

## Parents and Friends Inc.

### EAST LAUNCESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Minutes of meeting held on May 4, 2016.**

**Meeting opened at 7.05pm.**

**Attendance:** Jess Downie (P&F chairman), Sarah Foster (P&F vice-president), Ross Smith (P&F treasurer, initial meeting chairman, then handed to Jess), Michael Lowe (P&F secretary), Hugh Christie, Greg Bradfield, Emmy Brient (ELPS principal), Julie Briggs (assistant principal), Rachel Brown (assistant principal), Brett Hay (assistant principal), Paul Vandenburg, Kim Barber, Angela Phyland (P&F general committee member), Jane Gaetani-Black, George Hyde, Dan Ryan, Libby Glover, Nick Glover, Caroline Davies (teacher).

**Apologies:** Leigh Anthony, Tim Whiteley, Claudine Ball, Lucy Hyde, Clare Mawdesley, Vanessa Ross.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** Ross Smith called for a motion that the minutes of the previous meeting dated April 6, 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record Ross Smith, Jess Downie.

**CARRIED** . It was decided that an action list of what needed to be done, and by whom, would also be compiled. It was also decided to generally stay with the more informal process of using first names, rather than last names and titles, in the minutes

**Business arising from the previous minutes:** Ross Smith said he could not find the oval-pavilion strategic plan, but he had found a related document. **Action list item:** Ross will circulate the planning document. Jess Downie said she had invited Education Department officials to meet with the P&F executive, to discuss the department's suggestion of a co-contribution (a gift of land) from the P&F to the school redevelopment. The P&F executive and master planning group will meet Education Department staff on May 23. Principal Emmy Brient said the department may be able to give a redevelopment timeframe at that meeting. Jess said she had also gone through the draft of the proposed new Education Act. And she said based on that reading, she was not sure that the P&F was an arm of the School Association, as previously advised. There was an extended discussion about the relationship between the P&F and the School Association and how the new act would impact on that relationship, and what the P&F would look like under the new act. Hugh Christie said that it was important that the P&F kept its options open when making a submission to the department about the draft act. He also said that the P&F needed to know the implications, as an incorporated body owning assets, of references to P&F associations having been removed from the new act. **Action item:** Jess to ask the Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations if that group would make a submission to the department on the draft act, and what would be included in the submission. She said the new act would have an impact on how the P&F worked. She said she would do a preliminary investigation about issues included the relation between the P&F and the School Association, the impact on being incorporated and the impact on the P&F. She would circulate that information before making a submission. Emmy Brient also said she would look for information. **Action item:** Emmy to ask Education Department for clarification on status of P&F associations, in relation to School Association groups. **Moved** by Hugh Christie that Jess and the executive and other interested people be empowered to make a submission without circulating the content beforehand. Seconded by Sarah Foster **CARRIED** Jess said that the submission should mention that there was no understanding where the P&F stood in the proposed legislation, the impact on owning land, trading and being incorporated, and the link between the P&F and the School Association. Communication

within the P&F was also considered. **Action item:** Michael Lowe to circulate P&F executive contact details.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Ross Smith presented financial information for the month to April 30 and the school fair, held in April. **Moved** by Ross that the finance report be accepted, seconded by Jess. **CARRIED** The report is attached to the minutes. There was discussion about how the fair profit would be spent and the process for making a funding request to the P&F. Jess said that the P&F existed to help the school and no reasonable request was refused. Emmy said the P&F did not provide basic school items. She said the school office was developing a funding request form. The meeting was told that P&F donations had included TVs for every classroom, 3D printers and equipment for the Healthy Elpies kitchen. Jess said the oval development plan had been extraordinary, timely and efficient. **Action item:** Ross to look for original architectural plan for oval-pavilion, and circulate the plan. Paul Vandenberg said he been involved with the P&F since 2009. At that stage there was a complete architectural plan. The goal was to raise funds to redevelop the oval and pavilion. Ross said \$46,000 had recently been spent on redeveloping the oval.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Michael Lowe tabled several unsolicited letters from commercial organisations offering fundraising options for the P&F. He also said he had written to Launceston council, as asked in a previous meeting, about dogs on the school oval. The reply from City of Launceston environmental services team leader Garry Causon said that he was sorry to hear about problems with people exercising dogs on the school oval. (Dogs are banned from the oval). He said he had asked regulations officers to try and educate offending people. He also said he had passed on to the parks department the P&F request for installation of dog bin-bag dispensers on Ann, Oxford and Tasma streets. Michael also tabled a letter from solicitor Ross Hart. Mr Hart said that he had written to the new owners of 16 Tasma Street, Grace Sousa and Cecile Chisholm, about the possible purchase of the P&F easement from Tasma St to the oval. In the letter he said the P&F was prepared to entertain an offer to purchase the land. The association was asking for a proposed purchase price and any other terms and conditions that may apply. This was not an offer to sell, rather an invitation to state terms. (The P&F has been investigating the possibility of selling the oval entry land). **Action item:** Michael to ask Ross Hart to suspend negotiations, due to discussions with the Education Department about possible oval redevelopment. Michael will also thank Mr Hart for his good work. **Moved** by Jess, seconded by Sarah Foster, to suspend work on land sale until there is an outcome on school capital works. **CARRIED**

