

MINUTES - CHS P&C MEETING 14 November 2023, 7:00pm

Attendance

Nick Brady (Chair)
Corey London
Rebecca Andrews
Mary Zdjelar
Kim Birstins-Crabtree
Tristan Howison
Emma Scott
Susan Geldart

Tony Ibrahim
Han Ozman
Tracey Farina-Van Wierst
Kristen Brotherton
Rena Haag-Hatzi
Apologies – Gitte Foran

GEM Girls Presentation

- The meeting opened with a presentation from School SSO Amy who introduced the GEM Girls Program and then handed over to Sian (year9) who shared a presentation about the work that GEM Girls are doing in support of Project Youth's work to support young people at risk of homelessness.
- GEM stands for Goal Driven, Empowered and Motivated. The program's mission is to empower students with information and strategies to help promote their leadership potential.
- On behalf of GEM Girls, a request for \$500 sponsorship was made to go towards the preparation of mini First Aid Kits which will be included in backpacks being compiled to donate to young people at risk of homelessness.
- Sian and Amy provided additional details around the work undertake to secure sponsorship and support for GEM Girls – for example securing 100 bundles valued at \$70 each from Modi Bodi; coordinating donations for a sausage sizzle to raise money; and encouraging coverage by The Leader to further raise the profile of this work.
- *A motion was moved by Emma and the P&C voted to provide \$1000 towards the GEM Girls Project Youth At risk of Homelessness Support Backpacks – to support the purchase of additional items for the backpacks or to be used in other ways (e.g. catering for sausage sizzle) to raise funds for Project Youth.*

Post meeting note – [Leader Article](#)

Welcome

- The chair thanked Sian and Amy for their time and welcomed all present. The intention to keep meetings to 1 hour in duration was noted by the Chair.

Call for new members

- CHS P&C Association welcomed Tracey Farina-Van Wierst who became a financial member of the P&C. Voting rights are effective from the next general meeting.
- The Chair thanked Tracey for her interest and support.

For ACTION: Mary to update the member register.

Minutes of the last meeting

- The minutes of the meeting 10th October were approved with no amendment required however, it was noted that new letterhead is now being used.

Business Arising

New Auditor Update – Simone Elkington

- We are very grateful to have had a parent offer to take on the auditor role for the P&C - Simone Elkington. Thank you Simone!

- Corey noted that he had spoken to Simone and welcomed her, thanking her for her willingness to support the P&C.

Solar Panel Update – Emma Scott

- Emma drafted letter (see Appendix B and Appendix C) which was cleared by Tony
- Submitted via the NSW Government Contact A Minister portal on 13 November to:
 - The Hon. Prue Car MP (Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney); and
 - Hon Penny Sharpe MLC (Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage).
- Tony noted the excellent work by Emma and the strategy whereby we are seeking DoE to provide CHS compensation on the same contribution basis as other schools that participated in the Schools Renewable Energy Co-Contribution Program (dating back to 2016). This would help offset the capital outlay incurred by our school and community.
- In the correspondence, Emma noted that CHS is seeking equitable treatment and recognition for our commitment to renewable energy and the environment. She requested support and intervention in this matter to ensure that CHS is fairly & fully compensated for its solar panel initiative and to enable us to continue serving our students effectively.
- We are awaiting a response and/or an invitation to further discuss or provide additional information to facilitate a resolution.
- All members were impressed and grateful for Emma's work on this matter.

P&C Support for individual students at representative levels

- **Confirmation of amounts & payment methods**
 - Nick noted that the school office prefers using VISA gift cards and these only come in \$100 or \$50 amounts. The administrative costs per VISA gift card was raised and members agreed this is excessive for high volumes.
 - Members discussed options around School Representative sponsorship – in particular providing students with sponsorship without parental knowledge; whether some families would not wish to seek/receive sponsorship; students who don't end up competing/withdraw from an event and other opportunities to promote the option for sponsorship to families.
 - Note: Eli advised Tony that he had withdrawn from his volleyball competition and therefore he returned the P&C sponsorship cheque. The P&C noted how impressed they were with his diligence and honesty in returning the unrepresented cheque.
 - It was agreed that cheque payments would continue to be issued for any School Representative Payment amounts.
- *A motion was moved by Mary and the P&C voted to promote P&C School Representative sponsorship via school social media/newsletter/email at the beginning of each term. A letter noting that families should provide their details to the Principal who will forward to P&C if they wish to be Sponsored.*
- **DRAFT Letter to accompany sponsorship – circulated with agenda**
- Following the above discussion and vote, the DRAFT letter will be amended to reflect that if families would like to access the P&C Sponsorship, they should provide their details to the Principal for onforwarding to the P&C.

