



# Hunter School of the Performing Arts P&C Unconfirmed Minutes

**Date** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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**Time** 7.00 pm

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**Location** Via Zoom

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## **Welcome to Country**

By David Donnelly

## **Attendance**

David Donnelly (President), Julie Hoey (Secretary), Pippa Cottle (Treasurer), Harriet Ferguson (Senior Vice-president), Malini Stephen (Junior Vice-president), Tracey Breese (Principal), Darren Ponman (Deputy Principal), Karen O'Neill (Deputy Principal), Rachel Wilson (Deputy Principal), Ali Raine, Rachel Honnef, Bernadette Van de Wijngaart, Dale Garbutt, Guy Pitkin, Dee Morison, Damien Burke, Mark Pegler, Leigh Wildschut

## **Apologies**

Amanda Linstrom, Cherie Watters-Cowan, Hayley Roussell, Lynne Kentish, Genevieve McMahon

## **Minutes of the August meeting**

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the August meeting as an accurate record.

Moved: Julie Hoey

Seconded: Harriet Ferguson

Motion carried.

## **Reports**

- Principal's Report

Tracey acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which HSPA is built, and in particular lauded the performance culture of first Australians.

Tracey expressed good wishes to fathers and father-figures on Father's Day, and noted the Primary school Facebook post celebrating fathers. See:

<https://www.facebook.com/page/413857925341850/search/?q=fathers%20day>

or

<https://vimeo.com/597994329>

## **Covid update**

Weekly emails are being sent with Covid updates. If you reply to one of those emails, it will go to Tracey's inbox as well as to the school.

We are still tracking towards a 25<sup>th</sup> October return date. It will be a rolling return; not everyone at once. Details still being finalised. At that time, everyone will need to be vaccinated to come onto school grounds, including canteen volunteers etc. No policy on students being vaccinated, except the push to get Year 12s vaccinated. No staff members at HSPA have said they don't want to be vaccinated. Students will have to return wearing masks.

The HSC cannot be put back any further; 9<sup>th</sup> November is the latest it can start. Results will be available in January, not December. Discussions are still underway as to what the HSC will look like; it will more than likely go ahead, possibly in a limited capacity.

### **Uniform Tender process**

The Department now requires schools to put uniform contracts out to tender. We have a grace period and can stay with our current suppliers until June 2022. Our current supplier is a local company providing the best price around.

**Noted:** That the P&C endorses the decision to remain with the current supplier until June 2022.

### **2022 Budget**

There has been a significant shift in some aspects of school budgets and finances.

Historically, schools have been allowed to hold over any amount of money that they've raised themselves. Now they can only hold up to \$100,000 when rolling over to the next financial year.

HSPA had significant funds, but they have diminished because they have been used to run the school. It requires five staff above the staffing agreement to run HSPA as a performing arts school; we get no extra funding to do so. Other specialist government schools charge students anywhere from \$800 - \$5000 extra per year. We are looking this year at a \$300,000 short fall for running the school.

The school is planning two measures in response to these issues.

#### *Measure 1: Compulsory Fee*

HSPA is looking at introducing a compulsory performing arts fee. We are currently getting in 50% of fees from parents because they don't see the fees as compulsory. The fee would probably be about \$250 per term, and would replace individual subject fees, REACH, ensembles, Canvas and extras such as Mathspace, etc. It would be a flat fee for all students. Additional charges would apply for sport, excursions, camps, instrument hire, events such as Starstruck, and Stage 6 VET courses. The only non-compulsory fee would be the general contribution fee.

There will be a staged roll-out, in that the fee would be compulsory for all students from next year, but only students new to the school will be required to pay it upfront at enrolment in 2022. Upfront payment would be expected of all students in subsequent years. HSPA does not want any student to miss out on attendance due to financial difficulty. Options would include payment plans (e.g. fortnightly instalments), application of allowances the school receives for low socio-economic students, and promotion of scholarships from the Public Education Foundation (some significant amounts are available).

