# MOUNT OMMANEY SPECIAL SCHOOL
## PARENTS AND CITIZENS’ ASSOCIATION

### 16 March 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEETING OPENED:</th>
<th>7.05pm (immediately following AGM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATTENDANCE:</td>
<td>Susan Christensen, Sondra Vandeleur, Scott Northfield, Lyn Henderson, Sandra Schuptar, Melissa Farrell, Liza Raggatt, Tennille Graham, Kerrie Reid, Jen McDonald; Nick Martin (Avegates), Tarryn Davey (for 10mins);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APOLOGIES:</td>
<td>Wendy Hartzenberg, Karen Cramer, Hedy Voges-Haug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:</td>
<td>Proposed: Melissa Farrell Seconded: Sondra Vandeleur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BUSINESS ARISING:
- The Committee agreed to try the Little Escapades Family discount book fundraiser this year instead of the Entertainment books.
- P&C Calendar has been uploaded to school website.

### CORRESPONDANCE IN:
- Minutes from the Parent Community Engagement meeting (15 February) received 18/2, with thanks.
- Reply from Tarnya Smith MP on fencing issue dated 4 March; confirmation from Christian Rowan MP (3 March) and Ian Rickuss MP (8 March) that they had been in touch with Tarnya Smith on the same matter.
- Reply from P&Cs QLD concerning the NDIS/ECDP issue (14 March).
- Copy of petition supporting the continuation of Mount Ommaney ECDP in its current form with 65+ signatures (organized by Charlotte Kvennefors and Cherina Kelly, parents of ECDP 2015 graduates).
- P&C QLD emails, including advice of State Conference to be held in Gladstone 9-10 September.
- RACQ monthly magazine & Parent Talk.

### CORRESPONDANCE OUT:
- Letter to our local MP Tarnya Smith requesting support for finding funds for critical fencing needs, despatched 23/2. Followed up with similar letters to Dr Christian Rowan MP (Moggill), Ian Rickuss MP (Lockyer).
- Letter to P&Cs QLD seeking support to ensure that the essential educational services currently offered through our ECDPs are not lost with the introduction of the NDIS, despatched 24/2.
- Letter to MOSS and ECDP parents providing an update on the same issue, attaching a template letter to local MPs to raise awareness of our concerns, despatched 29/2. Letters subsequently sent to Dr Christian Rowan MP (Moggill) and Ian Rickuss MP (Lockyer ).
- P&C Newsletter February 2016 distributed 1/3.

### Special Guest (Tarryn Davey):
Tarryn advised that Tarnya Smith MP had followed up with the Minister regarding urgent funding for school fencing. Following Tarnya’s advice, the school had re-applied for a Community Benefit Funding Grant (max $35,000), substituting an application for fencing for an earlier one for the Outdoor Sensory Learning Centre.

Tarryn also noted that Tarnya had been contacted by a number of constituents concerning the fate of ECDPs following the introduction of the NDIS. Our local member fully supports ECDPs and is asking for funding to help them continue. Tarnya is also asking questions during Parliamentary sessions this week.
The P&C welcomed Tarnya Smith MP’s continued support for the students at our school, and thanked Tarryn for attending on her behalf.

**AVEGATES (Nick Martin):**

Funding for before/after school care for special schools remains extremely difficult in the lead-up to the roll-out of NDIS, but the P&C looks forward to staying in touch with Avegates on this issue.

Nick is happy to put the remaining Avegates funds that have been earmarked for MOSS (approx $2000) towards a school camp. Kerrie has found a number of options with a range of prices: depending which camp is confirmed, some small contribution may be sought from participating families. The most likely scenario is for EOIs to go out to families of Senior School students to attend a 3 day, 2 night camp towards the end of Term 3. Numbers and staffing requirements to be confirmed following return of those EOIs.

**TREASURER’S REPORT (provided by former Treasurer prior to handover with Scott):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance as at 1 February 2016</td>
<td>$18,659.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plus Receipts:</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Payments:</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Balance as at 29 February 2016</td>
<td>(confirmed figures to follow)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P&C finances: in accordance with our Fundraising Plan, the P&C needed to confirm our priorities for fundraising in 2016. Following discussions between the P&C Exec and the school, it was proposed that:

1. The P&C will contribute $950 (currently held in the school account and allocated for this purpose) towards the purchase of two tricycles for senior students.

