



PERTH WALDORF SCHOOL

Steiner Education

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

Meeting date: Monday 30th May 2022

Meeting time, location: 6:50pm, Seekers Place, Perth Waldorf School

Attendance: Kewan Bond, Steve Grant, Peter Finlay, Bruce Lee, Annabelle Kellenberger, Kevin Mazzer, Lisa Payne, Peter Payne, Natalia Desvaux-Holland, Sunu Rosario

1. **Acknowledgement of Country:** by Lisa Payne. She said Aunty Marie Taylor had suggested smoking the corners of the room before Council meeting in accordance with Noongar tradition.

Opening verse: by Kevin Mazzer

(1) *Help me*

*Become the person I have always
longed to be. Give me the
strength to serve,
And the knowledge to know
where I am needed
The perception to step forward
when the time is right And the tact
to withdraw when the job is done.*

(2) *May I be true to my ideals*

*Flexible in the ebb and flow of daily
life Yet unswerving in upholding the
truth.
May I find joy in my interactions
with others
And practice kindness in the face of
our mutual shortcomings.*

(3) *Help me see the eternal
in each human being;*

*Thus releasing the
goodness that this world
so desperately needs.
I offer myself as an
instrument
Of the higher intentions of
this school. For I believe
in the future.*

- 2. Apologies:** Brett Kranz-Little, Sue Wallwork, Elena Fontana
Conflicts of Interest: Nil
- 3. Minutes of last meeting**
Motion: That the minutes of the PWS Annual General Meeting of Monday May 31, 2021, be accepted.
Moved: Kewan Bond **Seconded:** Peter Finlay
Carried
- 4. Chair's Report: Kewan Bond**
Kewan thanked Councillors for their contributions and noted that the Council had been working well.
Troy Morse, Peter Franklyn (vice chair) and Mark Phillips were not seeking re-election to the council and the thanked them for their efforts.
Highlights of the year included Registration of the PWS and Parkerville campuses and he thanked Yvonne Soares for her work in collecting the necessary data.
Capital works had been a highlight and a frustration, with Parkerville, the new Administration building and Annabelle's office affected by building disruptions. But parents have been patient.
Bruce has had to negotiate the school through Covid restrictions with care and compassion, despite there being many differing views on how the school should respond.
Despite the challenges the pandemic brought, the school is in a very healthy state with strong enrolments and good financial and educational performances. Bruce and his team are acknowledged for their goodwill and willingness to step up.
The Council's thoughts are with Sunu while she focuses on her health, while Fiona has been working hard, often in the background, and the Council recognises her as an asset for the school.
- 5. Financial Report: Bruce Lee**
Because of Covid, at the beginning of 2021 the school was under pressure to respond, and again through the mandates.
As a result, there was quite a lot of staff movement, with 34 people being inducted, while others left because of Covid or other personal reasons.
The Parkerville campus has been a big issue, with the rising cost of construction across the country contributing to the school have to take out extra loans.
Delays in getting the classrooms installed saw the school offer new students a 50% discount on their fees.
The school ended the year with a \$280,467 surplus. The building fund stands at \$425,617.
The bank facility was paid off with a redraw and loans now at \$488,839.
There is a net debt of \$497 per students, which compares to a national average for like independent schools of around \$8000.
This will rise because of the loans needed to complete the Administration building and Parkerville campus but will only rise to \$6000 per student in a worst-case scenario.
Outstanding fees are relatively low compared to the national average, but the admin has been focusing on dealing with long-term outstanding fees.
There was \$1.26m in capital works, including Jarrah Mia, the admin building and Parkerville Campus. In 2020 the capital works were \$374,000.

6. Auditor's Report: Peter Finlay

The auditors found that the financial report represents fairly the financial position of Perth Waldorf School as at December 31.

Motion: That the Auditor's Report be received and accepted.

Moved: Peter Finlay.

Seconded: Steve Grant.

Carried

7. Appointment of Auditors

Motion: The members agree to appoint Francis A Jones for a further one-year period.

Moved: Peter Finlay.

Seconded: Kewan Bond.

Carried.

