

**Beaumont Road Public School Council**  
**President's Report**  
**January 2017**

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**Purpose**

This report provides an overview of the work undertaken by School Council in 2016.

**Council membership and meetings**

*Council membership*

Malcolm McDonald	Executive Member, 12/9/2014 - current
Jane Coad	President 12/9/2014 – retired
Tim Jenkins	Secretary 12/9/2014 – retired
Carey Francis	Appointed Member (P&C) 13/3/2015 - current
Mary-Ellen Green	Teacher Representative 20/2/2015 – current
Jayna Hirani	Teacher Representative 1/5/2015 – current
Punam Wahan	Alternate Teacher Representative 1/5/2015 – current
Alister Henskens	Member for Ku-ring-gai, Community Member 21/8/2015 - current

*Meetings*

Meetings were held on the following dates:

- 5 February 2016
- 11 March 2016
- 6 May 2106
- 3 June 2016
- 29 July 2016
- 26 August 2016

An AGM was held on 6 May and President's Report is available on the [website](#).

At the request of the Principal no meetings were held in Term 4 2016.

**Recruitment**

On behalf of the School Council, the Appointed Member (P&C) participated in recruitment for teacher and support positions throughout the period.

## Planning

Council has responsibility to assess the needs of the school from time to time in areas such as buildings, grounds and facilities. In August 2015, a Building and Grounds Sub Committee was established.

In February 2016 Council released a draft Campus Master Plan Stage 1 - for consultation. The consultation "It's our campus – Have your say" was open to the school parent and teacher community. The plan contained a campus footprint showing options for proposed major building locations and works. Whilst planning was still underway in many areas, consultation was undertaken to provide further input to the planning process, help shape the completion of the campus master plan and initiate priority works.

The draft plan was available on Skoolbag, the school website, on display in the school office and bulletin board. Information meetings were held both during and after school hours.

Thirty submissions were received from the parent community and feedback was provided by teachers during a staff meeting. The feedback was reviewed by the Building Sub-Committee and a number of changes were made to the master plan for Stage 1. The outcome of the review was communicated on 26 May 2016.

The Campus Master Plan: Buildings – location and functions was published following acceptance by Council on 29 July 2016. See [school website](#) to access documents. The Stage 1 Plan is a significant achievement and positions BRPS well for future infrastructure development.

### *Multi-purpose building*

A major phase of the Plan is the construction of a new multi-purpose building adjacent the netball court. There were wide ranging discussions regarding the building including the funding model.

It was noted that funding sources available include \$140,000 (as at May 2016) in the school budget derived from rental income from the previous and current OSHC providers (future rental income from the current OSHC provider starts at ~\$58,000 per annum); a NSW Government grant for \$30,000 that was approved under the *Before and After School Care Fund - Phase 2* and ~ \$46,000 held by P&C from the previous Beaumont Road OOSH.

The Building Sub-Committee recommended that Council base budget planning on an estimated of \$300,000 for the prefabricated multi-purpose building project.

## Finances

### *Expenditure reports*

Council examined expenditure reports provided by the Principal. Council planned to take a more active involvement through the establishment of a Finance Sub-Committee to assist in determining broad budget priorities and developing the school budget plan. Following a review of the roles of Council and P&C the Sub-Committee was not established (see Governance section).

### *School fees*

A review of school fees for Term 1 2016 was undertaken in March 2016 following a parent enquiry and Council supported the current process of setting fees.

### **Policy**

The National Action Day for Bullying was 18 March. Mary Green and Punam Wahan lead an initiative which incorporated an anti-bullying programme and parent presentation.

### **Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)**

The provision of before and after school care and vacation care is an important service provided to over 120 families at Beaumont Road. Council focussed on two aspects throughout the year: the quality of service provided to families and ensuring we have a quality provider contracted to the school.

Council members Malcolm McDonald, Jane Coad and Carey Francis participated in the tender evaluation process with representatives from the DEC. The successful tenderer, OSHClub Pty Ltd, commenced services in Term 2 2016.

Parent meetings were held in Terms 2, 3 and 4 to gain feedback on the service. There has been an overwhelming acceptance of the new service provider and significant improvement in the quality of service provided in before/after school and vacation care.

### **Governance**

#### *Improved procedures*

A number of measures were implemented to improve the transparency and governance of the School Council. These initiatives included more detailed and structured papers for council meetings, regular communications in the school bulletin and Skoolbag, more timely publication of council minutes and open meetings held in the Library. Minutes and meeting papers (including those from sub-committee meetings) are held in hard copy in the School office.

#### *Review of Library Constitution*

Council undertook to review the Constitution of the Library Fund which is centred around the purchase of books and computer equipment, and did not envisage expenditure on staff or buildings. Feedback was provided to the Principal with further review and amendment made before review by DEC Finance.

#### *Term of office*

Council considered the term of office of council members and considered options to ensure a smoother working calendar for School Council. It was resolved that the current Council would operate until the end of Term 4 2016 to enable smoother transition.

## *Roles of Council and P&C*

The roles and function of School Council and P&C were reviewed by Malcolm McDonald, Jane Coad, Tim Jenkins, Carey Francis, Nick Walker-Levy and Meredith Holt following a request from P&C Executive. The review was initiated as some parents were uncertain about the role of School Council particularly in the areas of planning and finance and its relationship to P&C.

A facilitated workshop was held on 29 June with a subsequent meeting where various views were discussed. However, consensus was not reached in regard to a role different from that defined in the School Council's Constitution. The Principal requested that no meetings be held in Term 4 2016 and the need for a School Council be reviewed in Term 1 2017.

The [Constitution](#) of the School Council is unchanged, the Council retains all existing roles and functions. The BRPS P&C's role is reflected under its own Constitution.

## **Closing Remarks**

The aims of the School Council are:

- To bring together partners in the school community in order to make decisions relating to policies, planning and governance (including the school finances).
- To foster closer lines of communication between the school and its community.

The Council has endeavoured to meet those aims openly and transparently.

The open and collaborative approach to the development of the BRPS Campus Master Plan, the support provided by the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee and the approach to consultation on the plans and priorities was a first for Beaumont Road and provided the opportunity for broad and inclusive engagement with the school community. The Stage 1 Plan is a significant achievement and positions BRPS well for future infrastructure development. It is hoped that ongoing planning can be undertaken with the support of P&C in the areas of learning environments, outdoor spaces, infrastructure support and amenities as originally envisaged.

Securing the new OSHC service provider has also seen significant improvements in the services provided to children and families outside school hours. The Multipurpose Building Project, initiated by Council, will provide much needed accommodation for out of school hours care as well as a fantastic facility to support a wide variety of educational activities during the school day. This will be a very real and tangible benefit that has been enabled by the School Council.

It has been rewarding to have been part of these important initiatives and to contribute to our school.

*Jane Coad*

Jane Coad

President, School Council - 2014 – 2016

13 February 2017