**SCHOOL REPORT:** Principal Emmy Brient discussed the Gonski school funding model and its impact on the school. The first tranche of Gonski money went to children in disadvantaged schools. The second tranche was due to go to every school, including ELPS. So the second tranche, if paid, would particularly help ELPS. Emmy said that Claudine Ball had handed over to the school the permissions for the P&F Facebook site. The school will take over the site to communicate school messages. This would be particularly useful for critical incidents. Emmy explained some of the upcoming school events, programs and the school structure. Space limitations are making it more difficult to deliver all the programs that the school wants to offer. She said the trend was to more enrolments, plus legislative changes requiring children to start school earlier will place more pressure on the need for more space. Today, the school has 634 students but was only designed for 450. By 2020, there could be 675 students. The solutions designed by staff are becoming increasingly unsustainable. Early learning space is the most critical. So the best solution is to build an early learning centre. Building on the main school campus presents significant challenges, so the department wants to explore with the P&F building on the oval. Some factors that impact on the redevelopment include the need to "decant" or find alternative spaces during the building program on the main campus, and the

impact on enrolments from the federal government's child and family allowance. The library collection is now in a covered quadrangle, the school does not have a proper gym, there is limited play space and the basketball court is not flat. So the school has asked the department for more classrooms, a multipurpose-gym space and for the basketball court to be fixed. The extra space is needed to improve learning at the school, and improve safety. Emmy discussed other problems associated with the lack of space. Greg Bradfield asked if the proposed six extra classrooms and other work would be a long-term solution for the school. Emmy said the capital works submission made the case that the space was needed to meet the needs of children having to start school at a younger age from 2020. Plus the redevelopment would be a community asset. The school wants to work with the community and a co-contribution from the P&F would help. Jess asked at what point is responsibility taken by the department to manage the overcrowding problem. The possibility of moving the school enrolment boundary and the use of demountable buildings was also discussed.

Jess then led discussion about a possible development on the oval. There was a wide-ranging discussion, with issues including: how to future proof the school; if no co-contribution of land then how would disruption on the main campus be minimised; if land is handed over then the P&F misses out on rent; identifying risks and benefits of a co-contribution; if land is gifted then the P&F loses control of how it is used; the school community would have input into the use of any gifted land and future development of the school; the land is a P&F asset so the department could pay for it; the importance of keeping green space; the risk of compromising long-term goals through fear of short-term dislocation, and having a point where the school is declared full.

Other points raised included that the oval could be used by more students it was developed; the possibility of keeping the oval intact and gifting surrounding land; that a redevelopment meant department money could be used to realise P&F development goals; the importance of not missing this capital works opportunity and the importance of good community consultation.

Jess and others raised questions to be asked at an upcoming meeting with department officials, including: what piece of land would fix the overcrowding problem; will the department buy the land; will the department build on its own land; the importance of P&F members showing they had thought about the issues and documented that process; the possibility of a memorandum of understanding between the P&F and the department; the usefulness of a student ceiling and that timelines are irrelevant to the extent that process must be followed. It was suggested the first thing to say at the meeting was that the P&F wanted to work with the department to get the best outcome for the children - for now and the future. Jess compiled a list of questions and concerns for the Education Department meeting. Her notes have not been included in these minutes, as the matters will be addressed when the meeting outcome is known.

**Meeting closed at 10pm, next meeting at 7pm on June 1.**

