

Theodore Primary School Minutes – 6 August 2020

Attendance Debbie Martens, Nathan Pepper, Jess Crilly, Danielle Searle, Katya Drake, Alison Yialeloglou, Sue Farrelly & Rose Rodriguez (Minutes)

Apologies Alison Yialeloglou board chair delayed
Katya Drake to Chair meeting

Year 6 Prime Ministers Ethan Yong & Arijana Majetic

Arijana Ethan and I are very excited to be representing the school board as part of our Ministerial roles .

“We would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been looking after the land around Australia. We would like to thank them for the beautiful Landscape that surrounds us. We would also like to acknowledge the leaders past, present and emerging who are joining as today in this board meeting”.

Ethan We have had (4) bills that have passed in Parliament

- Bill number: #002 - Naidoc Cultural Day Ministry of Indigenous Affairs
- Bill number: #003 - Bike club Ministry of Sport
- Bill number: #008 - Pyjama day Ministry of Education
- Bill number: #005 - POD officially opened Ministry- Department of Health & Wellbeing

Arijana Items to be followed up

- The jump rope for heart and the department of sport
- Taking skipping ropes out every break
- Compost bins - the Department of Environment
- Compost bins supplied in all classes

Ethan We have created a survey asking students what they have enjoyed about this year at Theodore Primary. Survey collection from students please see link below .

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1vrng6rXE8n4pc1PantGLAiiHJInvYPu5yWRxkY5YLdo/edit>

Arijana & Ethan thank you

Minutes of Previous Meeting 18 June 2020

Passed Jess Crilly **Second** Nathan Pepper

Business Arising All major works have been completed throughout the school. There are no outstanding projects in planning.

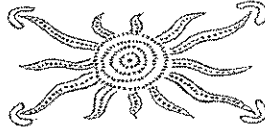
Finance

At the end of July 2020, the school was on budget compared to the year to date budget. The assets ledger was overspent due to the planned purchase of 32 student chrome books \$12,061, 5 mini iPads for Junior teachers class use \$2,260 and the continuing of Mereki Unit classroom furniture. The school underspent on staff professional development due to Covid 19. The schools external income (afterschool care) is reduced due to Covid 19 with directorate advice to hold all invoicing until September 2020. The school holds a bank balance of \$335,715. Of this bank balance, the accumulated funds are \$196,571.

Passed - Sue Farrelly

Second – Katya Drake





Principal's report

Parent Teacher Interviews

Last week we had many parents attend parent teacher interviews either virtually or in person. Teachers reported that they valued the parent input and enjoyed meeting parents they haven't had a chance to meet yet due to COVID restrictions. Being available online was a bonus for families who find it difficult to attend in person due to work or family commitments.

2020 School Satisfaction and Climate Survey

Each year, the Directorate surveys all parents, school staff and students in Years 4 to 12 about their satisfaction with public education. The 2020 School Satisfaction & Climate Survey will be available online from 10 to 31 August. Brief information was included in the school newsletter, on the website and on Facebook this week.

Parents with students in Year 4-6 will receive a letter about the student survey asking whether their child may participate during class time; and an email about the parent survey, including a unique link to access the survey.

A shortened paper-version of the parent survey is also available in the following 12 languages: Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Dari, Dinka, Farsi, Hindi, Karen, Korean, Mon, Urdu and Vietnamese; email EDUSurveys@act.gov.au to request a copy.

For the results to reflect the opinions of our whole school community, we need as many parents, staff and students as possible to complete the survey. This feedback is important for us as a school and system. It will give us information about what is working well at Theodore and where we can improve. More information is available at <https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/school-satisfaction-and-climate-survey>

Strategic Priority 1: Provide a positive learning environment for all stakeholders

Now that we are back at school and we can again hold staff meetings and professional learning in person, we are moving ahead with our strategic priorities. Our PBL strategic team met this week to further the PBL journey which is building momentum and being embedded in the culture of the school. Positive acknowledgements through the token system for safe, respect, learning behaviours in all settings are going well.

We are now looking at other aspects of student wellbeing in the school and at the staff meeting this week we discussed the RTI (Response to Intervention) pyramid for student wellbeing at Theodore PS. The pyramid is a visible representation of how we are supporting student wellbeing for students with the highest needs, students with some additional needs and the universal strategies we are using for all students. After completing our NCCD (Nationally Consistent Collection of Data) this term we realised that we are supporting a significant number of students (almost a third of our students) with additional needs. This support varies from differentiated teaching and learning in the classroom to more intensive supplementary supports. The supports are physical, learning, social and emotional or sensory.





