

AVALON PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION - MEETING MINUTES - 20 MAY

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| Date | 20 May 2024 |
| Attendees | Amy Kenny, Hendrik Van Senden, Jess Boomer, Morgan Webster and As per list |
| Venue | School library |
| Next meeting | Monday 12 August - To be held at Bar Elvina - Morgan / Jess (Amy away) |

Minutes:

- **Amy has given notice that she will not be President next year. Job vacancy for someone who is willing to commit 7-10 hours per week.** Amy is also going on holiday for 6 weeks over winter holidays.
- **Attendance at meetings is very poor** - Next meeting to be held at Bar Elvina.
- **Easter raffle** - a success, making \$5k+ and we should repeat next year. 30 winners, run by Grace and was well managed through Spriggy.
- **Mother’s day breakfast** - ‘Most improved event!’, making \$6k+ (\$3k from auction and \$3k from and selling 2,000 breakfast boxes). Run by Brett Strauss who did an excellent job with catering and getting others involved however was too decentralised and needed more oversight. Next year have more bins out. Next year explore ‘mothers day stall’, repeat the coffeeshop sponsorship.
- **Elvina Mother’s day Lunch** was a win, supporting local business and building a great vibe. Consider having Christmas in July.
- **Harmony day** - lunch to teachers. Worked well.
- **Government funding cuts.** There have been significant cuts to the school budget by the NSW government with 21% lost from Avalon, the highest cut from schools in the area. Anomalies like being blamed for low enrollment or missing out on funds that Mona Vale got for ‘maintaining new building - \$1m’ when they have less students than Avalon. Jacqui and Andy meeting Thursday 30 May. UPDATE POST MEETING: \$472,000 last year – THIS YEAR \$277,000. **50% cut.**
- **Member for Pittwater meeting** to discuss issues including funding cuts and failure to get grant funding for the school and delays with OOSH. 7 June - preparation required by P+C Team prior to meeting.

- **Avalon P+C website.** Will link to Avalon PS website and will allow purchases. It will include a wishlist for the school - e.g. class wants a globe, principal wants a whiteboard.
- **Colour Run 2025.** Mid-late March 2025 with aim to raise \$60k - need committee.
- **Class parents details.** Need to get class parent details earlier Work with the school to get a letter out in first 2 weeks getting parents details and indicating if they want to be a class parent.
- **Feedback - Greater transparency from P+C about how raised money is being.** Discussion about simplifying comms but people do want multiple sources. Suggested that there is a single source of 'truth' on the website and all communication points to the website. Other comms e.g. Whatsapp, email etc should be action focused / short and sharp. Also need to be more visible e.g. big posters up showing how money is used.
 - \$200k in the bank but need \$500k for OOSH - hoping to get a \$150k grant.
 - Canva // Put the chart up - 4th week of next term - Jacqui to meet with Anna Lohe to do some Canva comms.
 - Nura Djuroba \$100k (P+C), School gives (\$100k) - community will be asked about their opinions.
- **Council** - Amy contacted council about wasteful plastic signs outside the school which has now prompted a full review into parking. We are awaiting communication from Council on what is happening.
- **Lego hub.** Permanent structure for lego - closed and lockable for outside. We will have a lego donation day. Amy has suggested Barrenjoey could design and build a Lego hub as part of the year 9 project.
- **Second hand stall:** Monday 3rd June from 3-4:30pm, Location: School Hall
- **Andy Ranking - External validation of school Avalon PS** is performing better than it every has. Amazing results!
- **School bytes** - parent portal that everything will go through - everyone must download.
- **Social** - 14 September - cocktail (120 bar -300 room) vs seated (e.g. 140 Trivia)

Appendix 1: President's report

Welcome & Introductions

- Confirm minutes from Term 1 - on the schools website.

Start of the year: Term 1

- Been a busy start. Collated class parents which is a big effort. All parents on whatsapp group which is the best place to communicate whole school info. Facebook and Instagram also back with minimal engagement.
- The Easter raffle happened in week 8 term 1. Very quick turn around due to last minute class parents. Grace Quiney and Linda Moss did a fabulous job. The support from the school community was amazing and we were able to make almost 30 prizes. There was zero outlay for this fundraiser. Money made from raffle ticket sales. Made a total of \$5250. Should continue in 2025.
- Two weeks ago was the Mother's Day breakfast. Sponsorship from McGrath helped the profit numbers. Sold over 250 breakfast boxes with the majority of adults happy. There was no rain. The games were a huge hit and the silent auction was successful. Thanks to the businesses who donated. Thanks to the dads and executive committee that helped with the event. Don't have final numbers but made approximately \$6000.
- Provided a statement to Pittwater Life regarding the budget cuts on behalf of the executive committee. Major impact on the students and teachers. Despite the promise the money for teachers' pay increase would not come from students, it has. Also meeting with Rory Amon to express our concerns.
- Provided teachers with lunch on Harmony Day.
- Started building an Avalon P&C website. Parent building it. Just need exec to find some time to write the website.
- Booked Colour Run for 2025 in late March to ensure it is a little warmer.
- Preliminary meeting with Kristy Boyce contacted P&C with a marketing background and Ash Hayes regarding wishlist. Great ideas. Needs some work.
- Communication with council re their wasteful plastic signs lead to full review of parking. Shared with parents.

Coming up

- Meeting with Rory Amon - executive team in June.
- Meeting with K-2 exec regarding lego hub
- 2nd hand stall - Monday 7th June
- Parent social - september 14th (end of week 8) - need a social committee

Closing

Announce date of next meeting. - Monday 12th August (Morgan/Jess relieving President)

Appendix 2: Garden Club Report

Garden Club Term 1 2024 was a huge success!