2. Certain large projects that were on our priority list (Senior play ground, Sensory room upgrade, ECDP playground equipment, outdoor sensory learning centre and I block play space) all need to be costed and stage planned so will be placed on hold while costing is completed.

3. The P&C will fund a hoist ($2500) and an electric change table ($2500) as well as AAC switches (up to $500).

4. Further contact is required with people and organisations that have tagged monetary donations to specific projects.

Scott (new Treasurer) also undertook to investigate further funding options via Community Sector Banking.

Moved: Liza Raggatt  Seconded: Kerrie Reid

**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:**

**School Improvement Agenda 2016**

Susan reported on a recent visit by Andrew Hawke (Principal Supervisor, State-wide Special Schools) where he commented positively on the school improvement agenda.

The two school improvement focus areas for MOSS in 2016 are:

- Quality Curriculum – Implementation
- Develop a balanced literacy approach for all students.
  The detail in the Annual Implementation plan was developed collaboratively during a recent whole day leadership team meeting. This document, together with the school data plan and pedagogical framework, was presented to the P&C and will be made available to all families via the website.

Data collection strategies for communication and numeracy/literacy are being implemented. All students’ communication is being assessed using the Communications Matrix and Quest Assessment maps. Parents are invited to assess their students at home and share with their teachers. [https://www.communicationmatrix.org/](https://www.communicationmatrix.org/)  [http://ccce.org.uk/curriculum/sen_inclusion/assessment/quest_learning](http://ccce.org.uk/curriculum/sen_inclusion/assessment/quest_learning)

**Staffing**
Tracy Cronin, Head of Curriculum, has been Acting Deputy Principal at Woody Point Special School for Term 1, but will be returning to MOSS (both as HOC and in a teaching capacity) from Term 2 (TBC).

Bernie Ellis, Master Teacher, is continuing to support the school in 2016. The focus for her action research project will be Literacy. More information will be provided for families via the newsletter.

**Intensive Interaction**
Susan and Louis Ruzic (II Coordinator) have been working closely to develop a detailed plan to improve the use of II throughout the school. Key initiatives include:
- Six sessions of professional development for all teacher aides.
- Scheduled professional development for teachers.
- Dave Hewitt visit to school to support new teachers in II.
- Louise to attend the II Coordinator Course.
- Expressions of Interest to be sought for parent II training.
- Use of QUEST as a data capture tool
- Collation of video evidence (how other schools are doing this)
- Moderation processes
- Application for Showcase awards.

**Capacity building for staff**
Most professional learning for 2016 will be in-house. Teachers have been invited to choose the capacity building staff member that they would like to work with throughout the year. Externally sourced professional development will include attendance by the school data team at a series of professional learning days with Lyn Sharat “Putting Faces on the Data”. Jane Farrall will also be based at MOSS for one week in Term 2, working with teachers to support a balanced literacy approach for all students.

**Literacy Assistant**
Chris Splann is the new part-time Literacy Assistant at the school, working directly with students to support a balanced literacy approach.
Facilities
Susan advised that a new School Strategic Infrastructure Plan had been
finalized (in consultation with Michael O’Keefe) and submitted to DET. The
#1 priority was fencing, followed by the Senior Playground and outdoor
learning areas for the Early Years and Middle schools, new facilities (e.g.
resurfacing driveways, extending undercover bus area), modernizing
teaching blocks A-E, and signage.

A number of defects in the new teaching block (H and I blocks) are still being
rectified, including removal of carpet, additional fencing, grass & plants to
come, resourcing (toys, whiteboards, ipads).

Gastro outbreak
The P&C thanked the school for the steps taken to minimize the impact of
the gastro outbreak this term. Susan noted that the additional cleaning had
cost $3000 and communal areas were still all out of use. There was a request
for earlier advice to families if any health risk (such as gastro) arose in a
student’s class so that parents/carers could take an informed decision
whether to send their child to school or not. The P&C also urged the school
to advise UCC (vacation care providers at the school) about the gastro
outbreak in advance of the Easter school holidays.

Budget
The P&C asked for the previous practice to be reinstated whereby a copy of
the school budget is shared at P&C meetings with a short dot point summary
of any expenditure changes that have occurred from the forecasted budget.

