



MCDOWALL STATE SCHOOL COUNCIL

McDowall State School, 1,018 Rode Rd, McDowall. Q. 4053.

PO Box 493. Everton Park. Q. 4053.

Tel: 07 3872 5333 Fax: 07 3872 5300 Email: schoolcouncil@mcdownallss.eq.edu.au

Chairperson: Soraya Bews
Secretary: Sally-Ann Summers

MEMBERSHIP:

	Name	Membership
	Bruce Fogarty	Official – Principal
	John Bradley	Official – P&C President
	Kayleen Morgan	Elected Staff (2019-21)
	Annabelle Allon	Elected Staff (2019-21)
	Heath McDonald	Elected Staff (2018-20)
	Sally-Ann Summers	Elected Staff (2018-20)
	Paul Johnson	Elected Parent (2019-21)
A	Jennifer Walker	Elected Parent (2019-21)
A	Soraya Bews	Elected Parent (2018-20)
	Maryanne Humphries	Elected Parent (2018-20)

This personal telephone and email contact information is not to be used for any other purpose than for official School Council business. Not for distribution.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Monday 09 th March, 2020.	7pm – 8pm.	School Staffroom.
Monday 08 th June, 2020.	7pm – 8pm.	School Staffroom.
Monday 31 st August, 2020.	7pm – 8pm.	School Staffroom.
Monday 12 th October, 2020.	7pm – 8pm.	School Staffroom.
Monday 09 th November, 2020.	7pm – 8pm.	School Staffroom.

Please advise both School Council Secretary and Principal by email, if members are unable to attend a meeting.

MEETING MINUTES: **MONDAY 31st August, 2020. SCHOOL STAFFROOM. 7.00pm-8.00pm.**

Quorum (Minimum of 7 members) requirement met with 8 members in attendance.

1. Welcome – By School Council Chairperson

- Bruce Fogarty was endorsed by members to represent the Chairperson for this meeting only.
- John Bradley was endorsed by members to lead the discussion topics during this meeting.
- Welcome to Guest: David Pedwell DP.

2. School Council Membership Apologies

- Soraya Bews
- Jennifer Walker

3. Confirmation of Minutes of previous School Council Meeting

- Confirmation of previous School Council Minutes dated 8th June, 2020.
- Moved by: Sally-Anne Summers
- Seconded by: John Bradley

Decision: Endorsed by all members.

4. Business Arising from Minutes of previous School Council Meeting

- School Council Minutes are available from the school website.
- School Council Constitution is available from the school website.
- School Council email contacts have been amended so that both Chairperson and Secretary should be accessing electronic communications.

5. Correspondence

- Nil

6. Business Arising from the Correspondence

- Nil

7. Reports

- Nil

8. Motions on Notice

- Nil

9. Published Meeting Agenda ... *Reference is made to the School Council Charter 2018-2021.*

Minutes are recorded as brief, dot point statements and will not be a detailed summary of School Council discussion. Minutes will record each motion placed before the School Council and in preference will record unanimous endorsement. If not, a vote will be recorded. (For and Against and Result.)

McDowall SS supporting documents are often of a **confidential** nature, tabled to informed School Council discussion. These documents are **not** for electronic or public distribution. Please delete such documents after conclusion of School Council business.

Standing Requirement: Disclosure of Interest and Indictable Offences

This applies to a member of the School Council if:

- The interested member has a direct or indirect financial interest in an issue being considered, or about to be considered by the School Council; and
- The interest could conflict with the proper performance of the interested member's duties when considering the issue.

As soon as practicable after the relevant facts come to the interested member's knowledge, the interested member must disclose the nature of the interest to a meeting of the School Council. Unless the School Council otherwise directs, the interested member must not be present when the School Council considers the issue or take part in a decision of the School Council about the issue. The interested member must not be present when the School Council is considering whether the interested member can be party to considerations.

If a member is not present at a School Council meeting due to their disclosure of interest, the School Council is still considered to have a quorum (as if the member were present) and the remaining members present would consider the issue. A disclosure of interest must be recorded in the School Council's meeting minutes.

If a person is convicted of an indictable offence while a member of a School Council, the person must give written notice to the Principal of the conviction within seven days after the conviction.

Standing Agenda Item: Budget Overview Report

School Budget: Endorsed on 03.04.20.

School Budget Overview Report 31.08.20 discussed and endorsed. It was noted that school grants are provided at various times through the school year so funding runs beyond calendar and financial years. Funding purpose is outlined within the School Budget 2020 Explanatory Notes.

