

FERNY GROVE STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Council Meeting

CONFERENCE ROOM - FERNY GROVE STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Monday 12/08/19

1.1 Meeting Open: Welcome

3.50pm start

In Attendance:

Melissa Rowse (Chair)
John Schuh (Executive Principal)
Rufus Gandi (Parent member)
Darren Brooks (Parent Member)
Annie Webster (Teacher /QTU rep)
Tony Wang (School Captain)
Mackenzie Stewart (School Captain)
Cameron Wearing (President P & C))
Maria Hill (Secretary/QTU rep)

Steve Toomey (invited guest – Councillor for The Gap Ward)

1.2 Apologies: NIL

1.3 Council Member Conflict of Interest Disclosures: NIL

1.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 1.4.1 Confirmation of Previous Minutes
1.4.2 Moved by John Schuh. Seconded by Mackenzie Stewart.

Action: Melissa to have posted on intranet & website.

2.4.2 Matters Arising/Action List

*Policies - use of personal technologies (Annie) 4.00pm - 4.30pm

Luana accepts phones ONLY. No earpieces.

Darren – Should we consider the NO device policy? Requested teacher feedback.

Maria – Noted excessive phone use before school reducing the time students interact with each other. In-class use does happen and what annoys teachers is the daily request to “put the phone away”.

Annie – Pointed out the number of students with earphones and other ear devices. She also highlighted Gavin concern with devices for forms of gambling using 4G.

Cameron – Agreed this is a fast moving area, pointing out that it is hard to get the supporting information for parents. Suggested practical skills and training for parents + student, which links to school programs for support + workshops for parents on phones/devices use and misuse.

Cameron pointed out the Article in newsletter by Principal in regards to real concerns about phones being stolen at school.

John – Pointed out that if the whole school bans phones then the whole student community would be punished. Supported the students running a real world solution, run by kids for kids, on the misuse of personal phones. Maybe a High Resolves Project with short video segments. Keen to encourage a group of kids getting together to solve a problem giving them the personal responsibility. In Melbourne, the ban of the phones is in place but are we willing to take it on? in addition, what is the consequence for not handing over the phone?

Mackenzie – Felt that the main problem was the use of music on the phone in the classroom – headphones are the big issue and suggested handing in the earpiece.

Tony – Felt that students would always find a way to bring the phone to school. The phone is needed at school and has many uses.

John – Outlined the discussions around the future of lockers considering that so many lockers he observed had no locks? Remove all port racks and remove the cages. This will reduce the cost spent on cages. \$28,000 has just been allocated for lockers with an approach for locker use.

**** NOTE – School Council agreed to pursue this personal educational string to make a student-orientated project.**

3. Matters for Decision

3.1 Major strategy decisions : Community review of current policies

Policy review:

***uniform policy - Melissa to table feedback from Executive Team in regards to latest draft**

- uniform (Melissa) 5.20pm to 5.40pm

Melissa tabled 5 considerations. Current point + suggestion + viewpoints from SLT. * Document provided.

Melissa called for agreement, disagreement, or recommendations for change.

Should the process of agreement involve others? e.g. Year Coordinators or can we proceed?

All members agreed to continue.

Considerations

3. Boys facial hair is to be kept neatly trimmed/shaven. Council agreed to remove reference to gender.

4. No visible makeup or nail polish to be worn. Change suggestion to – Replace ‘no’ to ‘minimal’ visible makeup may be worn, no nail polish to be worn.

Annie – acrylic nails – suggested parent approval is needed.

Mackenzie –

A small issue with only a few people wearing make-up.

John – ‘minimal’ is the word gives scope to discuss this with a parent.

Must be able to enforce and the why for the policy. Is it worth it and what is the rule that is not negotiable?

5. Sports uniform. Council agreed to suggest to be added – The first week of the school year (Term 1) students must wear formal uniform. Students may change into PE uniform as required for individual lessons.

2. Clear plugs are not to be worn.

Darren – clear plugs allows for flexibility.

Mackenzie – quite a few students are wearing them now with no issue.

John – No problem.

1. Tattoos of any description are not permitted.

John – neat and tidy is reasonable.

Council agreed to remove this clause due to cultural concerns.

Approved – To Scott Shorten & P&C & then Scott will take to executive.

Action: Melissa to pass council information to DP.

3.1.2 Where to from here?

Matters for Discussion

4.1 Buses – Steve Toomey

+ Update from Ian Marshall – Director BBL 4.30pm -

5.20pm

John – Concern to get Samford SS to get student here in the mornings. Congratulated Melissa for all her work to bring this issue to the table. From his observations, the problem was the morning but now is the afternoons as well. The school timetable was changed to cater for the bus collections in the afternoon. The buses arrive when the students have not yet left class. They do not wait and leave not collecting students.

