

**Minutes of School Council Meeting
Wednesday 1 March 2017
Fortian Room 6.00pm**

1. Welcome and Apologies

Kathy Esson	Chair
Ros Moxham	Principal
Jane Bell	Parent Representative
Rachel Thompson	Parent Representative
Lai Heng Foong	Parent Representative
Justyn Boyle	Staff Representative
John Ockwell	Staff Representative
Don Newby	Foundation and Fortians Union Representative
Alex Coombs	SRC Representative
Cole Johnson	SRC Representative
Jules Davies	Executive Officer

Rebecca Cameron attended for the School Budget item.

Items below are reported on in the order in which they were discussed.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes were accepted.

3. Matters arising from minutes

As agenda

4. Correspondence

No correspondence.

6. School Budget Update

The 2017 planned school budget was circulated. This provides an overview of how the school budget is allocated. There is an equity loading based on socio-economic status, Aboriginal background, low level adjustment for disability and English language proficiency. The majority of the funds are for staffing. All funds are held centrally and FSHS applies for their release from the Department when needed, using an HR tool. After accounting for staffing costs, the school operational budget is then allocated for site-specific maintenance including mandatory expenses such as grounds and building maintenance and utility bills. The Principal and the School Administration base these allocations on costs from previous years. The Principal and the School Administration Manager calculate what funds remain by looking at any funds left over from the previous year, the funds already put into the Resource Allocation Model (RAM) for mandatory expenditure, previous commitments and funds collected from the general school contribution. Mandatory expenses are then subtracted and the final figure for discretionary expenditure is given to the Finance Committee, whose responsibility is to allocate these funds to school faculties and whole school programs. The school also keeps funds in reserve to pay for ongoing costs. There is an asset replacement reserve and this year the school will be replacing printers and photocopiers. Additional funds have also been reserved for extra staffing including an additional Deputy Principal to allow for extra oversight of Head Teachers and more depth as each Deputy Principal is responsible for one of the strategic directions. Most of the parents pay the school contribution and all parents pay the subject contributions, which is helpful. There is also strong support from the P&C.

The spare block of land in front of Kennards is for future building of the new tiered learning space. The school currently has approx. \$500K towards this project that is expected to cost close to \$4mill.

The Finance Committee evaluates requests for funds against the school plan, and activities are funded that align with one of the three strategic directions as well as directly to faculties.

There is a budget that is awarded per capita for professional development which the school enhances.

Faculties are asked to give a rationale behind all requests and feedback is given as to why a request was refused or only part approved. This is a new feature this year to add transparency

to the process. From next year each Head Teacher will also have the opportunity to discuss their requests with the Finance Committee. Some faculties have requested large amounts for items and projects, which have had to be held in abeyance. The P&C have offered to commit to some of the whole school programs and technology.

12. House Names

This item was **moved to Term 2**

11. SRE

This was discussed at the P&C meeting in February as some parents disagree strongly with religion being taught in school. The Principal stressed that we are following Government policy. As discussed at the School Council meeting in September 2016, SRE is timetabled to occur on Tuesday in period 4. There are approx. 70 students who take part in a combined protestant class. All other students have a study period.

Ethics is provided as an alternative in primary schools only as there is not an ethics syllabus for high school.

10. Assessment Policy

The Executive have looked at this policy and are seeking to make minor adjustments which will be brought to the **School Council meeting in April**.

9. School Canteen update

Feedback received from new staff has been positive. The new healthy schools canteen policy has been launched recently. It replaces the traffic light system and aims to give flexibility. It will be implemented over a three year period. This is the last year of the current canteen lease. The principal and the canteen manager will be meeting this term and this item will be updated **in April**.

8. Library update

A survey has been completed to investigate how the community would like to use the library. The results align with previous proposals for library improvement. Ideally the library will become an information centre hub. There are further strategy meetings planned and the School Council will receive an **update in Term 2**.