Moved by: Maryanne Humphries

Seconded by: Kaylene Morgan

Decision: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **Vote of Thanks and Acknowledgement to: Heath McDonald, Sally-Anne Summers, Soraya Bews & Maryanne Humphries.**

Moved by: John Bradley

Seconded by: Annabelle Allon

Decision: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **Formal Welcome to: Heath McDonald, Sally-Anne Summers, Soraya Bews & Maryanne Humphries; and all continuing members.**

Moved by: Paul Johnson

Seconded by: Heath McDonald

Decision: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **Elect a School Council Chairperson for 2020-2021.**

- Nominations are: Soraya Bews

Moved by: Sallyanne Summers

Seconded by: Kaylene Morgan

Decision: Soraya Bews elected as School Council Chairperson for 2020-2021.

▪ **Vote of Thanks and Acknowledgement to Soraya Bews as School Council Chairperson for 2019-2020**

Moved by: John Bradley

Seconded by: Maryanne Humphries

Decision: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **Elect a School Council Secretary for 2020-2021.**

- Nominations are: Sallyanne Summers

Moved by: Kaylene Morgan

Seconded by: Annabelle Allon

Decision: Sallyanne Summers elected as School Council Secretary for 2020-2021.

▪ **Vote of Thanks and Acknowledgement to Sally-Anne Summers as School Council Secretary for 2019-2020.**

Moved by: John Bradley

Seconded by: Heath McDonald

Decision: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **Summary Overview of School Council membership Code of Conduct.**

- Copy provided to all members.
- General summary and overview provided by Principal.

▪ **Summary Overview of School Council Constitution.**

- Copy available from school website.
- General summary and overview provided by Principal.

▪ **Summary Overview of:**

- **McDowall SS Plan 2018-2021.**
- **McDowall SS Annual Improvement Plan 2020 & Budget 2020.**
- **McDowall SS Workforce Plan 2020.** *These all lead to*
- **School Council Charter 2018-2021.**
- **McDowall SS Annual Report 2019.**

- Copy available from school website.
- General summary and overview provided by Principal.
- School Review scheduled for 2021.

▪ **Sun Safety Accreditation 2020-2023.**

The McDowall SS Sun Safety Programme was updated earlier this year and submitted to the Qld Cancer Council for endorsement. This had subsequently been approved and a certificate provided to the school. A copy was forwarded to all members.

Noted: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **Investing for Success 2020.**

The Investing for Success Initiative has now been operating for six years. The annual grant of \$298,386 remains static (not having increased) so as salary costs increase, school enrolment fluctuates, etc the staff investment must decline. (a) A Speech Language Pathologist @ 3days / wk is engaged. (a) TA EB 2019 now requires teachers-aides to work to a pay structure where three different Role Descriptions apply, the employee being paid accordingly. Purchased Teacher Aide hours have declined from 180hrs to 120hrs since 2017. (c) Administration Officer time was to be 50% funded by Facilities Hire Fees in 2020 but COVID-19 has prevented this from happening leaving to date a \$14,683.68 deficit moving forward. The Investing for Success Initiative Agreement was endorsed in Term 4, 2019 for 2020 and is currently available on the school website. Funding details are outlined within the McDowall State School Budget 2020. School Council now needs to consider priorities moving forward into 2021.

The Qld Public Service Act is currently being amended with Stage 1 due in September, 2020. Two priority areas exist: Giving full effect to the commitment to maximise employment security in public sector employment; and Providing positive performance management of public sector employees. Permanent employment will be the default basis for public sector employment and that non-permanent forms of employment should only be used when on-going employment is not viable or appropriate. A 'temporary employee will be a fixed term temporary employee. There will be a right for public servants employed on a temporary or casual basis to request a review of their employment status at 12 months.

- The Investing for Success Initiative Agreements 2016-2020 highlight the declining purchase power of these annual grants. (Tabled)
- Purchased hours decline annually. Funding is approved for receipt annually.
- At present, it is unknown whether this initiative will continue beyond the State Election or whether it will be rebranded for 2021.
- All staff engaged under the Investing for Success grant are temporary engagements.
- To date, Investing for Success Initiative engagements have been exempt due to the annual nature of funding. This may not be sustained from 2021.
- School Council may therefore need to reconsider how these funds are to be spent looking forward into 2021 as given existing Investing for Success wages liabilities exceed the grant of \$298,386, should these funds not be recurrent (guaranteed), the McDowall State School receives only \$123,794 General Grant + Savings to operate annually. Careful consideration needs to be afforded to planning in Term 4, 2020.

Continuing discussion will occur into Term 4, 2020.

Moved by: Bruce Fogarty

Seconded by: Maryanne Humphries

Decision: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **McDowall SS Building Fund Projects 2020+ (Managed by P&C Association).**

The McDowall SS P&C Association operates a Building Fund (ATO Approved to deliver tax deductible donations). To promote and engage the community in donating toward future facilities projects, we need to be clear about why we are requesting money. Below are recommended facilities projects that may be considered. Please indicate Priority 1-5.