Our Family and Community Coordinator, Aimee Shires, with the support of our Youth Support Workers, is providing a lot of additional support across the school for students and families. She outlined all of these supports this week to the staff and we were impressed at just how much she does and how important her role has been at Theodore over the past 12 months. To this end we are extending her contract for another year to allow her time to continue to embed the valuable work she provides.

Aimee took the opportunity of COVID restrictions to upskill herself in a number of programs which were offered online last term. She also works with outside agencies such as Menslink, Barnados and Smith Family to provide support to students and families. She is offering programs such as Seasons for Growth (a program for grief and loss), RAGE and BRAVE (through Barnados for students to support their emotional regulation, particularly anger) and will be offering an evening next term for parents to work with one of their children in a resilience program based on strengths.

The staff then shared their own experiences working with effective Social and Emotional (SEL) approaches for all students and what they believed was important for an effective SEL approach at Theodore Primary for all students. We have collated all this feedback and will use it to develop a whole school approach to SEL at Theodore Primary.

Strategic Priority 2: Improve student learning outcomes in reading and writing

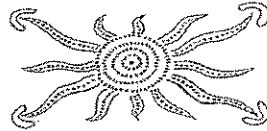
This strategic team has worked to develop whole school writing rubrics to assist in assessing and moderating writing consistently across the school. These rubrics were used to assess writing for the mid-year reports. Home learning did make this a little tricky as it was difficult to assess multiple writing samples because not all students were engaged in writing tasks at home. However, we will persist and improve the rubrics over time and the data will inform our writing practice in the classroom.

Nathan Pepper has created a whole school data tracking sheet where all teachers can input assessment data and we can track progress over time. The tracker provides data that teams can analyse and use as part of tracking improvement of student outcomes and developing their own teaching practice.

In the newsletter this week I also provided some information for families about our Reading Café and Hot Reads which take place every morning from 9.00am to 9.30am. During this time the whole school reads as an opportunity for students to read for pleasure, practise reading strategies and skills they have learnt at school and for teachers to work closely with individual or small groups of students in the classroom to support or extend their reading skills.

During this time the Reading Café also operates as an intervention program to give students who need a little extra help with reading a chance to work either one on one or in small groups with an adult. The purpose of the Reading Café is to provide students with the skills and strategies to improve their reading and to support them to be able to put these skills and strategies in place as independent readers. Each term we focus on a different year level in the Reading Café to ensure we are being equitable to all students in the school who require this intervention. It is an intense, 5 day a week program that runs for either 5 or 10 weeks depending on the age and needs of the children. Successful intervention programs like this are short term, intense programs to boost independent reading skills. We also encourage parents who are interested in finding out more about the Reading Café or would like to learn some strategies to use at home, to come along or be trained as a volunteer in the Reading Café.





Attracting enrolments to Theodore PS in 2021

At this stage we will be able to offer three preschool groups in 2021. This is great news! The numbers for Kindergarten next year are less than this year and at this stage we will only be able to offer two classes. The Kinder team are keen to attract more enrolments and so are holding a kindergarten information session this term. This was advertised in the newsletter and also through posters which will go up in the community. This is the information about the Kinder Information Session. change of hours for 2021 3 days one week 2 days next week.

On Wednesday 19 August we will be hosting 2021 Kindergarten Information sessions. One is in the morning starting at 8am and a second BBQ 'Meet and Greet' is in the afternoon starting at 5pm. We encourage all families with students starting Kindergarten to come along. If you know any families who may be thinking about enrolling their children in Kindergarten and live in the area, please encourage them to come along and find out all about what Theodore has to offer.

Model for preschool hours 2021 - 3 days one week 2 days next week .

Debbie Martens
Principal

General Business

- Road safety grant Aimee Shires is still waiting on results of application
- School website Update website to have the past 12 months School Board Minutes available.
- Filming Katya drake to organise video to be used as TPS promotion material. The video to also include Theodore preschool, school grounds , Indigenous garden, LSU upgrade, Environment centre .

Meeting closed

4:15pm

Next Meeting

Week 8

Thursday 10 September 2020

3.30 pm



Principal

Debbie Martens

2 / 12 / 20



Acting Chair

Katya Drake

25 / 9 / 2020