8. P&F Report: Lisa Payne

At the last P&F meeting the president and treasurer resigned and there was a pending crisis with no one stepping up to take on those roles. Lisa agreed to take on the role of President.

Working with the community, it came down to new kindy parents.

Natalie (Vice President) stepped up, as did Anna Ronan (Secretary) and Candice Mersch (Treasurer).

The immediate focus was on refitting and restocking the Carriage Shop.

Shelves were removed and it was given a clean-up and the result was very successful with lots of new stock coming in.

The P&F was now planning towards Open Day.

College of Teachers Report: Kevin Mazzer for Elena Fontana.

There has been a big change in the College over the last 12 months, with several members leaving, and Covid and new staffing providing challenges.

One of the highlights of the College over the year has been focus on a renewed understanding of the festivals.

9. Faculty Reports:

10. Lisa Payne: Early Childhood

Jennifer Byrne finished at the school and Lisa has taken up the role of co-ordinator.

It's a very healthy and happy workplace.

Relief has been the most challenging aspect of the year, but the support from staff and colleagues has been amazing.

Some staff have taken a leave of absence.

There is a new full-time Education Support Assistant.

It was sad that the Jarrah Mia tree did not survive the building works, and they are now looking at how to preserve the trunk.

One of the new projects is building a chicken coop.

During Term 1 there was an issue with mosquitoes, and money was spent on insect zappers and friendly sprays. After speaking with the City of Cockburn, a better way to deal with the issue is bat boxes, such as ones that have been used in the property next door. Working with the P&F to get some installed.

Kevin Mazzer: Primary

Camps, plays and festivals go on through tough times, which makes them more extraordinary.

Unity has been evident in how the staff have worked through the absenteeism due to Covid, and every place has been filled with someone who had Steiner familiarity.

There have been some key changes in staff, including employing a Nyoongar Language Teacher and someone to fill a Learning Support and Student Wellbeing position.

Aiming to continue the strong relationships with the staff at Parkerville.

Annabelle Kellenberger: High School

There have been a number of changes, and the high school has now reached its maximum size, so much of the focus has been on consolidation.

Mark Phillips provided Anthroposophy training for new staff, but he's on leave so that program is on pause. There has been other training provided in-lieu of Mark's training.

One drama teacher resigned and Donna Kerr moved to a leadership roll. Austin Castiglione was appointed and did 2 plays and all the classes, which was very demanding given it was during Covid, but a new drama teacher, Jane Diamond, has now been appointed from term 2.

For sports, highlights include PWS competing in the inter-school carnivals for the second year and offering a successful running club.

There are 47 Year 12 students, so for the first time their presentations are being held in two venues to deal with the numbers.

Parkerville campus has 17 students, but there have been delays in the building which is keeping everyone on their toes. They started the school year with a camp, but half-way through the government implemented a ban on school camps due to Covid.

Silver Tree are being very patient and negotiating with PWS over the use of their facilities in the interim.

Bruce Lee: Administrator

Covid was the big issue for the year, with the school following Government guidelines.

But there was also an approach to value care, respect and love over opinion, which helped PWS avoid the conflict that has disrupted schools over east and seen some close.

The school provided one term of leave for anyone unable to accept the mandates.

The renewal of registration was a big event. It was a team effort and the

Department of Education was very impressed with the school.

Jarrah Mia opened.

Parkerville campus experienced construction delays, and there will be another term's delay, but the school is getting compensation from Fleetwood.

Many staff were inducted in January and there have been some leadership changes.

A business manager is being appointed next month.

The PWS Council has been very supportive to the administration and staff during the year, particularly Kewan. Sunu has been unwell but did a great job regardless, while Fiona Peters has been a great executive assistant.

11. Questions from the Floor: No questions.

12. General Business: None submitted.

13. Election of Councillors:

All positions were filled, except Vice Chair, which can be filled at the next PWS council meeting. The council can also take on ordinary members during the year, with consideration being given to gender balance, Parkerville and people who have skills that would complement the Council.

14. Next AGM:

The next Annual General Meeting of the Perth Waldorf School Association Incorporated will be held on Monday May 29, 2023.

15. Closing Verse: by Annabelle.

Meeting closed 8.32pm