Canterbury Public School  
P&C Meeting  
Wednesday 9 March 2011  

**Present:** Cheryl Robens, Melanie Bruniges, Suzanne Trimmer, David Taffa, Cheryl McCarthy, Linda Clark, Alexis Joseph, Cathy Miller, Nicole Crain, Annabel Kain, Michelle Coram, Jonathan Howes, Emma Inder Maur, Lynne Murray, Micha Vallis, Barry Jenkins, Paul Scouller, Nerida Chedra.

**Meeting opened:** 7:35pm

### Agenda Item | Minutes
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Welcome, Meeting open | David Taffa opened the meeting and welcomed attendees
Apologies | Dawn Tuften

### Previous minutes
- 2010 AGM meeting minutes accepted Suzanne Trimmer, 2nd David Taffa
- Business arising: popcorn machine, purchased, discussion of menu; gardening committee

### Correspondence
- From Cheryl Robens regarding the canteen ventilation quote
- NSW Public Education Alliance
- Aldi planning to build a bottle shop on Canterbury site
- Gardening committee letter; money already spent, will need receipts. Need to discuss approval process for spending P&C funds. What is the view on funding rest of money asked for? Do the teachers support the development of the garden in the planning area? Meeting next week. Plan to plant seedlings. Need to clarify process, accountable on how funds are being spent. Need to be sure process is followed. Plan with teachers approved, Ms Coleman & Ms Sadek. Research to find out bigger plan. Sleepers out there and cut out. Approve costs to date, subject to receipts received. President needs to discuss with them as soon as possible.

### President’s report: David Taffa for David Lewis
To the P and C,  
For constitutional reasons, I cannot stand as President this year, with a (most right) 2 year limitation on terms. It is with a mixture of relief, regret and sadness that I step down - relief in that I know that the P and C will go into good hands; regret that I couldn't do more and what I did do I didn't do better; and sadness because despite the challenges involved, it was a job I enjoyed doing. I would prefer to be delivering this address myself, but professional commitments prevent me. I thank David sincerely, though, for reading it.

The last year was a challenging year - I think it is only fair to state that honestly. We had many challenges - some were positive, some were negative and some were a mixture of both. The new President can
take over, confident in the knowledge that CPS, thanks partly to P and C commitment and funding, has the most comprehensive music program in the metropolitan region for a school our size. CPS established a concert band on top of its already established choirs and recorder groups. We are also making firm and determined progress towards some rock ensembles. Choice and variety - the keystone of longevity. (We would also like to thank Rhea Sullivan for showing initiative and starting the string ensemble.) The P and C has also seen a successful fete, a marvellous garden, a hall). Another achievement which we should be proud of is the installations of Interactive White boards in three class rooms (and the rest funded by the school) - an invaluable tool.

Certainly, from the 'top', or 'bottom', you get an exhaustive view of the school, and a comprehensive view of other schools. From my experience, CPS is an outstanding school - and is rare, in that every teacher is a valuable member of staff, completely dedicated and the level of peer support, especially this year, is incredible. As a parent body, it is incumbent to remember this. It is easy to be tempted by the green grass of other schools - and, let me state here, that all schools have their strengths and weaknesses - yet the level of community, the level of professionalism and the level of education is often best found in your local school. It is easy to criticise, and easy to tear down. And yet, teachers have the job of thankless and long hours, dealing with not just your children, but a dozen or two more, all with their own individual needs and requirements. Without downplaying the necessity of accountability, it is important to remember the professional and personal knowledge and abilities of each teacher. Thanks to poor economic and political decisions, schools are underfunded, and then made to suffer for it. Useless and politically motivated websites such as My School do nothing but demean and diminish the contribution of public schooling. Back to Canterbury, it is a little realised fact in the parent community that of 30 HAT positions IN THE STATE - 2 have gone to CPS teachers. 2 have gone to your kids' teachers... 2 out of 30 (from a pool of 15,000. All teachers at Canterbury are excellent and have a wide talent base. With the HAT role filled by Connie Emmington, our teachers are well placed to improve on the already excellent educational and social standards of the school.

Before I finish, I need to proffer some thanks. Firstly, to Cheryl, who tirelessly supported the P and C throughout my tenure. Cheryl has been a great principal (and will continue to be!)

For the army of committed sub-committee members: gardens, music, fundraising, cakes, craft... volunteering's rewards are not often if ever monetary - they're much more than that. But the value placed in your work far exceeds any return to you all. Thank you.