7. TAS Evaluation results

We have a new Head Teacher TAS who joined in the last 3 weeks before the end of term. He is working with his faculty to update programs including a reinvigorated technology committee. There is still one teacher vacancy to fill. The faculty was commended for the good work done in such a climate of change. **The summary report of the evaluation will be provided to Council members. The School Council will be updated on TAS recommendations in April.**

5. Strategic Plan

This is the final year of the current strategic plan. The School Council looked at the milestone document that records how projects are progressing and what the school expects to achieve over the year against the three strategic directions. This is not a public document and is constantly being adjusted.

Each Deputy Principal is responsible for a strategic direction and leads a team. Results will be reported in the Annual Report.

The 'Tell them from Me' survey that is offered every year will be administered in class this year, as it was last year, in order to secure a good response rate. This year the school will also be asking a small number of additional questions with more relevance to FSHS. The Principal will provide the key learnings from the Tell them from Me report, which were recently discussed by the Executive, to the Council.

There will be a further update on the Strategic Plan in April.

The Council also discussed the School Excellence Framework, which is used as a reference tool to assist schools in producing better plans for the future. The school conducts a self assessment against the SEF every year, and once in every 5 years the school is visited to have its assessments validated.

The School Council looked over the SEF document and noted that some of the quantitative measures are not necessarily appropriate to selective schools. The self assessment document indicates where the school saw itself last year. There was a session on self assessment at the PD Day and staff are starting to articulate progress. External validation results show that schools are usually very tough on themselves. The results of the self assessment from 2015 were from focus group activity at Executive level. This year staff will be involved.

Members of the School Council were asked to choose a section of the framework and rank the school without referencing the survey. This will be revisited in April.

13. School Building update

Last year the School Council looked at two sets of plans for improvements to the Library and the new tiered learning centre. To fund both buildings ourselves would cost around \$8 million. We need to look at how to increase our level of contributions. The principal has asked the School Council to take a lead on this. Sydney Girls HS may provide some guidance. The Council will also look at an 'opt out' approach to contributions to the Building Fund for 2018 and beyond. This will come to a later meeting.

It was agreed that Council will establish a Sub -Committee to consider optimal ways of seeking funds to progress the building plans. The Chair asked for expressions of interest from Council members to join the Sub-Committee before the April meeting.

14. Principal's Report

The principal referred the School Council to Mercurius for a full report. It has been a busy term. Speech Day was very successful on 17 February with Tom Cooney (Fortian 2007) as guest speaker.

The school has welcomed a number of new staff details of which are in Mercurius.

The school day has changed so there is no roll call. Regular assemblies, year meetings and SRE are all included.

Student successes already have included Zero Robotics where students successfully wrote code that was then used to control a robot on the International Space Station.

Other recent Fortian graduate successes include James Leeder, who with his debating partner, won the World University Debating Championships representing Sydney University, and Marlowe Fitzwilliam who is currently studying renaissance literature at the Sorbonne in Paris as part of his Sydney University Arts-Law degree. Whilst in Paris, Marlowe is also continuing studying the organ with Johann Vexo at Notre-Dame de Paris and has been invited to audition for the Sorbonne Orchestra as a Clarinet 1.

The Fortian Magazine will be distributed next week. Catriona Arcamone and the student team responsible for this publication are to be commended.

HSC results will be discussed in April.

15. Other Reports

P&C Report

There will be a meeting in early April to discuss the new Healthy Eating policy and the canteen. The P&C will also discuss ways to support the school financially.

Student Report

The SRC organised the trivia night for Years 7 and 8, and also a successful Rose Drive for Valentine's Day. There is no Fort Fest this year and the SRC are discussing other events including a possible volleyball competition and an SRC afternoon tea with other schools.

Fortians Union Report

No report

Foundation Report

The Foundation meets tonight.

16. Other business

The Parent Representative asked for the School Council's opinion on providing Basic Life Support Training to students. As an Emergency Room Physician the parent rep is offering to provide all the resources necessary at a convenient time for the school. The P&C is very supportive of this idea and keen to help.

The principal will look at involving students in Year 10 and above, including Duke of Edinburgh Award students and PDHPE students. This will be discussed out of session.

The next Council meeting is on **Wednesday 5 April 2017**.