School Opinion surveys 2015
The P&C asked for a summary of results from the 2015 School Opinion
surveys to be provided at our next meeting.

ECDP REPORT:
Sandra Schuptar reported that:
- 60 children will be attending the ECDP from the start of Term 2.
- Most IEPs will be finalized in time for the beginning of Term 2.
- Huge thanks to Norah for her work in the veggie garden. Planting to
  begin shortly, following successful Easter raffle which raised $70.

NDIS and EQ: The DG of Education and the Education Minister recently
announced their position re the early start of the NDIS in QLD. This is
welcome, but has also raised some concerns. Many of the ECDP parents
have contacted their local MPs as requested by the P&C. The mother of a
child who attended the ECDP several years ago created an online petition
sent to the Education Minister with over 9000 signatures. She has also
presented on radio and been reported in the Courier Mail.
ECIA recently met with Meg Quinn (Director NDIS DET) and Anna Brazier
(Director Disability NDIS Implementation Officer) to share concerns re the
closure of ECDPs. The meeting gave the ECIA a clearer understanding of the
government’s position. ECIA provided fuller information which it is hoped
## PARENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT:

Kerrie advised that the Parent Community Engagement Action Plan is being updated and will be shared with staff and families shortly.

### Communication:
- School newsletter will go out next week and will include a call out for parent/carer helpers (specifically for assisting with literacy in the classroom for one-on-one reading). Newsletters will now go out twice a term.
- Parent Information Circulars have been reformatted and Friday dissemination recommenced at the end of February.

### Learning Partnerships:
- Limited horse riding in Term 1 due to the gastro outbreak.
- The Horse Care program continues to go well and we look forward to seeing the program develop further next term.
- YMCA Fitness Program resumes in Term 2
- EOI s re Splitz Gym EOI have been very positive and should begin early in Term 2.
- The Seniors’ newspaper run is continuing this year and other possible programs are being investigated for later in the year.
- Much interest received from local TAFE colleges and universities to have students do placement at the school. Kerrie is trying to accommodate as many as possible while still maintaining our pool of volunteers.

### Community Collaboration:
- Community Constables to visit the school on a more regular basis.

### Participation:
- Family Fun Day has been rescheduled for 17 April. Brisbane Pony Hire rebooked for no extra charge. Following feedback from parents, extra marquees & additional seating will be available. Music will be provided by Sarah Dunstan who is going to organise a more child-friendly music experience with instruments available.
- The Centenary Rotary Fun Run at Rocks Riverside on Sunday 22 May is now open for registrations. **To join the MOSS team please follow these steps:**
  2. Click Join an existing Team and type in Mount Ommaney Special School
  3. Select Mount Ommaney Special School to join this Team & follow prompts to finalise registration.
- Baby & Kids Market: preparations are underway for a huge market on 11 June. P&C agreed to take a break from the annual students’
Art Auction this year, with a view to avoiding the concept growing stale.

Grant Applications:

- Rotary Club of Greater Springfield has generously submitted an application for a grant (approx $7500) to upgrade the Sensory Room. Two quotes obtained from the company that fitted the equipment in the room previously.
- Lend Lease application (for the new space between C Block and I/H Block) is almost complete and ready for submission.
- The Gaming Grant application for the Outdoor Sensory Learning Centre was withdrawn and resubmitted for fencing.
- Other opportunities being pursued via Grill’d and Little Seeds.
- Unfortunately the SongRoom was unsuccessful in its application to the Mazda Foundation on our behalf for Imagination Station.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- P&C Calendar: Susan confirmed that a date had been set for the school to celebrate Purple Day for Epilepsy on Thursday 24 April, parents to be advised shortly.
- Uniforms: big thanks to Sarah Santos and Ingrid Morrow for starting the stocktake of existing uniforms.
- Channels of communication: positive feedback on the P&C newsletter distributed following our February meeting.
- Held over for meeting of Parent & Community Engagement Committee (21/3): sector information brochures and sessions for parents.

NEXT MEETING: The next P&C meeting will be at 6.30pm on Wednesday 4 May.

MEETING CLOSED: 9.25pm

Signed by the President of the meeting verifying the accuracy of the Minutes as accepted by the Association:

Date: ______________________