



## **(Abridged) Minutes – Friends' School Parents' and Friends' Association**

General Meeting 4/2016, Tuesday 1st November, 2016.  
The Green Room, The Farrall Centre.

These minutes reflect the decision making procedures that are embodied in the constitution. Relevant items are recorded as having been “resolved by agreement”, reflecting that the decisions of the committee are decided by consensus, rather than being moved, seconded and voted upon.

### **1. Opening and Welcome:**

The meeting was opened in the usual way with a period of silence.

### **2. Presentation:**

Lindy Gannon, Joe Cairns and Maddy Walker discussed their recent tour of Quaker schools in the UK. They visited 7 schools, all <500 students aged 3-18 (much smaller than Friends'). 20-30% were boarders, and fees about £16,000/yr. Class sizes were much smaller, down to one student!

Lindy focussed on curriculum and how it is communicated. The Sidcot school was good at embedding Quakerism into the curriculum with their School for Peace and Global Studies, 3 Quaker teachers, and learning wheel in which each year group focuses on a different Quaker value. Bootham school was most like TFS, in terms of strong respectful relationships between students and staff. Their Bootham Challenge is like our co-curricular system – but a very organised system with 7 areas and 4 levels, all of which have to be completed (a bit like the Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme). Our teacher appraisal process is well established, and theirs only starting. In Primary school they focussed heavily on dispositions (independent, creative, reflective, collaborative, adventurous, resilient) – and children were given tokens every time they displayed a certain disposition. These tokens were put into labelled boxes for each disposition, which gave a good idea of how the school was going as a whole in these areas. In HS they displayed how subjects reflected Quaker values – eg. sustainability in Chemistry. Lindy found that our cross-curricular Outdoor Ed programme is unparalleled and our advertising should reflect this. We could work on better displays with more student ownership.

Joe focussed on student welfare, Gatherings and how they are organised. Overall he found that TFS has a positive and detailed welfare system, better than any they visited. Our tutors know the students very well, counsellors are more available, and learning support is much better developed. Year co-ordinators have more time to focus on their year group as they do not also have a full teaching load, and TFS has many more student well-being initiatives. This is probably due to different school philosophies – their schools are selective, with admissions tests and high academic expectations. Gatherings are only



15 min/week in HS (1 hr here) and students who are not meeting expectations are expected to shape up or ship out!

Maddy focussed on Quakerism and catching up with past Gappies. She also did the Fox Trot – a week long Quaker schools pilgrimage to the top of Pendle Hill, where the founder of Quakerism, George Fox, had a vision in 1652. Ben Pink Dandelion, a Professor of Quaker Studies, contributed to the programme. Maddy found that Leyton Park and Sidcot were like TFS, encouraging students to take more responsibility in Gatherings. Woodbrook school, incorporating the Quaker study centre, had a course on exploring the early Quaker vision. Ackworth required each staff member to give a sermon relevant to Quaker worship 3x/yr. They had slots blocked out for silence, meeting, assembly and long tutor, so students are all together for Meeting – we could incorporate this, as well as putting Pacifist quotes on the walls. The whole Ackworth school do their forest programme together, probably only feasible in a smaller school. In general we do things well, and this trip strengthened connections and started dialogue about future staff/student exchanges.

### **3. Principal's Report:**

Nelson recently returned from a trip to 8 Quaker schools and 1 university in the USA, and the Quaker Heads of Schools conference. Nearly all the Quaker schools are selective. He has facilitated more staff and student exchanges, eg. Delaware (IB school) in January, and HS/Clemes exchange planned with Sandy Springs school.

The Board of Governors have passed the draft Master Plan. It is anticipated that Commercial Rd campus will go first, aiming to increase learning space and accessibility. Oates gym will become classrooms, then another gym will be built. Heritage planning is still underway, then submission to the Hobart City Council. Clemes refurbishment and the Kinder playground remodelling will be undertaken over the holidays.

Staff hiring for 2017 is nearly complete.

Business Insider magazine recently featured Friends' within the top 30 schools of Australia.

### **4. President's Report:**

Maria outlined her vision for the P&F over the next 3 years, with an emphasis on community engagement and fundraising in an environment of diminishing resources (human and monetary).

She suggested a second fundraising event next year – allowing corporate sponsorship, via an internal business registry within the school community which provides a pool of potential sponsors. Eg. outdoor cinema.

The parent body could join a register of skills on entry to the school, so a pool of experienced people could be tapped to speak to students about business or other careers. Parents could have a business network meeting monthly, eg before school, to benefit everyone and increase crosslinks with the school community.



Volunteers and sponsors should be better recognised.

Make more of the funding priorities – widely distribute the goals and have a barometer for fundraising, and allow sponsorship. ? allow parental input into the funding priorities.

More parent connection is required in HS – say via specific HS social events. Boarding parents could also have specific social events. Generally shorter events more often seem preferable.

Social committee for each campus with parent reps to help organise events – Wendy and Beck volunteered for HS.

The P&F page requires more information and connections – eg we could email new parents with P&F information. Meeting agenda and minutes on the page.

#### **5. Treasurer’s Report:**

New bank account signatories are done.

Fair float under organisation – Anna and Sally are on the lookout for volunteers for the counting room and runners. Please contact them if you would be able to help on the day/evening.

Financial recording system – possibly look at going to a cloud based MYOB system – Anna is very experienced with this system and will discuss with the committee.

The P&F Working Account has a current balance \$1,190.51 and the P&F Savings Account has balance of \$29,582.31. These balances are after paying the October 16 School Statement of \$4,288.61, this was made up of Funding Priorities payment of \$5,125.61 less Entertainment Book commission of \$832 and \$5 of Jam Sales from the fair.

#### **6. Fundraising:**

The Fair committee has started meeting regularly – planning is well underway. The Fair will be on Sat 25/3 at Morris campus, 4-7pm.

#### **7. Other Business: Funding Priorities –**

Anne Potter spoke of initiating Loose Parts Play in Morris – in which pipes, logs, rope etc, are used free range in the playground. There tend to be many less playground incidents where this has been implemented. Hopefully after an initial outlay, the parents will donate things from businesses or home excess. A container to hold all the loose parts was requested from the Funding Priorities, at a cost of approx \$4000, to be placed at the back of the bottom tennis court.

#### **8. Next Meeting:**

Thursday 2nd March 2017, 7pm, Green Room Farreal Centre. Steve Barrett (K-12 Director of Teaching and Learning) will speak about the progress with the school Improvement Plan, and the Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching.

#### **9. Close:**

The meeting concluded with a silence at 8.30pm.