



Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta

Parents & Friends Association

General Meeting

MINUTES

Date: 2 August 2022

Time: 7pm

Venue: Zoom Link

Attendees:

Lucie Farrugia (LF), Susan Giacomelli (SG), Vanessa Cassin (VC), Michael Johnson (MJ), Sheyana LaBrooy (SL), Diana Makhoul (DM), Brindha Kugan (BK), Justine Hanks (JH), Elizabeth Johnson (EJ), Katrina Leonardi (KL), Melissa Rodewald (MR), Catherine Dolle-Samuel (CDS), Melanie Mousley (MM), Jason Scanlon (JS), Ann Kumar (AK)

1. Welcome

Welcome and zoom protocol

President

Prayer

Principal

2. Attendance and previous minutes

2.1 Attendance / Apologies *Secretary*

Sean Mcintosh – OM

2.2 Acceptance of previous minutes *President*

Elizabeth and Justine endorsed the minutes

3. Reports

3.1 Principal

Report follows these minutes.

3.2 Development Officer

Report follows these minutes.

Parramatta Leagues Club offered to assist with free parking during school events.

Suggestion to parents to consider becoming members.

Careers Breakfast – well attended and appreciated by the students.

Future events to consider student feedback on other professionals they would like to hear from.

Action: SG to include details of obtaining Club membership in the Parent Portal.

3.3 President

Noted that the Women in Leadership event was an inspiring session.

Commended the catering by Hospitality students and the selection of speakers.

3.4 Treasurer

Report attached to minutes.

3.5 Secretary

Noted receipt of Entertainment Book emails sent through from SG.

3.6 PRC

Update on May '22 event held at Catherine McAuley.

Topic: "Raising teenage girls"

SL noted a significant number of attendees at event.

Information to be circulated by SG when received.

Next event due in September.

Recommended that others attend if possible.

Action: SG to circulate correspondence when received by the school.

3.7 Social Convenor

Preparation towards Father's Day Mass scheduled for September.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

4.1 Parent Portal update (Susan)

Academic assessments, P&F minutes and agendas all loaded on Parent Portal.

Goals for different areas still work in progress.

Volunteer sections call out working well through the portal.

MR - raised query that the notifications and information which used to come through previously but not coming through now.

SG – Noted that notifications was part of the trial run and will be launched once training of staff is complete.

General call outs always captured in the Newsletter and anything else specific to students/classes will continue to be emailed to parents.

4.2 P&F Social event (Lucie/Vanessa)

Cocktail party currently available date – 2 September 2022, 6pm-8:30pm.

LF – very supportive of this event and would like to see this event evolve into a P&F cocktail party and help build the P&F profile within the community.

The idea was welcomed, but some parents noted that Father's Day Breakfast/Mass in the morning and Cocktail event in the evening on the same day might pose a challenge for some parents.

LF – acknowledged this and noted that it would be taken into due consideration for next year. However, this was the only date available for this year.

Action: DM, SG and VC to discuss catering and planning for the event

Action: Save the date to be circulated in the next Newsletter

5. General business

5.1 Building update and P&F funding for Forecourt (Lucie)

Delays due to weather and material delivery but work progressing and expected to be completed by end of Term 1, 2023.

Forecourt – P&F continue to support the forecourt development to help facilitate this.

LF – noted that the priority building works expenses was focused on the completion of the Brigid Shelly building and advised of a need to adapt to additional costs due to the current conditions and not over-commit financially.

VC – noted additional funds available and suggested increase to budget pledge and commitment to forecourt landscaping as per College request.

Action: to discuss with MJ and plan to vote on this at the next meeting.

5.2 Mercy Day - P&F funding (Susan)

Voting on new item for this year's budget

SG – ETA cost \$1200 - \$1500 for - 2 x photo booths + DJ

It is an opportunity for houses to raise money for Mercy Works.

VC called for a vote and it was a unanimous vote of agreement.

5.3 Year 12 Graduation Morning Tea (Susan)

SG gave an overview of the events - 30 min morning tea in the Cathedral forecourt before attending the Assembly in AMCC, followed by Oatlands House.

600 ppl expected.

P&F to fund and support the morning tea - volunteers requested.

LF – noted food could be something quick and simple.

VC – asked if any concerns about funding and no objections were raised.

VC – raised motion that P&F support the Year 12 Graduation morning tea for a maximum amount of \$2000.

Event date – Friday, 23 September 2022

Number of parents at meeting volunteered to assist.

Action: Estimate for costs to be obtained by SG and all for volunteers on Parent Portal and in newsletters.

5.4 Update on fee appeal – (Lucie)

LF noted that this item was still pending confirmation. Australian Bureau of statistics waiting on some information before review of OLMC appeal. The fact that they are still reviewing is seen as a good sign.

5.5 Staffing update - (Lucie)

Worldwide teacher shortage and noted as a serious issue.

Large numbers are leaving the teaching profession.

Missing expertise in the middle years – more younger graduates and older teachers.

Pleased to note that OLMC have not been struck with the dilemmas that other schools have had to date.

OLMC have a program in place to replace teachers when they leave. In the event of a shortage/emergency the school is able to draw upon an available pool of loyal casual teachers.

5.6 Father Daughter Breakfast (Susan)

Breakfast menu suggested to be something like BBQ type food or savouries rather than sweets.

