiative, we belong to a cluster of 24 schools. As part of this exchange, each letter contains a heartwarming 'random act of kindness' that we are committed to accomplishing. At this very moment, the children are busy crafting their own letters to be sent to the schools within our designated group. These letters will be accompanied by a paper Christmas bauble and a carefully chosen act of kindness.

Year 1

Throughout this term, year 1 will place a strong emphasis on fractions, as well as time and its duration. The primary writing focus will centre around procedural writing, with particular attention to the use of transitional language such as "next" and "after." Following this, the students will delve into report writing.

Year 2

The Year 2 children will complete an Aqua safe course later this term. In the next few weeks, the year 2 children will begin their transition visits to other schools as well as preparing for their graduation. In year 2, the children are doing procedural writing and in numeracy, looking at measurement.

Professional Learning:

Term 4

- Structured Word Inquiry ~ Online PL ~ All staff
- ACT Education Directorate Numeracy, Creativity using Indigenous Perspectives

Christie Rankine - Classroom Teacher

Lorenza Van Der Kley - School Leader

Finance Report

Finance Summary at a Glance September 2023

	YTD Actual	Full Y-+* ear Budget
Income	(\$112,704)	(\$120,496) (94%)
Expenditure	\$88,131	\$119,746 (74%)
Trust,Grants,Sustainability & Activities	\$409	\$25,034 (2%)
Operating Outcome (Surplus)/Deficit	(\$24,163)	24,284 (-100%)

Bank Account Balance	\$387,662 as at 30 September 2023
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Discretionary Income

Significant Areas *under-trending* are:

Ledger	Notes

Significant Areas *over-trending* are:

Ledger	Notes
Contributions & Donations	185% - \$9,645 against Budget of \$5,224
Bank Interest	171% - \$12791 against Budget of \$7,500

Discretionary Expenditure

Significant Areas *under-trending* are:

Ledger	Notes
Communication Budget	8% - \$416 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	131% of Budget - \$20,856 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	\$1,439
Closing Balance	\$3,291

Motion: To accept the Finance Report as tabled

August 2023 Finance Reports

Moved: Sally Rose

Seconded: BJ Field

September 2023 Finance Reports

Moved: Sally Rose

Seconded: BJ Field

Accepted

Correspondence In / Out

Correspondence IN Nil

Correspondence OUT Nil

General business

Conversation regarding referendum with children? – no, this was not raised with the children, however some asked staff if they were voting yes or no

Deb and Kirsten have made a submission to the Educational Directorate to update the administrative office areas, including sick bay, extending the front office into the large foyer, extending the staff room into the area behind and including a small teaching space.

Jen to talk to Lyneham contact regarding avenues to increase parking for families out the front of the school. Something for the School Board to investigate and possibly action.

Meeting Closed

4:45pm

Next Meeting to be held

November 27, 2023, at 6:00pm at Ainslie Football Club

Debbie Lowrey
Principal

Jennifer McGann
Board Chair