I'd like to sincerely and deeply thank all members of the executive - David, Paul, Sascha, and Dawn. You've all done your jobs impeccably. I couldn't ask for better people to work with, wise counsel and cooler heads than mine. I'd like to highlight Mel Bruniges' contribution - Mel has been an outstanding secretary, a wise counsel and a brave and tenacious supporter of the school and P and C. She
often took the brunt of stress with her open and accommodating personality, plus her encyclopaedic and detailed knowledge of the P and C’s business. I have praised her before, but it doesn’t seem enough. Thank you is the best I can come up with. (I’ve tried paying tribute to Mel before, but she’d stymied it … )

I’ll shut up now, and let the meeting continue. But just before I do, I would like to thank all of you - the members of the P and C - the parents and guardians of our children. None of this would be possible without you. I wish the new committee the very best. I offer them my support and whatever meagre assistance I can provide. I look forward to a hugely productive and positive and fun year.

See you round!

Principal’s report: Cheryl Robens

- CPS Annual Financial Statement 2010 rollover at end of Nov. Unpaid receipts still come in after this time. Is there a surplus? Yes, bought 2 IWBs & 15 laptops. 2007 bought 15 computers for the lab out of money school has saved, won’t be replaced over time, need to spend schools money. Annual rollout select what buy, last year bought new server and new computers to continue to do upgrade. Don’t want anything on site over 5 years old. (table budget)
- $15,000 per student spent at Canterbury according to MySchool website, due to hearing teachers and support unit teacher and permanent learning support officers. Schools with the most per head have students with disability and disadvantaged. Highest in state about $30k per child. Expectation state will provide for every student. (table sheet)
- ICSEA (measure of educational Advantage). Determined by information parents put into enrolment forms, tertiary qualifications, high school qualifications, etc. Ours has changed. (table sheet).
- Updated school plan is on website. Reforms National Partnership money and reforms are 2 things we need to meet in terms of planning for national partnerships Reform 1: Incentives to attract high-performing teachers and principals. (emphasis is on professional learning); - Reform 4: providing innovative and tailored learning opportunities
- President’s report to be included in annual school report

Treasurers Report
Paul Scouller

- 7 fundraising events last year: including the fete and a trivia night, raised $21,500 spent just under $14k, IWBs. Jellybeans, support of initial music program.
- Avail funds P&C Account: over $10,400k, which includes $6k in music account. (excludes money already committed to 2 x IWBs) & music programme. Money in general bank account.

Music committee report
Suzanne

- Raising money to do T-shirts for band, string ensemble, etc Black polo shirt, Connie idea of competition amongst kids to have CPS logo printed on back. Andrew has commitment from Richardson & Wrench for some money towards this. Discussion about the music tutor and extending that. Currently paid until middle of next term, funds to continue? Who’s paying for Flora? Music committee raised approx $2k in 2010 which is theirs to spend on various activities. Seed funding P&C money? Money for instrument hire had to be paid up front, most came back in.
| Music Committee | Seed money still in Music account. Money already factored in, $10,500 is what is available. Music committee will put forward a proposal to extend music teacher in school. She is team teaching working in every mainstream class across the school. Professional learning for the teacher as well as working with the children around that. She is a student at the con, came in as prac student, was very impressive, so put proposal to music committee & Flora, a way to continue music program, less cost than Jellybeans. Last year P&C agreed to pay $3,500, paid at rates as learning support officer. Need to get some more numbers from Cheryl, think that amount will do approx 15wks. New music stands, good quality that will last. Andrew to put proposal up to P&C to approve.  
- Rock camp going ahead this term. Not doing band camp as too expensive. |
| Canteen Committee Cheryl McCarthy |  
- Popcorn machine, has been purchased  
- Slinky to go to canteen, Dawn will teach Lisa  
- Meeting tomorrow with committee  
- Canteen volunteers are they wanted? Will discuss tomorrow |
| Gardening Committee Nerida Chedra |  
- 12 parents at first working bee, productive afternoon despite the heat.  
- Another working bee, gardening therapy Thursdays starting tomorrow.  
- Next Sat working bee 19 March.  
- Micha started on garden beds, hoping get at least some of them done by the end of term.  
- Meeting with Ms Sadek & Ms Coleman on Tues afternoon, talk about planning with classes to plant seedlings into garden beds.  
- Going well, slashed weeds & sprayed some areas.  
- Had very high weeds in there!  
- Dwindling volunteers towards the end of last year to help with this. |
| Fundraising Lynne Murray |  
- Election Day fundraising, discussed last week.  
- Need more volunteers to work on stall on the day, on BBQ from 8am-10am.  
- Send update through to P&C parent reps (Mel)  
- Commonwealth Bank giving away $8k to 80 schools Suzanne & Lynne M working on submission for IWB for special needs students. $300 from Commonwealth Bank being presented at assembly Thursday 10th March  
- Notices to students for cake boxes going out ASAP.  
- Cake boxes donated? Will look into it |
| Other Business |  
- No |
| Meetings for Term 1 |  
- 9 February, 7:30pm  
- 9 March, 7:30pm AGM  
- 6 April, 7:30pm |
| Meeting concluded | 8:30pm |