

Our Lady Star of the Sea
Minutes from the 1st P&F meeting in 2021
29/03/21
OLSOS Library

Present: John Barton (Principal), Maria Kennedy (Assistant Principal), Adam Haines, Jacqueline Powers, Lee Wallis, Campbell McArthur, Paul Quinn, Katie Moss, Paula Schmidt, Victoria Worrall, Corina Quinn, Sarah McArthur, Sally Belford, Heidi Bridger, Catherine Taylor.
Apologies: Chantal Bush, Kylie Douglas, Kim Robinson.

1. Welcome

1.1 The meeting was opened by the President “Adam Haines” at 1720 and he thanked everyone for attending. Adam began by discussing the need for the community to come together and for the social side of the school to be reignited after COVID. He thought the best way to start off the meeting for the year would be for everyone to introduce themselves, their role if any in the group and what children they have/had in the school community. All contributed.

1.2 New Principal

Mr John Barton introduced himself to the group and spoke of the school he came from and how he was incredibly happy with his move to OLSOS. John spoke about the positivity of the school community and how happy it made him to see so much positivity and enjoyment the students brought school.

1.3 Business

Roles Moving forward: Adam thought it was a good idea to speak about the different roles moving forward in 2021 post COVID. At the start of 2020 we had a great turnout at the first P&F meeting with new and original members forming sub committees. Adam wanted to touch base with the Social Committee to kickstart bringing the school community together. Corina mention the possibility of Christmas in July- planning a band/music to encourage and give the opportunity for parents to mingle. Last year she said a German BBQ was intended but due to COVID it was cancelled. Victoria, another member of the Social Committee, agreed it would be great to get the ball rolling and start planning for such events and the group concurred. Adam was concerned as to whether the school needed insurances etc. for events on site. Maria stated that it should be fine. Victoria also mentioned Barefoot Bowls as another cancelled event from last year that could be reignited. Adam thought it was best to write a list down of events for the school and bring that to John and Maria’s attention as to what the school would normally do within the school year.

Grade Mass: Jacqueie asked if the Kindergarten Grade Mass, which is normally followed by the P&F organised BBQ, was going ahead this year. Maria was unsure of the event as last year it was cancelled due to COVID. Lee mentioned maybe it was a good idea if the current Year 1 cohort could also be involved as they missed that event last year and felt there was a void for new families last year entering the school. It was also mentioned

that maybe it was a general welcome BBQ for all families held on a Friday afternoon to reignite the community spirit and get people more involved in the school community. This was backed by the group.

Use of Compass for events and information: Catherine spoke of her concern of the different platforms information was being shared within the school community and wondered if it should be more concise. She said that between Compass, emails, OLSOS Facebook page and the web page it was hard to keep track. She wondered if we could use the events section on Compass to consolidate information from the school to parents as it at times was confusing. John mentioned it would be good if we could get a list of the main events together. Adam stated the main ones the P&F focused on were the welcome BBQ, two school discos, Parent nights out, Mothers/Father's Day Stalls, Grandparent's day, School Fete and Christmas/End of year Party.

Volunteers: Whilst speaking of the current social events Adam and Jacquie raised concerns about volunteers and the lack there of. They stated it seemed to be the same faces volunteering their time and that it would be good to see more volunteers for such events. John suggested a new model for gathering volunteers if the current model was not working. He proposed as an example each grade being delegated an event each year for example Kindergarten-Year 2 Disco had volunteers from Kindergarten or Mother's Day stall helpers from Year 3. He felt that way it takes the pressure off individual groups and more responsibility of each grade to donate some time once per year. A few members suggested the grade parents would then oversee passing this information down to the parents of the grades involved in the event. All in the group felt it was a great idea. Corina felt it would allow each grade to have a vested interest in that event to go well if they were part of it. Jacquie had concerns as a similar model was done in the past and didn't work but stated it was possibly due to the it was addressed, and the execution as opposed to parents being against the idea. John agreed that delivery and explanation of the roles was incredibly important for it to work. Chantal was mentioned as a good port of call about the delivery of such information as she organised the grade parents. Adam suggested a meeting should be set up between himself, Jacquie, Chantal and Maria to work that out.

Link between School & Parish: Catherine mentioned at the previous school she was at there was a Religious Co-Ordinator within the P&F and said it worked well as a link between the parish and the school. Paula Schmidt offered to do that role which was much appreciated by the group. Paula questioned how that role would develop and Maria suggested a meeting with the REC Laura Wales- date TBC.

Second Hand Uniform Store: Sally discussed the handover of the second-hand uniform store as her last child will be finishing at the end of the year. Heidi and Catherine have kindly agreed to take over the store. Sally thanked Maria for her assistance in helping her recently and looked forward to handing over to the ladies in the coming months.

2. Closure

- 2.1 Adam Haines closed the meeting at 1830.
- 2.2 The next meeting TBA.