

ACT Council of P&C Associations Inc

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To: All P&C Delegates, P&C Presidents & Secretaries

Report on P&C Council General Meeting 26 June 2018 (attended by 32)

This report is issued after Council meetings to assist delegates in reporting back to their P&C associations and to inform parents generally about the activities of P&C Council.

- **P&C association constitution workshop** Thursday June 28, 6:45, Stirling
- **P&C insurance declaration & renewal forms due back to Civic Insurance now.**
- **Listening to Tuggeranong:** Explore the joys, difficulties and needs of public schools in Tuggeranong. Tuesday August 28, 7pm, Centre for Innovation & Learning, Caroline Chisholm School.
- **Photo Competition for P&Cs!** We are offering great prizes for photos of P&C activities and the value you add to your school. Entry open all Term 3.

2. Presentation - Yvette Berry MLA, ACT Minister for Education spoke briefly about the results of the Future of Education consultation in the ACT and the recent meeting of Education Ministers. She noted the following:

- a. They had taken into account the recommendations of the Gonski 2 review.
- b. Aiming to have creative, connected and engaged students with skills for the future.
- c. 4,600 individual responses received with 43% of these being from students.
- d. Those consulted included disengaged students, school communities, principals, teachers, student congresses and organisations such as the P&C Council.
- e. There was an emphasis in responses on education for jobs in the future.
- f. The issue of equity was confirmed as important and had to be coupled with Excellence.
- g. The national partnership agreement for education had still not been signed.
- h. It was agreed that NAPLAN should be reviewed.
- i. The ACT was approved to lead this review which will start in September.

In response to questions, the Minister advised:

- a. The money in the ACT budget for Parental Engagement Officers is aimed at relieving the work load on some Principals, details of how it will work are still to be decided.
- b. The government is continuing to appoint additional School Social workers as per the previous budget.
- c. Some school chaplains have long standing relations with their schools and we would not wish to interfere with these as long as they observe the rules.
- d. Due to the high population growth, more schools will be needed in the Gungahlin, west Belconnen and Molonglo areas than are currently planned. NSW is building schools in Murrumbateman and Googong.
- e. She favours extending school zone speed time restrictions but is aware of the difficulties this faces.
- f. She expects that the school crossing supervisors will be extended to other schools wanting them after successful completion of the trial.

3. Council merger with Canberra Preschool Society (CPS)

Alex Abrahams, gave an update on the merger with the P&C Council. She noted the inevitable pressures on the CPS, the ending of funding by EDU, their consideration of options and decision to join with the Council, the establishment of Council's Early Learning Committee & future employment of the Early Learning Officer. On 2 July, 16 preschool parent associations will join the Council as affiliate members & 6 play schools will join as associate members, with the full services and representation of the Council accorded to those levels. It was noted that this will enable the Council to be more proactive in the early learning sphere.

4. Items for the Minister meeting which is now on 24 July 18

The list of items was included in the agenda papers. Of noted are specialist education stream issues and the idea that gifted and talented students should have access to an SRA.

5. Online fundraising

Gold Creek has had success in raising online funding with Colour Run. Gold Creek raised \$18,000 less 35% fee to Colour Run, however, this left them with a substantial amount. Details can be found at

www.Gofundraise.com On another issue, P&Cs can accept sponsorships for their activities while schools cannot. However, it was recommended that sponsorships not be exclusive and opportunities made available to a number of potential sponsors.

6. NAPLAN

Delegates' assessment of NAPLAN was discussed:

- a. Not to retain NAPLAN as it is – unanimously.
- b. Retain it after a review and suitable modification – substantial majority.
- c. Remove NAPLAN altogether – six votes

7. Book Packs for Schools

P&Cs are having problems sourcing reliable suppliers for their student book packs. They are unhappy with the poor service and quality of the Office Max products. One previous supplier Chalk was winding up, however, Office Works is providing an online portal for parents to order. One P&C was very happy with their supplier and agreed to advise the Council office of their contact details. Some P&Cs were not involved in the book packs at all, with their schools handling everything. Differences in the cost of book packs was noted between schools.

8. The SENTRAL system

The Sentral school records management system is causing some issue in schools. The following noted:

- a. Continuing concerns about the errors in recording student attendance.
- b. We are yet to discuss the system with the AEU.
- c. The biggest issues are with colleges and preschools schools.
- d. The positive/negative incident reporting by teachers was a concern in the student wellbeing model.
- e. The records will be available when and wherever the student moves.
- f. ILPS will be added to the system
- g. There are 18 levels of security on the system so people can only access their authorized level.
- h. A parent portal is being developed.
- i. There are concerns about the additional workload on teachers having to manually enter all the data.

9. Other issues from P&C Association

a. School Fences – In response to a concern from IPECS about the failure of EDU to install their requested school fence, they were advised to email TLS in the office and we will follow up for them. It was noted that EDU has said many times that those schools that want fences will get them.

10. NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is a Hot Topics General meeting (Listening to Tuggeranong) on Tuesday 28 August 18 at the Centre for Innovation & Learning, Caroline Chisholm School.