Discussion on the compulsory fee included:

- Suggestion for a discount for canteen volunteers
- Discount for upfront payment
- Concern that upfront payment discount means those who can least afford it pay more
- Suggestion for multi-student family discount

Tracey said the school would be happy to have P&C representatives look at this with the Executive when they start finalising the details. She emphasised that equity is a high priority and they don't want anyone missing out due to financial difficulty.

### *Measure 2: Building Fund*

The school is looking at setting up a tax-deductible Building Fund, set up as a Legacy Fund so the money can be rolled over by the school.

Purpose: Infrastructure spending

Example: It costs \$15,000 per year just to maintain and service the fly system in the theatre; last year it required an additional \$75,000 to keep it operational. A conservative estimate is \$250,000 just to maintain the theatre. Other needs: upgrade to sound system; upgrade of chairs in 10 years.

- *Treasurer's Report*—Pippa Cottle

Canteen is closed at the moment due to Covid lockdown, so major income suspended. But Dee has managed to get Covid payments in. Posting a small loss this month, to be expected.

MOTION: To receive the Treasurer's financial statements as distributed

Moved: Harriet Ferguson

Seconded: Dee Morison

Motion carried.

- *Canteen Report* – Dee Morison

The canteen has been closed since 5<sup>th</sup> August, but wages are being covered by government payments and we have received government grants of \$9,000. Would like to donate \$3,000 to primary for new playground, as their fundraising events and efforts have been hampered by Covid restrictions. Shortfall for the playground is currently about \$8,000. There was general support for this suggestion; actual amount up to \$5,000 to be further discussed, perhaps via email.

(History on playground: current playground doesn't meet WHS requirements therefore kids can't use it. Has been roped off all year. Working to make it into a nature play area and outdoor learning area)

- *Primary Subcommittee Report* – reported by Dee Morison

Discussions around: reporting looking different this year (news just out from Department)

Focus on wellbeing of students; main priority around creating a safe, connected community with a sense of belonging.

- *Music Subcommittee Report* – not available at the meeting.

## **General business**

### **QUESTIONS:**

**Year 12 return in Term 4**—the Department just announced today that Year 12 students don't have to return onsite for face-to-face classes. HSPA will help them manage and pace their revision through past papers, seminars, etc.

**Teachers Federation** broadcast tomorrow night – David Donnelly will circulate information.

**New Teacher Librarian** will commence start of Term 4.

**University of Newcastle: Open Day** online (three days). Information on every degree on offer. Can watch later if not live. (<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/open-day>)

**The P&C expresses its thanks to staff** for keeping students engaged during home learning / Covid lockdown

**Meeting closed: 8.07pm**

**Next meeting: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November** (October 4 is the Labour Day holiday)

# Profit and Loss

Hunter School of Performing Arts P & C

For the month ended 31 August 2021

Account	Aug 2021
<b>Trading Income</b>	
Canteen Sales	6,346.96
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>6,346.96</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>6,346.96</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Canteen Expense	2,862.83
P & C Fees and Insurance	883.00
Superannuation	382.35
Wages	4,444.72
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>8,572.90</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>(2,225.94)</b>

# Balance Sheet

Hunter School of Performing Arts P & C

As at 31 August 2021

Account	31 Aug 2021
<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Bank</b>	
Canteen Card Account	1,000.00
WESTPAC Music Savings Acc	33,058.54
WESTPAC Music Transaction Acc	2,601.84
WESTPAC P&C Savings Acc	57,257.96
WESTPAC P&C Transactions Acc	14,633.06
WESTPAC Primary Savings Acc	5,385.44
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>113,936.84</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Petty Cash	(586.25)
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>(586.25)</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>113,350.59</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
PAYG Withholding Payable	5,757.00
Superannuation Accruals Payable	859.84
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>6,616.84</b>
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>	
Prov'n for Long Service Leave	(335.67)
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>(335.67)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>6,281.17</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	
	<b>107,069.42</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
P&C funds available for use	66,023.60
Music Comitee	35,660.38
Primary Funds	5,385.44
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>107,069.42</b>