For ACTION: Mary to update the letter and provide to Tony. Tony to provide the letter to Sports staffroom and Performing Arts staff.

P&C Forward Spending Details

- Nick circulated the forward spending details and pie chart via email (See Appendix D)
- This covered spending November 2022 to November 2023

- It was noted that several items were not captured (due to previous year payment timing) including:
 - Ed Rollo – education platform for Yr 11&12 students
 - Yr10 & Yr12 Awards Day & Mocktail Celebration
- Nick noted that he will break down the Student Recognition (GOLD/DUX) and Sponsorship for Representation for future forward spending updates

Community Building Partnership Grant Application

- The grant submission Application No. CBP23 – 1427 was completed and submitted on 27 October.
- Total amount sought was \$24,344
- Members thanks all involved, particularly Rebecca who took the lead in completing the grant application.
- The application was to cover Kitchen upgrades in the new building including:
 - Kitchen items including - Coffee Machine, Drink Dispenser, Catering Trolley, Bain-Marie, Pie Warmers, Crockery, glassware and cooking items
 - Outside Chilled Drinking and Bottle Refill Station
- Successful applications will be decided by NSW Premier. The date for the announcement of successful grant recipients is unknown.

Correspondence

- Details provided with Agenda (see below Appendix A)
- Corey noted work he has been undertaking to try to update the ABN details for the CHS P&C. Investigations have been proving challenging as we are uncertain as to whom the previous 'authorised person' is. It doesn't appear that any office bearers details have previously been recorded.
- Tony noted it may be a previous P&C president Marion Gately.
- Corey will continue to work through this and will use the Minutes from the 2023 AGM and will contact P&C Federation by email (no luck via phone to date).

For ACTION: Corey to email P&C Federation to seek their support in updating the ABN details.

Treasurer's Report

- See attached report
- Nick noted that Leasa advised an expected \$5-6K in levy's (for 2024 year 7) should be forthcoming shortly
- Further to earlier discussions:
 - *Rebecca raised a motion that P&C again pay 50% of the total cost of Ed Rollo Education Platform for Year 11 & Year 12 – approximately \$7K. Members voted in favour*
 - *Kim raised a motion that P&C again contribute \$5K each to Year 10 and Year 12 end of year awards/celebrations (total \$10K). Members voted in favour*

For ACTION: Nick to liaise with Leasa regarding vouchers for GOLD and DUX awards and to undertake a final reconciliation in December.

Principal's Report

- Head Teacher English – closes tomorrow after two previous rounds without success
- Panel for GA (2 days per week) is being set up with Nick as the Parent panel representative
- NSW Department of Education has appointed a new Deputy Principal to replace Joel Burnett– we will be welcoming Lisa Edwards as the new Deputy.
 - Lisa has been a Head Teacher English at Engadine, Deputy at Port Hacking, worked in the Department (Capability, Implementation and School Excellence) and has been relieving Principal at Bankstown Girls High for the first 3 terms of 2023.
 - Lisa will take up her position at the beginning of 2024 school year.
- Building updates:



- Hall – is running over 4 ½ months late and at this stage, due to be completed in mid-January 2024
- Quad Building will be finished in 2 weeks, once occupancy certificate has been received, we will be ready to use. It includes 6 class and breakout rooms upstairs and toilet, canteen, teacher commonroom and PE staffroom downstairs.
- Next stage is to commence new building in the front of the school – to commence in the holidays and due for completion in October 2024.
- Although already discussed, Tony expressed his thanks to Rebecca for all her work in pulling together the Community Building Partnership grant application.
- Grease the Musical is on from 5-7 December, 6:30pm. Tickets will be available via TryBooking. It is suitable for families and there is consideration of a matinee for family members – contact the school. Primary schools will be invited.
- As it is the final meeting of 2023, Tony thanked all members for their support and positivity across 2023 and wished everyone a great Christmas.

General Business

- The suggestion to invite school leaders to the first meeting in 2024 was raised, noting this had been discussed as a great idea earlier in the year.
- Emma raised the topic of the SRC and limited participation by boys. Given the time, it was agreed to carry this forward to the agenda for the first meeting in the new year.
 - Tony noted high participation rates for School Leadership team across the genders but agreed, participation by boys was limited for SRC.
 - The school indicated it was willing to consider conducting a survey to seek feedback from students around SRC membership and involvement.
 - Members are invited to seek feedback from their students and any other schools they may be connected with and report back with ideas.

For ACTION: Mary to add SRC participation to the agenda for first meeting in 2024.