1	Land acquisition through to Keona Road.	3	K Block Toilets refurbishment
	Three storey Teaching Block (Library / OSHC)	3	K Block Extension and Covered Area
	New School Oval Access Pathways		All weather Connection: K Block & Activities Build
	New relocated Administration Building		Extension of Emblem Covered Area
4	External Water and Sinks – Classrooms	2	Second Kiss-and-Ride Facility Covered Area
	Fuel Storage Facility		Path connecting I Block to School Hall
	Covered Area beside J Block		Steps from Car Park to I Block.
	Tanks extending to School Oval		Refurbish Modulars 1, O, Q, N.
	Shade Awnings – J Block		Sports Infrastructure on School Oval
	Shade Awnings – E Block		School Oval top-dress / Irrigation extension
	Dance / Human Movement Facility		School Oval Embankment Seating
			Bike Enclosure Covered Area

Moved by: Maryanne Humphries

Seconded by: Annabelle Allon

Decision: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **School Infrastructure Planning 2020-2024 Re Land Acquisition.**

Soraya Bews (Chairperson) met with John Bradley (President) in consultation with the P&C Association Executive to discuss the P&C Association Letter sent to the Director-General of Education and the formal response received. A further letter was drafted, co-signed and forwarded by the P&C Association Secretary to the Minister for Education. John Bradley (President) stated that it has been some 3-4 weeks since posting and as yet, no reply has been received by the P&C Association. P&C Association membership are aware of these proceedings. There is a general feeling of being ignored.

Decision: Noted by all members.

▪ **Questions for Discussion and Recommendation.**

It was during the most recent School Council meeting that further time needed to be provided in discussing the following questions:

- **Should students be permitted to bring mobile phones to McDowall State School?**
- **Should students be permitted to wear on-line capable wrist watches at McDowall State School?**
 - **How should this be enforced? What should the consequence be if a breach occurs?**
- **Which Year Levels should be permitted to engage within the BYOD Initiative? Currently Years 5-6.**

Re-statement of previous School Council Discussion Summary

- ✓ Victorian Department of Education states that all phones must be switched off and securely stored during each day while the student is at school.
- ✓ Federal Government's position is that all mobile phones and on-line capable watches should be banned. Some States have referred such decision-making to school communities.
- ✓ Parents often provide a mobile phone to their child to maximise child safety travelling to / from school.
- ✓ General consensus that mobile phones and on-line capable watches are not to be used during the school day.
- ✓ Mobile phones should be kept in the classroom under lock and key. If unknown, they may be securely stored in student bags but the school will assume no responsibility for their loss + consequences must immediately apply if the phone is used during recess, etc.
- ✓ There is an existing mobile phone, visual and auditory recording protocol within the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students.
- ✓ General consensus that if a student does use their mobile phone and on-line capable watch during the school day, there is to be link to the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students. Eg. Consequence and Student Responsibilities Level.
- ✓ Both parents and students should communicate with teachers and staff through School Administration or established teacher / parent modes of communication. Eg. Phone call, email, letter, etc.
- ✓ Acknowledge that this generation is pro-technology and such technology is regularly used BUT technology does not over-rule the human factor. Eg. Permission, courtesy, mutual respect, professional standing, etc.
- ✓ Important to ensure that any mobile phone policy is clearly communicated to all parents, students and staff when introduced.
- ✓ Recommended that IF mobile phones and on-line capable watches are permitted within the school, then a formal agreement be signed by the parent and students regarding conditions of use and expected consequence/s should these conditions be breached.
- ✓ On-line capable wrist watches will be required to have all notifications switched off during the school day.
- ✓ If a wrist watch has the same capability as a mobile phone, then it should be treated the same way in policy.
- ✓ Students may require annual first week 'training' regarding school policy and expectations. Thus no surprises!
- ✓ General consensus exists that the BYOD Technology Initiative remains within Years 5-6.

Further School Council Discussion

- ✓ Generally, it is expected that classrooms will be phone free.
- ✓ Phones and on-line devices should be stored and be silent.
- ✓ It is noted that phones are often issued by parents to their children for a reason: (a) Pick up (b) Empty home arrival (c) Safety, etc. Practical and often justified.

- ✓ It is also noted that some students receive a phone simply because they want one or because their friends or parents have one.
- ✓ There is a real concern if a student has the ability to take unauthorised photographs or engage in recording.
- ✓ Students do not need to have a device with them during the school day.
- ✓ Smart Watches (on-line capable): (a) Not really necessary (b) If SIM Card – it should be treated like a phone (c) No recording devices permitted.
- ✓ BYOD relates to Years 5-6 only – iPads.
- ✓ Need to teach students phone etiquette by applying a licence system.
- ✓ P-4 students need to focus on core curriculum skills. May access Class set of iPads provided by the school.
- ✓ Not confident that P-4 would be responsible enough re usage and care of devices. Lost / stolen etc.