Garden Club Lessons

At the beginning of lessons we always do an Acknowledgement to Country, demonstrating respect to First Nations Peoples and the Country we garden and care for at school.

Term 1 was all about Caring for the Gardens and Autumn/ Winter Planting. We discussed the three ethics of Garden Club which are the permaculture ethics: earth care, people care and fair share. The children put these ethics into practice by caring for the garden, caring for each other and sharing our produce with the canteen and school community. This gave the children some ownership - the work they do in the school gardens will have an affect on themselves, their friends, nature and the school community.

We discussed the seasons, in particular Autumn and Winter. Why we know it's Autumn and Winter, what fruit and vegetables grow in these seasons and if we like these crops - why and why not?

We then broke the children up into groups to do a variety of garden jobs to prepare our two kitchen gardens for Autumn/ Winter plantings such as:

- Clearing/ weeding garden beds of last seasons finished crops and putting this vegetation into our compost bins to create compost for the gardens
- Planting Autumn/ Winter seedlings such as brassicas, legumes, leafy greens and root vegetables
- Planting beneficial flower seedlings - discussing why we plant these and companion planting
- Mulching
- Creating tee-pees for vertical pea and bean growing
- Watering
- Planting garlic
- Sowing seeds
- Harvesting seeds from last season crops
- Making newspaper pots to sow seeds in
- Garden Journalist job using observation, reporting and creativity skills.

Lunchtime Garden Club on Tuesdays for Years 3-6 and Thursdays for Years 1-2

Lunchtime Garden Club also focused on Caring for the Gardens and Autumn and Winter Plantings. The garden jobs mentioned above were also very popular with the lunchtime crew.

Harvesting potatoes was very exciting for the younger children, seeing how many potatoes they could find in the potato towers we created last year. They all got very good at counting over 30 potatoes!

The gardens look divine and are full with Autumn and Winter crops all created by the

children. We have already harvested and shared garden produce with the canteen, teachers and office staff such as lettuce, celery, bananas, passionfruit rockmelon and a butternut pumpkin which is wonderful. We have also shared herb cuttings with the school parents and carers.

Term 2 we are focusing on Waste and the School Compost Systems. We're looking at what compost is, why we should compost, how to compost and taking a closer look at the compost critters that do the magical work with magnifying glasses.

Fiona was away for the last 4 weeks of Term 1 and is taking the whole of Term 2 off at this stage to heal from an operation. We wish Fiona a speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming her back to the school garden in Term 3!

Thank you to Alice Lovett, Marcelle Balt, Morgan Webster and Amy Kenny for all your help and support, it's very much appreciated.

Sue and Fiona
Garden Club

Appendix 3: OOSH Report

OOSH REPORT

The school holidays were well attended with an average of 50 children daily. We have finished the program for the upcoming Winter holidays and will send them out in week eight.

Our After school numbers have dropped slightly with winter sport beginning. This is not only a local problem. It would seem that most OOSHs have lower numbers than usual not only in term time but in Vacation Care as well. We do have some bigger numbers on the days we have incursions so will continue to offer them in the next holidays.

We have also begun a trial of Motiv8 sport in the term to try and increase our numbers. Only children who are registered to attend after school care on the Wednesday are able to participate and this is an extra cost to parents. It has been really well received with around 25 kids taking part.

If there is interest from parents to continue, we may be able to offer it again next term.

During the last storm we had a leak in OOSH. Phil came and checked it last week and will put a report in requesting repair. It would appear that it's a problem with the roof flashing where the old building joins the outdoor deck.

Karen McGill

Co ordinator

Avalon OOSH

Appendix 4: Canteen and Uniform Report

Canteen

Menu

We have taken some items off the Menu as they were not selling well. We have added some additional items to the menu too. These are all Canteen made.

Items added:

Teriyaki Chicken (K-6), available Monday-Thursday

Pumpkin Soup (3-6), available Monday-Friday (Gluten/Dairy Free, Vegetarian & Vegan)

Lentil Soup (3-6), Available Monday-Friday (Gluten/Dairy Free, Vegetarian & Vegan)

We are still waiting on approval for our Menu from the Healthy Kids Government Department.

New Staff have settled in well and we seem to have a very efficient system working!

Volunteering

The Friday Class Roster for Volunteering is working really well. Usual time slots are 9.30-10.30, 12.30-1.30 with many of the Volunteers staying much later to help us out. I also have a small group of emergency volunteers that are happy to help out if we need.

Uniform Store

Uniform Store has had a busy start to the term with the sudden cold weather. New Stock has been ordered and delivered, so there are plenty of uniforms to meet the demand.

Second hand items continue to be sorted for the second hand sale that will take place this term. This will free up the space in the Uniform Store.

Appendix 5: Strings Report

Strings minutes:

At the end of term 3 advanced strings enthusiastically participated in the northern beaches workshop at pittwater high and performed for parents alongside newport public strings and mona vale public strings as well as having the opportunity to hear the senior school orchestra

Avalon strings had an open rehearsal in week 4 where they performed 5 pieces and had past strings members appear as guest artists

Selected students attended meadowbank public cluster school rehearsal thursday of week 4, a day out the musicians always enjoy as they play with hundreds of other strings students from all over sydney

There are extra lunchtime rehearsals taking place in order to be well polished for the festival of instrumental music held on the opera house concert stage on june 27

Avalon Strings leader was awarded an Honours result in his Australian Music Examination Board exam and we congratulate him for this achievement

Avalon Strings welcomes new members throughout the year

Enquiries to Emma Wake, contact number can be obtained by enquiring at the school office