Meeting closed at 8:20ish

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Appendix A – Correspondence In/Out

From: Simone [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 5:28 PM
To: Cronulla High School <cronulla-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au>
Subject: Fwd: CHS - CHS P&C Association is seeking nominations for the role of P&C Auditor

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the NSW Department of Education. Be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

Hi,

I don't have a lot of time as I work full time but if you struggle to fill the auditor role I can help. I have been an auditor for over 15 years, 12 as an external auditor with EY. I have CIMA and CISA not CA qualifications but have let them lapse as I now work in Risk. I was the treasurer for Austin and Freya [REDACTED] aftercare service at primary school. I finished that role in 2015.

Thanks

Simone ([REDACTED])

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Cronulla High School <noreply@mail.schoolbytes.education>
Date: 2 November 2023 at 9:03:10 am AEDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: CHS - CHS P&C Association is seeking nominations for the role of P&C Auditor
Reply-To: Cronulla High School <cronulla-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au>

6/11/23 & 10/11/23 - Susan Geldart

- Advice of update required to letterhead and provision of the updated school crest and letterhead
- Now in use

8/11/23 - Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW

- shared details for Webinar on 16 November – Navigating Online Friendships
- circulated to P&C members

3/11/23 – Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW

- request made by CHS P&C Secretary to update incorporation certificate in portal
- details updated and copy provided 6/11/23

1/11/23 - Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW

- shared details Parent Voice Survey – Vaping Among Students in NSW (closed 9 November)
- circulated to P&C members

31/10/23 – CHS P&C Request for Auditor

- email circulated to all CHS parents and carers via email

27/10/23 – Community Building Partnership Grant lodged (Application No. CBP23 – 1427)

- amazing work by all and a huge thank you to Rebecca who took the lead in completing the grant application

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Ph: 9523 4017 Fax: 9523 0909 Email: cronulla-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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Appendix B – sent by Emma Scott via NSW Government webform

From: NSW Government <webforms@customerservice.nsw.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 4:42 PM

To: Sharpe Office Email <office@sharpe.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: 2023-1725 - Cronulla High School Solar initiative - meeting request

Subject Cronulla High School Solar initiative - meeting request

This is relating to Climate change

Dear Minister Sharpe,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of great importance to Cronulla High School (CHS) and its community, regarding the solar panel installation project initiated in 2014.

In 2014, CHS, with a strong commitment to sustainability and the environment, took it upon themselves to install 500 solar panels through a combination of school and community funds. This ambitious project was undertaken for two main reasons: first, to demonstrate our commitment to sustainable environmental solutions and clean energy for the school, and second, to ultimately save costs on electricity and allocate these savings to meet the educational needs of our students that were not sufficiently funded through public means.

The total cost of the solar panel installation in 2014 amounted to \$236,777. The school contributed \$206,777 through self-funded sources, and the Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) contributed \$30,000 through fundraising and voluntary donations. This initiative was driven not only by our environmental responsibility but also by the potential for cost savings and improvement of the Department's infrastructure.

In 2016, the Department of Education (DoE) initiated the Schools Renewable Energy Co-Contribution Program (SRECP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve schools' environmental performance. Schools participating in the SRECP received co-contributions from the DoE for installing solar panels. However, CHS's solar panel installation occurred two years prior to the introduction of this program.

The situation took a turn in 2021 when the DoE centralized electricity invoices, and schools were no longer required to pay their electricity bills, thus no longer receiving funding for electricity. This meant that the power generated by our solar panels, which were financed by the school and its community, benefited the DoE rather than CHS.

In an effort to address this issue, we reached out to the DoE and received responses stating that there was no provision for co-contributions to schools that installed solar panels before the SRECP program began. Furthermore, the Department refused to provide any retrospective funding toward the capital cost of our solar PV system.

I acknowledge that the DoE has declined to provide retrospective funding for the capital cost of our solar PV system. However, I believe it is only fair and reasonable for the DoE to provide CHS compensation on the same contribution basis as other schools that participated in the SRECP. This would help offset the capital outlay incurred by our school and community.

Our intention is not to create an undue burden on the DoE but rather to seek equitable treatment and recognition for our commitment to renewable energy and the environment. I kindly request your support and intervention in this matter to ensure that CHS is fairly & fully compensated for its solar panel initiative and to enable us to continue serving our students effectively.

I am grateful for your time and attention to this matter. Please let us know how we can further discuss this issue or provide any additional information that may be required to facilitate a resolution.

Attached is a summary document to help you get across this situation.

Emma Scott

CHS P&C Association.