Discussion: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **Homework, Home Study or Other? For Discussion and Recommendation.**

- Should the McDowall State School continue with a Homework Policy?
 - What is 'homework' and what is its purpose?
 - Should homework be enforced? How should this be enforced?
 - What should the consequence be if a breach occurs?

Setting the Scene for School Council Discussion

The most recent School Council review on Homework was across August-October, 2016. Files that related to this review, including Parent Survey was reissued to School Council members. This may form the beginning point for future discussion.

Everyone has an opinion regarding homework and each opinion often relates to personal circumstances. Interestingly, the Principal can table actual research that both supports homework and recommend that it be totally discontinued. The School Council position must align solely with its purpose: "Perform its functions in a way that achieves the best learning outcomes for the school's students." Since 2016, much has been explored within staff learning – Executive Functioning, Neuroscience, Instrumental Music research, How the Brain Learns, etc. Additionally, especially within the past 12 months, there has been significant legislative change. Many Acts have been amended, including the Education Act. Maryanne Humphries mentioned the Human Rights Act and the Principal mentioned the revisions occurring this month within the Qld Public Service Act. Change may be driven by positive intent but we must also understand that for every change there will be a flow on effect. Discussion needs to be informed so School Council members are always encouraged to search on-line for the latest summaries. Eg. Search for Human Rights Act and select from the summaries. Search for Public Service Act changes Queensland and select from summaries, etc.

The challenge for School Council in all deliberations will be that enacted principles may not always easily align with the developmental phases that relate to young children. Eg. Children are not miniature adults and even children progress through phases of intellectual, emotional and physical development. Parents know that children don't always know what is right, good nor safe for them. Parents must be protective but giving of space within a secure and supportive context for children to explore and learn from their mistakes. Learning requires immersion, diligence, perseverance, consequence and hard work! The character and habits developed in our youth usually set us up for our adult experience. Put five people on an island and tell them that they all have rights expecting that they each are to expect to have them fulfilled and predictably, over time, not one will receive these rights. Why? Because it is a fundamental principle in science that for each action there will be a balancing action. The best way to guarantee rights is to focus on the consistent delivery by all people of their responsibilities.

Let's explore this scenario further If a dental patient rejects the professional advice of a dentist, or a medical patient rejects the professional advice of their specialist, or a child refuses to engage within or to complete aspects of the academic programme overseen by their teacher, when the inevitable consequence occurs, who is responsible for the outcome (ignorance) or the child's future prospects? Is it the teacher who is charged with the delivery of the Australian Curriculum (standards) within a 5 hour day? Perhaps they should have 'made' the child to comply? Is it the parent because ultimately, they are the responsible adult (by law) for the care, wellbeing and upbringing of their child? Is it the child because they need to be held 'responsible for their own actions'? Yet, developmentally can children actually be truly held responsible for their actions? Thus maybe society is to blame because we have expectation and standards that must be met!

The question I pose then is What is homework and what is its purpose? Further, Should homework be enforced? How? What is considered an acceptable consequence if a breach occurs? Is it appropriate for a child to be detained during recess for extra help, time or intervention with their learning?

10. Meeting Closure

- Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

11. Next Meeting ... 12th October, 2020.

FUTURE SCHOOL COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS: *A clear focus on that which matters!*

- Refer to School Council Charter 2018-2021.
- McDowall SS retains a strong focus on 'self-responsibility' as opposed to 'rights'. What should this look like within the school in future years?
- What type of 'consequence/s' should be imposed for student behaviours that clearly cause disruption to the 'good order and conduct of this State School'?
- How should McDowall State School maintain / promote / enforce the wearing of the school uniform?
- Student Suspension and Exclusion provisions remain within the Education Act and Regulations.
- McDowall SS will establish an additional Year 3 Strings class in 2020. Should this be annually retained and progress across Years 3-6? What is the long-term vision for this Programme of Excellence?
- What should the Investing for Success Initiative included as we look toward 2021-2024?
- If land acquisition is not possible to deliver a school rear access point (second Kiss-and-Ride Facility), how may the School Access Procedure be reviewed and refined?

MEETING MINUTES PREPARED BY:

SECRETARY SIGNATURE: Sally-Ann Summers	DATE:
Over-sign please.	

MEETING MINUTES CONFIRMED AT NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

CHAIRPERSON SIGNATURE: Soraya Bews	DATE:
Over-sign please.	