VC – suggested little danishes and croissants

MR – suggested quiches

Action: VC - Diana to review and work something out. Review suggested places at Silverwater and Imperial GF Bakery, Rydalmere.

EJ flagged gluten free to be included and suggested yoghurt and muesli bars.

Action: LF - approach the canteen caterers about the above.

6. Other business

6.1 Celebration of Achievement - (Lucie/Susan)

LF – noted this OLMC sponsored event was to be held at the Quaycentre, Sydney Olympic Park, on 5 December 2022 at 7pm.

Performances of music etc a celebration of talent to be showcased.

Compulsory event – if student is absent then a letter to the Principal will be required.

Discounted parking available for the evening.

Action: SG – invitation with how to register will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Parent noted that it was rather late in the year for this date to be noted and requested the College put the dates forward earlier for next year.

(As a post script to this discussion, we note that the date for this event has been on the calendar on the Portal since the start of the school year and that it has always been a compulsory event for students.)

JS – requested if there could be recognition given for girls who had made some growth during the year.

6.2 College badges

SLB queried about the allocation for College badges.

Action - to put this down for discussion for next meeting in the agenda

6.3 Year 9 Subject Information Night

CDS requested if it was possible to have a Year 9 information night about subjects and an opportunity to have a discussion with teachers.

LF - noted that girls were given information on this.

Action: LF to investigate.

6.4 Debating

AK - raised the issue for more parental involvement to help with Debating activities

LF – happy for parents to volunteer and noted that Chris Ostrowski has other teachers supporting

MR – Happy to do biscuits and coffee and parents happy to help. Suggested College puts this in the newsletter.

Action: LF to discuss this internally and then come back.



P&F Meeting

2 August 2022

Principal's Report

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP FORUM

In May, we welcomed over 300 guests to our annual Women in Leadership Forum. Our four speakers inspired and ignited in us a sense of limitless possibility. This event has become very popular and attracts visitors from outside of our community such as from Catherine McAuley Westmead. It is certainly an example of reaching our strategic goals around community engagement.

NEW STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

We welcomed our newly appointed Student Leaders for 2022/2023 at the Leaders Induction Assembly on 21 June. After the formalities, the Student Leaders and their families enjoyed a morning tea in the Convent Garden. There are 32 girls elected to positions. They gathered for a leadership camp at Baulkham Hills 2 weeks ago to establish their leadership priorities for the year including their theme, 'Imagine what we can do, united me and you'

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA IMMERSION

In late May, 50 students from Years 10 and 11, along with five staff, took part in the Central Australia Immersion. This was much anticipated since the planning began 2 years ago and has been postponed numerous times due to Covid. The success of this program is that we will offer it again in 2023 and possibly each year after during the September Holidays.

CAREERS BREAKFAST & YEAR 11 COURSE PREFERENCES

In late June, we welcome accomplished alumnae from difficult fields to speak to senior students at our Careers Breakfast. This event aims to give students different perspectives on varied careers, starting a day of deliberation as Year 10 students considered their HSC subjects while also attending the Year 11 Course Preference in the evening. Year 8 are currently choosing elective for Stage 5 next year.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PRINCIPALS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

During the break, I attended the Catholic Schools Principals National Conference. Of note, was the keynote address from David de Carvalho, the CEO of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) the authority overseeing the implementation of the National Curriculum. There are some exciting developments around curriculum reform including an emphasis on skills development rather than heavily content driven courses. OLMC is well placed to adopt these reforms as they come to pass.

SHAUN MICALLEF'S BRAIN EISTEDDFOD

A team of four OLMC students participated on a new show on Channel 10 – Shaun Micallef's Brain Eisteddfod back in June. The show tests Year 11 students from across Australia. We have not been advised which episode the girls will appear in but the show airs Wednesday evenings on Channel 10.

Lucie Farrugia
Principal



P&F Meeting

2 August 2022

Development Officer's Report

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Our fifth annual Women in Leadership Forum was a great success. We welcomed over 300 people. I would like to recognize the generosity of Parramatta Leagues Club in offering the convenience of allowing our guests to park at the Club. I met with the Club's Community Relations Officer who kindly offered to help the College with other events where large groups may benefit from the convenience of parking at the Club. I would therefore encourage OLMC families to show their appreciation by supporting the Club through their patronage or by becoming a member.

CARRERS BREAKFAST

This event was again well-attended by senior students. We were very grateful to be able to welcome back to the College these inspiring and motivating women:

- Dr Anna Samecki (Class of 2005) Doctor, Medical Advisor/Educator/Writer/ Journalist;
- Jessica Denlow (Class of 2011) Senior Manager Risk and Control Enablement for the Commonwealth Bank; and
- Claire Stephens (Class of 1994) Manager Development Assessment at City of Parramatta.

This event is part of a bigger program I am working on which encourages alumnae to reconnect with the College.

Susan Giacomelli
Development Officer



OLMC Parents & Friends Association

Date June 2022

GL Account 4054

2022 Mother Daughter Mass - Continental Patisserie inv 419196	\$ 1,015.20
2022 Mother Daughter Mass - afternoon tea 19/5/2022	\$ 40.91
Prior Years Outstanding Levies - June 2022	- \$ 250.00
Net monies (\$ Due to)/Payable from P&F as at 30/6/2022	\$ 806.11