



Theodore Primary School Board Meeting Minutes | 3 April 2025

Attendance Principal Nathan Pepper , Annette Martens , Susan Hough , Jacinta Margaronis, Emma Peel, Kim Jones, Alison Yialelgrou, Sue Farrelly & Rose Rodriguez (Minutes)

Meeting Open 3.45pm

Apologies Nil

Conflict Interest Nil

Prime Minister's report *Lailah S & Harper J*

Harper presented following Ministry BILLS

Arts Ministry Theodore Talent Show , Art murals and Art club for students to attend at break 2
Education Ministry Planning the Student Representative Council (SRC) schedules for term 2
Environment Ministry Using cooking ingredients from the garden.
Health and wellbeing Funky Fruit Friday
Sports Ministry Proposed activity, GaGA Ball at a cost of \$5,700
Principal Mr Pepper and Deputy Ms Brown emailed parliament the options for a sporting uniform to play OZ TAG at Theodore PS.
Option 1 vote, Plain blue mid-thigh shorts
Option 2 vote, Non colour coded Oz Tag shorts at mid-thigh length

Lailah presented following Ministry BILLS

Sport Ministry Paint side lines for Oztag
ICT Researchers Chrome book Club
Social Services Bandanna Day October 2025
Indigenous Affairs Reconciliation Day to include an excursion to the grinding stones

Minutes of Previous Meeting Thursday 20 Feb 2025

Moved without amendments **Jacinta Margaronis** Seconded **Emma Peel**

Business Arising **Capital upgrades | Junior playground**

Open Action Upgrade Junior Playground
Discussion Currently under planning stage with Capital Upgrades
Outcome Business manager to follow up next meeting

Business Arising **Theodore PS Upgrade Building Signage**

Open Action School signs - building names are now confirmed and the final stage with ROJO designing styles.
Discussion Consultation re: final design to include mural and building signs. Installation planned for Term 1 holidays.
Outcome Students will have the opportunity to research the meaning of the new Naming and to share at whole school assembly. Consideration to be given for a smoking ceremony at the unveiling of the Indigenous Mural.



Business Arising

Open Action
Discussion

Indigenous Garden

Indigenous Garden is in the final planning stage - Pond and Bridge .
Board members recommended that reconsideration be given to the pond with concerns over safety, ongoing cleaning and maintenance.

It was suggested that a dry creek bed and bridge would be a better option.

Outcome

Discussion with 3/4 team

Finance

Month Ending March 2025	
Operating Results	(\$ 78 975)
GST & OTHER Liabilities	(\$ 1032)
Reserves	(\$ 75,000)
Provisions	(\$ 43,810)
Accumulated Funds	(\$ 360,591)
Total summary accounts	(\$ 559,406)
Bank account	\$ 559,406

- Student Resource Allocation (SRA) actual statement is expected to be received during week 10 term 1. Budget review will be actioned for review by school board at next meeting
- Voluntary Contributions raised \$800 and Library Trust \$ 350
- Kulture Break change to payments directed through to Kulture Break. Positive outcome with 49 students participating.

Moved

Emma Peel

Seconded

Sue Farrelly

Teacher's report

Susan Hough and Annette Martens

PCK Clinics have concluded Overwhelming success for Theodore with comments from students,
"Feels like sunshine walking into Theodore"

Teachers as researchers Team has been established and attended workshop 1.

Preschool Bathroom Upgrade is now completed. Preschool team has relocated back into the main Preschool building. To support the learning needs of students and staff, there have been some changes to shared Wednesdays.

Year 5/6 camp Fantastic, students and teachers had a very enjoyable experience

Individual Learning Plans All staff have worked hard to move to the new guidelines for ILPs and have entered results into Sentral data base. All ILP's are now completed.

Community Liaison Aimee Shires has returned from Maternity leave . Theodore is pleased to have Aimee return to support our school community.

