

ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

P&C Meeting

26nd November 2024

Minutes



Special Address:

reiterated his full support of partial Federal funding of a Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC) for the school.

Meeting Commenced: 26th November 2024, 7:35 pm

Attendees

Dawn Kilkelly, Sean Kilkelly, Nikki Nicholls, Chris Nicholls, Bryce Grant, Chris Kent, James Wallace, Rachel Hooker, Vennessa Jull, Lucinda Bennie, Heather Stephens, Luiz Marcos, Greg Cullen.

The meeting was attended by James Wallace MP to address the Community Consultation and subsequently the Department of Education's decision to transform Asquith Boys High School (ABHS) and Asquith Girls High School (AGHS) into co-educational schools.

Apologies

- none

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: 22nd October 2024

Approved: Bryce Grant, *Seconded:* Nikki Nicholls.

Business Arising from Minutes:

- none

Correspondence In:

- none

Correspondence Out:

- none

President's Report:

- Owing to school holidays, this will be the last meeting for 2024. The next meeting will held on 25th February 2025.
- Our AGM will be held on 25th March. All offices of the Committee will be declared open.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Reports for October 2024 can be provided on application.

Accepted: Lucinda Bennie, *Seconded:* Nikki Nicholls.

Principal's Report:

- Following Community Consultation Dept of Education has announced that Asquith Boys High School will become a co-educational school.
 - Years 7, 9 and 11 will be the first to become co-educational.
 - It is not expected that students in Years 9 and 11 will change schools.

- Catchment Areas will be revised and intake could be based on locality of Primary Schools rather than boundaries.
- The school name will obviously have to change. Dawn Kilkelly noted this will affect the name of the P&C.
The P&C may have to change our ABN and bank accounts if the school's Code changes.
- There has not been an indication on commencement of works (i.e. girl's change rooms).
- It is unlikely the combined ABHS and AGHS music bands will continue.
- ABHS is hoping to retain the School Colours.
The Crest would obviously have to change and a transition period will have to be allowed for the school uniform.
- Sports will be affected. We may not be able to compete in existing gender sports zones.
- It is extremely unlikely that any incoming government will reverse the decision. James Wallace endorsed that view.
- Chris Kent noted that 75% of Primary School parents had voted for co-educational High Schools
- Shortage of staff numbers was questioned. Mr. Grant advised he would request more staff if required.
- Mr. Grant advised the MPC would again be raised with Dept Education Assets to bring the new ABHS in line with AGHS.
- Luiz Marcos commented that the school should engage more Asian teachers.
 - Mr. Grant advised he is not able to choose teachers based on ethnicity and all teachers have to go through an accreditation process with the Dept. Education.
 - Committee members advised that to favour (or discriminate) a candidate on the basis of ethnicity may be viewed as racism.
- Three Year 12 students were nominated for Art Express. Two students were selected. (The 3rd student, was reluctant to submit his work.) All 3 students are looking for to a Band 6 result.
- One Year 12 student has been nominated for ENCORE for his Major Music work.

Grounds Report:

- The student's artwork displayed on the front fence has been a success. Dawn Kilkelly made a request for more artwork to be displayed along the fence line.
- P&C requested a Bird Bath from CAPA to display in the renovated garden. The Bird Bath is in production.

Fundraising Report:

- No further developments to report.

General Business:

- Dawn Kilkelly requested nominees for the P&C Encouragement Award.
 - Mr. Grant will review the nominees.
 - Final Assembly will be held on December 12th.
- P&C have decided to present the 60th Anniversary Books to staff as a gift.
 - The transition to co-ed will make the book an enduring memento.
- Chris Kent advised that he will be contacting the Asquith Old Boys advising members of the transition to a co-educational school and also the availability of the 60th Anniversary Book, surely a collectors item.
- James Wallace MP introduced himself and wanted to advise that he had a strong interest in the transition to co-ed.

- Mr. Wallace started as the Hornsby Member of Parliament on the 12th November, the same day the announcement of two Asquith co-educational schools.
- The change to a co-educational school will be challenging and require the efforts of staff, parents and the whole community to ensure success.
- Under the leadership of Mr. Grant this is going to make the most of the circumstances.
- Students will not be forced to relocate to another school.
- Mr. Wallace has been strident to ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place to accommodate the change; bathrooms, changerooms, a much-wanted MPC would be proposed.
- There would be a short 12 months of intensive fit out, with on-going work.
- Community engagement will be critical for success.
Strong engagement with the Primary Schools and their P&Cs.
Information must be clear and open.
- Dawn Kilkelly advised that the ABHS and AGHS P&C were working closely together to support the respective Principals.

New Business:

- Covered above.

Closed: 8:22 pm

Next meeting: 25th February 2025

Will be held in-person at the School Library at 7:30 pm.