

SSC Balmain P&C General Meeting, 17 March 2026, #2 of 2026

MINUTES

Attendance	
Outgoing P&C Committee	Clare Donnellan (CD), Stephanie Fabian (SF), Karina Martin (KM), Ligita Millar (LM), Emma Driver (ED), Kim Batchelor (KB), Leigh Morgan (LM)
Incoming P&C Committee members	Craig James (CJ), Lucinda Newton (LN), Ilana Fisher (IL)
School & College Executive	Mark Corbett (MC), Julie Ross (JR), Sandie Laga'aia, Alan McGregor, TJ Catalanotto
Other P&C Members	Hamutal Maznier (HM)
Others	Helen Davies, Nina East, Jennifer Stuart
Apologies	Jill Butler, Graham Christy
Venue	SSC Balmain Common Room

Incoming/new committee:

- President - Karina Martin
- Vice President - Ligita Millar
- Vice President - Graham Christy
- Secretary - Stephanie Fabian
- Treasurer - Craig James
- Year 7 connector - Lucinda Newton
- Year 7 connector - Ilana Fisher
- Fundraising & Grants - Vacant

Meeting commenced: 7:10 pm

Past Meeting Minutes	Proposed CD, seconded SF
Business arising/actions from Minutes	<p>Motions passed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approved funding for parents' welcome event, 26 February: \$1100 Raised CD, seconded KM ● Approved funding for Open Night barbecue: \$750 Raised CD; seconded SF ● Approved funding for TAS Sublimation printer; digital designs on fabric: \$1895 Raised KM; seconded LN ● Approved funding for AV Club; lighting, SD cards, subscription to music download website: \$1999 Raised KM; seconded SF ● Approved funding for drone and special lens for STEM; multidisciplinary Bays

	<p>Project (HSIE, STEM, Marine): \$539 Raised CJ; seconded HM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approved funding for Girls' STEM Club T-shirts (to be printed in the STEM room), c. 30 shirts: \$487 Raised KM; seconded SF ● Approval for funding for wellbeing/engagement, celebrations. House celebration BBQs, \$500; canteen reward vouchers, \$160; Decorations for events, \$100 = \$760 Raised CJ; seconded LM <p>Open items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Music studio funding proposal. Convert a small rehearsal room to a studio, with soundproofing. Rooms in need of upgrades. Digital audio workstation (DAW) with Logic Pro. Recording equipment. Support students to record compositions, stepping stone to the Blackwattle studio. Possible school co-contribute. \$14,691. — Take on notice. Think about as a community; how to fundraise. In-principle support. Funding is the issue. ● PDHPE marquees: Protect students and staff from the sun, for use at sports carnivals and school events. Build up house spirit in school. 1 x School Marquee, 3 x 6m: \$1082. 4 x smaller house marquees, 3 x 3m: \$2564. Total = \$3646. — On notice for the next meeting. School may fund in the meantime. Vote on funding in Term 2. ● Gym fundraising. Final push in the last few weeks of Term 1 by P&C. Aim for \$10,000 target. Report back next meeting.
<p>Presentation by Alan McGregor (AM), Head of PDHPE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funds needed for the gym, c. \$2000–3000, for wall repairs and painting. Working bee or painters? Gym used for PE lessons and TAP program. ● Students have appreciated the new facilities. Fundraising is appreciated. ● CD: Launched the fundraiser at welcome drinks. Will do another push at the end of the term. \$5020 as of today. Set an ambitious target, e.g. \$10,000, ● MC: Shabby top section of the walls. School may be able to give funding. Update TV, mirrors. ● CD: keep it open for another few weeks; set an ambitious target, e.g. \$10,000 ● AM: Suggests having a 'grand opening' once the remaining work is completed, including the original teacher who started the gym at the school, Les Palgan [?].
<p>School Principal's Update (MC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Acknowledgment of country <p>Update on P&C-funded projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TAS safety signs: new signs are in place ● Textiles storage: set up, looks neat and tidy ● Scholastic reading program; librarian is keen on the new program; diagnostics; more interesting ● Barista training for 47 students in Year 9, via Black Market Training, Marrickville

	<p>New funding proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● See ‘Motions passed’ and ‘Open items’ above <p>Works updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sliding front gates and side gates finished; working well ● Science lab refurbishment: first one finished, second one underway <p>Three focus areas for 2026</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aboriginal histories and culture; embedding into all KLAs 2. Instructional rounds and observations (see Sandie Laga’aia’s presentation below) 3. Student voice <p>Other news</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Blackwattle Bay HSC results improvement; one of the top schools on improvement in metropolitan schools ● Adam Westwood is looking for new businesses for work experience; pamphlets available to give to local businesses. ● The 501 bus; issues continue. MC called Transport for NSW today. (CD observed that parent efforts would be key to campaigning for improved services)
<p>Presentation by Sandie Laga’aia, Deputy Principal (rel) Years 8 and 9</p>	<p>Observational rounds: program for teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classroom observations program to build capacity and skills of permanent staff. Three elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shadowing: sitting in with a more experienced teacher/executive ○ Coaching: specifically teaching skills ○ Mentoring: long-term guidance, encouragement, team teaching ● QTR research project: aims to retain teachers of 3–5 years experience who burn out and leave the profession. Professional learning for both newer and more experienced teachers. ● MC: notes this as a valuable project/opportunity. <p>Laptops at recess and lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Survey of students, staff and parents to gauge support for not allowing use of laptops at recess and lunch by students, with the aim to improve social interactions. Leichhardt has implemented this policy. ● Survey will go out to parents, staff and students in Term 1.
<p>College Principal’s Update (JR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Iron Cove Network Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expo at Blackwattle Bay campus, 26 March at 5.30pm ○ Stalls from all local schools, TAFE, VET courses and HSC options. To showcase public schools in the area. ○ JR keen to get the word out among parents. Chance to tour Blackwattle Bay campus. ● Change to <i>Education Act 1990</i> (NSW). Amendments coming up soon before NSW Parliament (this week?) to School Community Safety and Protection Orders provisions in the Act. If passed, they will allow a principal to issue 14-day exclusion notices to parents/community members ‘whose behaviour towards

	<p>staff is harmful, threatening offensive or intimidating’. Orders would allow the principal to issue an exclusion for 14 days immediately. Police can then be called. See JR’s report for details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JR encouraged parents to contact local members to support the changes, e.g. Kobi Shetty.
Outgoing Treasurer’s Report (SF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report supplied with the minutes ● Net loss of \$3000; noted that voluntary contributions will still come in ● Motion raised to accept report: KM; seconded CJ
New business	<p>Term 2 working bee date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carry over to the next meeting. Find some dates with school and discuss with the committee. ● MC notes drainage work is happening soon, 3–4 months, which means opportunities for working bee at the back of school. ● CD notes a parent who is a landscaper who is keen/had plans for some redesign. <p>Outgoing committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● P&C thanks Clare Donnellan for years of service, as secretary and president, and other outgoing committee members (Jill, Kim, Leigh, Emma)
Correspondence In/Out	N/A
Next meeting	Week 3, Term 2 (Tuesday 5 May)

Meeting closed: 8:15 pm