Sports Whole school Cross country

Moved **Kim Jones**

Seconded

Jacinta Margaronis



Principal Report Nathan Pepper

School Improvement- Improve growth in spelling for all students

I am pleased to update you that we have had a successful start to the year as we continue our whole school priority: **improve growth in spelling for all students**. Each team, across the school, has been working towards a mini goal to improve spelling for their cohort of students. These goals are:

- **Kindergarten:** Consolidating students will progress two literacy progressions by the end of term 1.
- **Years 1/2:** Consolidating students will progress one Sounds Write lesson by the end of term 1.
- **Years 3/4:** Students will begin targeted learning programs based on Sounds Write and Effective Spelling.
- **Years 5/6:** 90% of students will progress out of the 'double consonants' phase by the end of the term.

In week 10, teachers will come together for our termly 'celebration staff meeting' to share their students' progress against their goals. I am looking forward to sharing more with you in the coming weeks.

School Improvement in action

This week I have had the pleasure of getting into classes and seeing the spelling work that classes are doing. One class I managed to spend time with were 1/2C, where Ms Connell has established a really positive learning culture where students feel comfortable and confident in making attempts and sharing their learning during Sounds Write. Over in KC, I was fortunate to observe Miss Cilliers' work with students on their personal learning goals. This saw students knowing specifically what they were focusing on as well as receiving feedback on how they were going. It was so exciting to see students placing stickers on their goal sheet to demonstrate that they had been successful.

Student voice and leadership- school uniforms

Earlier in the term I shared in our newsletter a reminder of the importance of students wearing correct school uniform, with a specific focus on the wearing of bike shorts. Following this, I received a very well-written letter from our school leaders Lailah and Imogen making a strong case for practical reasons for why sportier shorts were needed. This is because many of our girls are enjoying playing Oz Tag at break times and these types of shorts provide comfort but also allow for tags to be attached to their shorts as opposed to needing a belt.

Following this, Ms Brown and I had a very enjoyable meeting with Lailah and Imogen and took the time to hear more about their thoughts as well as explaining our thoughts on modest dress and our school's uniform policy. Through our meeting we were able to negotiate two options, which Lailah and Imogen will present to the student parliament for a vote. These are:

1. blue colour-coded bike shorts that are an appropriate length (mid-thigh, see photo attached)
2. Non-colour-coded Oz Tag shorts, that are an appropriate length (mid-thigh), that are worn under approved school pants/ shorts/ skirt. Students will be allowed to remove these items at the beginning of play time and put them back on at the end of play.

I am looking forward to sharing the results of the student parliament's vote soon.



Inclusion matters at Theodore

At Theodore, we are passionate about everyone having a place, feeling that they belong and thriving by achieving their personal best. Whilst there are a number of ways in which we ensure inclusion is alive in our classroom, one particular approach we use is through the ACT Education's Everyone Everyday program. This learning resource is used in classes to provide teachers with resources to explicitly teach students inclusion concepts. The program aims to create a cultural shift in thinking about disability and equip children and young people with the skills they need to take personal and collective action that promotes inclusion and belonging.

On Thursday 3 April, The Education Directorate's Inclusion and Media teams visited Theodore Primary School to observe inclusive learning in action and speak to students and staff about the importance of inclusion. The purpose of this visit is to celebrate and share inclusive practices at our school with other schools in the ACT.

I will hopefully be able to share the final product with you soon!

Great things that have been happening at Theodore lately

There have been so many great things happening over the past couple of weeks, including:

- K-6 Cross Country
- The SGP's learning visits to Woolworths and Bunnings
- 5/6 camp to Borambola
- Zone swimming

We are so proud of the students for representing our school with pride and by demonstrating our school's values. I am also incredibly grateful to the teachers who are responsible for making these opportunities a reality for our students.

Moved **Jacinta Margaronis** Seconded **Emma Peel**

P&C representative

Federal Elections
GaGa Ball

Decision for either a sausage sizzle or Bake Sale
Investigate re: Insurance and Safety

Moved **Kim Jones** Seconded Nathan Pepper

Matters Arising

Annual School Board Report 2024 All board members approve
Compliance Check list 2024 All board members approve

Meeting Closed **5.17pm**

Principal **Nathan Pepper**

Board Chair **Jacinta Margaronis**


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Date 15.5.2025

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78 Lawrence Wackett Crescent,
THEODORE ACT 2905



Contact: 02 6142 3100
Email: theodoreps@ed.act.edu.au
Web: www.theops.act.edu.au