Darren – pointed out that the early and late buses caused traffic congestion for both bus drop offs and pick-ups.

Steve – Chris Mancini and Kevin Chen and representative Translink viewed traffic arrangements around two bus trips with routes 397 and 398 at the school in the afternoon.

Steve noted that Brisbane Bus Lines (BBL) 5 buses leave this stop (indented bus bays) but it can only hold 4 buses. 2 Brisbane Buses (BB) only took on 5 students. Steve expressed concern over the impact of large buses on the traffic and safety of students.

Loading problem – 4-5 kids push in doorway at a time; no respect for each other or the driver; major public disrespect; bus to Dayboro worst bus for poor behaviour; no tap and go – paper pass required which slowed the whole loading process.

John - pointed out that the loading bays are small; with limited shelter and no loading capacities.

Steve – yes, it needs upgrading by Translink; capacity of the bays can only hold 2 regular buses.

Suggested solution was to turn parking on the western side (40m) for two buses to come and go. The constraint is the zebra crossing. Research to relocate Brisbane transport bus. Translink GPS relocating to allow BBL buses to wait in the Western bay. Translink to look at timing of buses to allow a flow of buses. **

John – highlighted the problems when turning into Arber St due to serious congestion of flow of traffic.

Steve – From his observation of the whole are the gridlock only lasts for about for 10-15 minutes.

Maria – this is the most likely time of accidents - time where safety of everyone in the community.

Action: Further information required from Steve Toomey.

Steve – This is a massive catchment now with parents wanting to drop students because of other school commitments.

The BCC has not received any increase in the funding for flexibility of bus times. Therefore, to delay the bus by 5 minutes is costly.

BCC S767 covers The Gap; Hilder Road; Ferny Grove and then up to Upper Kedron. Not enough room on the bus to fit all the students.

Melissa 4.40pm (Chair arrived)

Presented email from concerned Year 12 student – 367 bus home public bus – issues with public – school bus service. Another bus service is required to cater for the needs of the growing population within the community.

S767 is the solution given by Steve. Last year the Department of Education made changes to the high school catchment that now incorporates Upper Kedron South into the Ferny Grove High School catchment. Previously the area was in The Gap High School catchment. The S767 school bus service between Upper Kedron and The Gap Village has been extended into UKS and to provide a connectivity for students attending Ferny Grove High School and The Gap High School. This service operates at peak school time with one morning and afternoon service on school days.

Melissa - Questioned how the community was aware of this service?

Steve – Community letter was sent; Facebook announcement; visited local P&C's; Article in The Hills Echo.

Darren – The student exit with the bus and car arrival and departure is further escalated by the crossings.

Steve - Further explained that the crossings were quite effective. Questioned if the school should return to one crossing? however, moving the crossing just will create more problems.

John – The new Childcare would also be a problem.

Steve – Not a problem as the pick-up times are different and the traffic flow happens at an earlier time.

Melissa – Questioned what services were observed during the visit 7/8. School had asked for only two services to be directly observed – 912 and 919.

However, the e-mail states that public 397 and public 398 were observed on the day.

Steve states that he observed 367 and S767.

Council confused about bus times that need to be observed.

Action: Need to inform the school community about S767 service.

Action: Melissa to e-mail for clarification.

It appears that these observed buses were later in the afternoon and not at 3.05pm when the service is at its peak. The service arrives at 3.05pm and does not wait for students. GPS track and leaves.

Steve –

Is looking at the BBL buses that are blocking the street flow.

BCC has a contract with State Government. If buses are late or do not show then fines, apply.

To change the bus times by 5 minutes then the financial cost is involved.

BBL have received no funding. 5 million to run one bus.

John –

Police have been employed in the past to assist with traffic flow. They do not have staff for permanent employment. This assumed practice cannot be supported.

Steve –

FGSS and FGSHS on Police Watch for parking infringements both staff and students.

Seniors could park behind the Police Station but it does have no crossing or security lighting for students.

A new bridge is to be constructed between Beach Street to Neilson Place. Purpose as an off road bike path for Primary access to school.

Planned to go ahead this year. Could use electric scooters.

Steve said farewell at 5.15pm.

4.2 Parent Representative -

Congratulations to Rufus Gandhi: role in Gladstone
Not resigning but will try to see out until the end of the year.

4.2 Principal's Report - facilities update

Items for Noting

5.1 Major Correspondence - Correspondence with Steve Toomey's office and BBL.

5.2 Updated Council Calendar - process to seek parent representative

5.3 Other Matters for Noting

Meeting Finalisation

6.1 Review Actions to be Taken

6.2 Confirm Any Public Disclosures

6.3 Meeting Evaluation

6.4 Next Meeting Term 3 - Monday **18th November 2019**

New school captains to this meeting.

6.5 Meeting Close

*The meeting closed at **5.45pm***