



**Wellesley Parents' Association
Meeting Minutes
Monday 21 February 2022
Zoom meeting at 7.30pm**

Committee Members	Rebecca Fitzpatrick Rebecca Clancy Robert Pritchard Paul Fryer Samantha Batchelar Nicola Mackenzie Maud Sarah-Jane Hays Chloe Bridgeman Ding Wang Caroline Drury Angie Griffin Tatsat Mishra
School Representative	Mike Bain
Foundation Representative	Rosie Torbit
Apologies	Nicole Noldus Melissa Curry

Opening/Apologies

Rebecca opened the meeting and gave apologies.

Previous Minutes

Previous minutes reviewed and approved by Rebecca F and seconded by Rebecca C.

Principals Report

Please see attached.

Events

The WPA has decided that fundraising events will be put on hold for term 1, due to the Omicron outbreak.

Caroline has raised the question of postponing events, rather than cancelling but the majority of WPA agrees that, with the current covid restrictions, it is an inefficient use of time and resources to plan and have to move or cancel events and would prefer to wait until there is more certainty with events being able to go ahead.

The WPA is eager for the Student Art Fundraiser to go ahead again in 2022. Timing last year was problematic with lockdowns pushing the release too close to the end of the year. Sarah-Jane is going to discuss potential options with Glen, as the requirements for the art are complicated.

BBQ's will still go ahead for athletics and cross country events with Robert as lead. Rosie suggested looking into sponsorship from Pak n Save and/or other local businesses since the WPA will be limited in its fundraising capability this year. Tats has very generously offered to donate \$500 in memory of his father, who recently passed away. Thank you Tats.

Rosie has suggested creating virtual events, using Round the Bays and Weet-Bix Triathlon as examples of events that have successfully created an online version of their events.

The WPA welcomes fundraising ideas for 2022.

Treasurer's Report

There is \$19,806 in the WPA account. The account is \$3,000 short in levies as these were paid last year.

In the summary of last year there are empty lines for catering as grandparents day did not go ahead.

The WPA needs to submit its charities registration for 2022. Robert will take lead on this.

A copy of the treasurers report is attached.

Spending requests

Mike has suggested two major request for funding options from the School WPA for 2022.

1). A Soundfield for classrooms. These devices are plug and go, and increase sound quality in the classroom. This has been shown to improve learning outcomes for children and would ease teacher strain- especially when wearing masks. Approximately \$2,500 per unit with of a request of 5 units.

2). Apple computer suite: with editing software, writing music, movie making, AR, VR etc this would increase the technology and learning options for the boys. Specialist teachers Marko Cunningham and Carolyn Hawkes are both proficient in this area.

Tats suggests that there is potential to gain community assistance in funding or donating units from companies like Weta or Microsoft and will use his contacts to look into options.

Other business

Concerns were raised by Robert, and supported by several other members, about the cancelling of parent teacher interviews. Many parents are worried that there will not be enough communication to properly support their childrens learning needs. Mike assures the WPA that interviews are planned to go ahead on an online platform as a covid alternative, after all boys return from school camps. He also re-iterates that teachers will always make time for parents to discuss the boys needs one on one and to make direct contact if necessary.

Consideration has been given by Mike and the faculty regarding an afterschool care programme for local boys. The school doesn't feel that it can adequately provide this service, but is open to having an outside service run on school grounds. Chloe has a contact at Kelly Sport and will contact to query possible options. The WPA and school will make contact with parents to judge interest after the Omicron outbreak has settled.

The Audio system, which the WPA funded last year, has been installed and Mike says is working well. It was used in the end of year ceremonies.

Mike says this year instead of a school play, the school is considering having the boys create a movie, which continues to be an opportunity to be involved in drama activities regardless of covid restrictions.

Nicola has been organising class reps with more than half the classes fully represented. She will contact the teachers of those classes that still require reps, and is hoping to have all positions filled by the end of the week.

The Student Art Fundraiser raised approximately \$1,000 and the Art was warmly received by parents. Thank you to Sarah-Jane and Glen for organising.

The WPA had been reporting to the school Board of Trustees at every meeting, relaying news, events and goings on, but this has been changed this to once per term. Rebecca F and Rebecca C currently fill this voluntary role.

As discovery days are unable to go ahead with current covid restrictions, Mike has recruited a production company to create a series of videos that showcase the school for potential new members.

Rebecca F proposes making changes to the WPA constitution so that meetings, such as the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM), can take place virtually. Nicola has suggested that we look into any other clauses that might need updating at the same time. A copy will be sent to members to make suggestions.

Rebecca F will be stepping down as chair at the upcoming AGM, and Samantha Batchelar will be stepping down as Secretary, both due to limited availability for this year.

Next meeting will be the AGM planned for 7pm Monday, March 28 2022.

Meeting closed: 9pm.