I would like a response Yes

Privacy Collection Notice NSW government Privacy Statement: **Agreed**

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Appendix C – Attachment to above Request

Cronulla High School

Timeline of key dates for school solar panel initiative

Purpose: assist P&C in request for participation in SRECP incentive scheme

| Date | Item |
|---------------|---|
| Pre 2014 | DoE provides funding to schools which includes electricity funding to pay school electricity costs |
| 2014 | CHS installed 500 solar panels through school and community funds Two reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate commitment to school community for sustainable solutions for the environment with respect to clean energy usage for the school; and 2. The cost of the panels would be paid for over 5 years, and after that the savings arising between the electricity allocation funding from the DoE and the solar panel generation would be available to the school to meet the educational needs of students not being provided through sufficient public funding |
| 2014 Cost | Total solar panel cost = \$236,777 School contribution = \$206,777 (source: canteen, international students, hire of hall, location fee for commercials, movies and TV commercials, not global funds) P&C contribution = \$30,000 (fundraising and voluntary contributions from parents) |
| 2014 Specs | CHS received permission to go outside procurement and proceed with the purchase and installation. Both procurement and the SED at the time gave their approval. This was done to not only improve our carbon footprint but to also improve Department infrastructure. Solgen was on procurement and the quote they gave at the time was over \$100,000 more than the quote we received from Sunlease. Both companies were using the same panels Trina and SMA convertors. Both companies gave the same warranty on the product and workmanship. Our final cost was \$236,777 for a 95kwh system. The other advantage we had with going through Sunlease was we were able to pay the product off over 5 years. |
| 2016 | DoE commences a Schools Renewable Energy Co-Contribution Program (SRECP) –purpose is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve a schools environmental performance Schools who successfully apply to the SRECP can receive co-contributions from the DoE for installing solar panels |
| 2021 | DoE centralises electricity invoices in 2021, seven years after the CHS solar panels are installed. This means that schools are no longer required to pay their electricity invoices and no longer receive funding for electricity . If they have paid for solar panels, the power generated is to the benefit of the DoE and not the school |
| 29 June 2022 | Tony Ibrahim contacted Mark Speakman. |
| 8 August 2022 | Letter send to Sarah Mitchell NSW MLC Minister for Education and Early Learning, Deputy Leader of the Government in the legislative |

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| | |
|-------------------|---|
| | Council by Attorney General NSW Mark Speakman Member for Cronulla <u>Response – see below</u> |
| 19 September 2022 | Letter sent to Attorney General Mark Speakman, Member for Cronulla from Sarah Mitchell MLC, <u>Response</u> |
| 16 October 2022 | Email from Tony Ibrahim to Mark Speakman advising of disappointment of school and P&C at response from Education Minister and putting him on notice P&C discussing next steps |

Regulatory change by DoE means the CHS budget is adversely affected in two ways:

1. We do not receive the benefit of the reduced electricity bills because that is now to the credit of the DoE
2. The DoE has denied us compensation to reflect the fact that:
 - the school and community purchased the panels out of their own money with no DoE contribution
 - The school and community no longer receive the credit for the electricity generated to benefit our school
 - Participants in SRECP were provided with capital reimbursement for the funds they contributed alongside the DoE to their school solar panels
 - Because the CHS panels were not part of SRECP, we are denied compensation for the capital outlay which is unfair and detrimental to our school and students

Response from Sarah Mitchell

To directly quote from the letter from the Minister for Education and Early Learning of 19 September 2022:

“There was no provision for co-contributions to schools that installed solar before the [SRECP] program began, and no ongoing provision to provide funding if schools install solar without going through SRECP.”

Those schools that did install panels under SRECP receive an annual incentive payment to provide them some financial return for their contribution towards installing solar for seven years post installation.

“The Department recognises Cronulla High School’s proactivity to invest in renewable energy at the school. Unfortunately, the Department is unable to provide any retrospective funding towards the capital cost of the solar PV system.”

Whilst the DoE has refused to provide retrospective funding toward the capital cost of the solar PV system, it is not unreasonable for the DoE to provide the same “incentive”/compensation to CHS on the same contribution basis as other schools who participated in SRECP.

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Key issue – CHS

CHS self-funded (through school and P&C money) 100% of solar panels prior to any announcement of/commencement of the DoE SRECP scheme.

As such, CHS is denied 100% reimbursement from the DoE.

CHS is also denied automatic access to the annual incentive payment being made to schools who co-funded 50/50 with the DoE through their SRECP scheme.

The DoE has advised CHS they will not provide CHS compensation outside the scheme.

CHS has asked the P&C to assist in taking the request for compensation further.

Desired outcome

CHS seeks to receive full compensation for the contribution by both Cronulla High School and the P&C.

Next Steps (to be discussed with School Exec and P&C)

1. P&C to contact Federation NSW P&C to request details of other schools who invested in solar panels prior to SRECP
2. P&C write to Mark Speakman, local member, current leader of the Opposition
3. P&C write to DoE (new incumbent is Prue Car MP)
4. Media – only if responses to P&C from above do not provide us with the compensation we are seeking, being the SRECP incentive equivalent offered to other schools

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Appendix D – CHS P&C Yearly Spend

CHS P&C yearly spend (2023)



Nick Brady <nick@fourplussix.com.au>

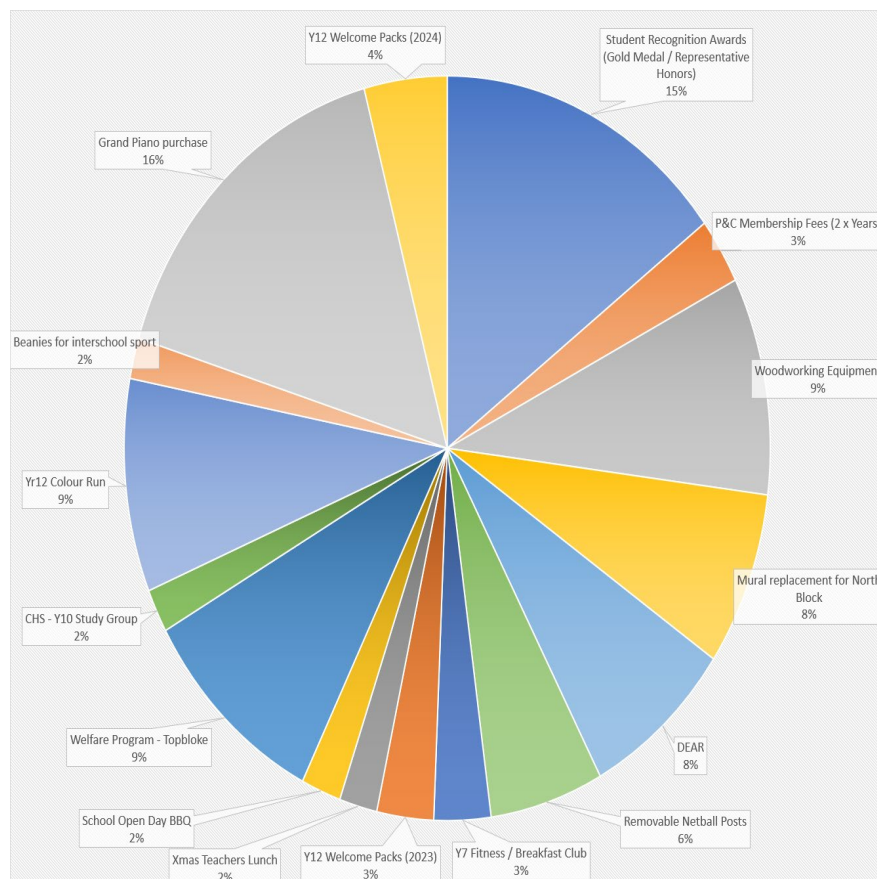
9/11/2023 6:37 PM

To: mmzdzelar1@gmail.com; Tony Ibrahim; joel.burnett1@det.nsw.edu.au; Rena Haag-Hatzi; susan.geldart@det.nsw.edu.au; Re

All,

Please see below summary of the year spending;

| | | |
|---|-----|--------------|
| Student Recognition Awards (Gold Medal / Representative Honors) | 15% | -\$7,748.00 |
| P&C Membership Fees (2 x Years) | 3% | -\$1,517.82 |
| Woodworking Equipment | 9% | -\$5,000.00 |
| Mural replacement for North Block | 8% | -\$4,000.00 |
| DEAR | 8% | -\$4,000.00 |
| Removable Netball Posts | 6% | -\$3,000.00 |
| Y7 Fitness / Breakfast Club | 3% | -\$1,500.00 |
| Y12 Welcome Packs (2023) | 3% | -\$1,500.00 |
| Xmas Teachers Lunch | 2% | -\$1,000.00 |
| School Open Day BBQ | 2% | -\$1,055.26 |
| Welfare Program - Topbloke | 9% | -\$5,000.00 |
| CHS - Y10 Study Group | 2% | -\$1,000.00 |
| Yr12 Colour Run | 9% | -\$4,888.00 |
| Beanies for interschool sport | 2% | -\$935.00 |
| Grand Piano purchase | 16% | -\$8,495.00 |
| Y12 Welcome Packs (2024) | 4% | -\$2,188.65 |
| | | -\$52,827.73 |



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