



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-Anne Summers

MEMBERSHIP:

	Name	Membership
	Bruce Fogarty	Official – Principal
A	John Bradley	Official – P&C President
	Kayleen Morgan	Elected Staff (2019-21)
A	Annabelle Allon	Elected Staff (2019-21)
	Heath McDonald	Elected Staff (2020-22)
	Sally-Anne Summers	Elected Staff (2020-22)
	Paul Johnson	Elected Parent (2019-21)
A	Jennifer Walker	Elected Parent (2019-21)
A	Soraya Bews	Elected Parent (2020-22)
A	Maryanne Humphries	Elected Parent (2020-22)

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 16th November, 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

- Acting Chairperson be nominated.

2. School Council Membership Apologies

- Soraya Bews
- John Bradley
- Annabelle Allon
- Jennifer Walker
- Maryanne Humphries

As a School Council quorum could not be achieved, the Principal spoke to each agenda item and sought general consensus in moving business forward into 2021.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of previous School Council Meeting

- Confirmation of previous School Council Minutes dated 9th November, 2020.

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 16.11.20 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.

Decision: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **School Council Meeting Dates 2021.**

Monday 8th March, 7th June, 9th August, 11th October and 8th November, 2021.

It should be noted that four years will now have passed since the previous School Review. It is anticipated that a Full School Review will be held in 2021 with a revised School Plan 2022-2025 to be drafted and approved.

Decision: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **Investing for Success 2021**

Following on from this same item of business discussed at length during the previous School Council meeting, it can be confirmed that McDowall State School will endeavour to comply with the Public Service Act as amended by the Queensland Government in September, 2020, the Teacher Aides Certified Agreement 2018 and the Fixed Term Temporary Employment Directive issued in September, 2020. This requires the significant review of the McDowall State School Investing for Success Initiative Agreement 2020.

1. Retention of the Speech Language Pathology Service @ 3days per week = \$70-90,000pa.
2. Removal of School Administration time noting a potential \$20,000 deficit into 2021.
3. Retention of significantly reduced Teacher Aide hours, knowing that these will be converted into permanent hours on tenure. Noting that purchasing capability for teacher aide hours has declined from 180hrs (approximately 5years ago) to 120hrs in 2020, it is prudent to further reduce hours by approximately 50hrs per week to accommodate future wages growth over a 5 years transition period.

The intent is to remove existing fixed-term temporary employees who are likely to transition to general employee on tenure from Investing for Success Initiative funding as soon as possible through permanent notional hours becoming available (retirement, resignation or relinquishment) during a five year period. It is understood that McDowall State School will therefore carry forward a wages liability of approximately \$200,000 – declining annually from 2021. This is due to Investing for Success Initiative funding not being guaranteed annually and being a set amount (not indexed).

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 School Council recommended Priorities 1-4.

1	Land acquisition through to Keona Road.	3	K Block Toilets refurbishment
2	Second Kiss-and-Ride Facility Covered Area	4	External Water and Sinks – Classrooms
3	K Block Extension and Covered Area		

▪ **Honeywill Consulting Engaged.**

Honeywill Consulting have been engaged to deliver on the K Block Extension and Covered Area + K Block Toilets refurbishment. They have submitted a 'Schematic Overview' and a Cost Profile. Actual costs cannot be known until tenders are received. This information will be made available at the next P&C Association General Meeting.

Advice is being sought through Honeywill Consulting regarding the best approach toward a second Kiss-and-Ride Shade Structure There are path access, surface storm-water and ground level issues. It has been proposed that it may simply be best to consider the long-term possibilities for a netball court covered area and retention wall – larger, versatile and multi-use. Cost is likely to be the concern.

Decision: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **Homework, Home Study or Other?**

McDowall State School staff have been reviewing academic literature over recent years regarding the value and purpose of homework. In summary, refer to www.evidenceforlearning.org.au/toolkit/homework-primary where an Australian national organisation, corporately funded, overseen by Prof. John Hattie States that homework within primary school delivers little in learning value.

Principal tabled the following documents:

- Department of education (Queensland) Policy Statement.
- Excerpts from 'How the Brain Learns' by Dr David Sousa.
 - Learning to read is not innate.
 - Complexity vs difficulty.
 - Sense, meaning and relevance.
 - Retention varies with teaching method and time allocations.
 - Rehearsal increases retention.
 - Primacy – Recency effect.
 - The brain needs novelty.
 - The brain cannot multi-task.
- Blooms Revised Taxonomy.
- Flipping the Curriculum.

The traditional expectation and experience of homework is concluded. It appears that this form of homework, in hindsight, really relates to a period from the late 70s through until the early 2000s – a fairly recent phenomenon. A better way of looking at it should be "*Enriching class curriculum through shared child experience.*" Classrooms are quite sterile and why should students be seen as 'empty vessels' that need to be filled? Contemporary research does not agree with this viewpoint. Academic, school-based work units are known well in advance. Home study, work or practice continues as there is reading to be done, projects to complete, instruments to play, etc BUT worksheets are no longer. Teachers are best to teach, not mark and correct home work sheets. Teachers are to use their daily instructional time explicitly and focused on what needs their direct instructional attention. Unless home work is to be overseen and directly managed by parents, research indicates that it can do more harm than good. Should such active oversight occur, there are also immense gains to be achieved. Unfortunately, parent routine engagement does not always occur.

The McDowall SS policy focus is to establish inquiry, problem-solving, real-world contextual investigations and research opportunities for students on set topics guided by specific questions. Over a fortnight, students bring their insights and artefacts into the classroom for sharing, testing and analysis so that a class-wide knowledge base may be established upon which the class teacher builds, establishes and extends higher-order thinking learning. Teachers will still teach the basics and practise exercises will still be completed but there is likely to be a greater emphasis on routine drill on core facts which simply must be learnt before they may be applied. Culminating events, projects and work samples will form the basis of assessment and rating. Students will be informed as to how their schoolwork will be assessed. Teachers will increasingly be unlikely to detain or enforce student study or engagement in their home studies – Consequence being lower marks, exclusion from extra-curricula programmes, etc. Partnerships will continue to be fostered between teacher and parent in the delivery of extension and further student learning opportunities. We are all increasingly time poor.

Decision: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **Year 6 Celebratory Dinner and Presentations 2020.**

The McDowall State School P&C Association have kindly offered to meet the venue hire costs for the Year 6 Celebratory Dinner and Presentations 2020 to be held at Eatons Hill Hotel & Function Centre. This was advised within the Tartan Times newsletter. Principal tabled the draft Programme Overview incorporating (a) Class dinner with their teacher (b) Presentation of awards. A draft Year 6 Presentations Programme was also tabled.

Decision: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **Personal Technology Devices.**

This topic has been discussed extensively during recent School Council meetings. The existing McDowall State School policy statements are readily available on the school website and will be realigned with current Department of Education policy from 2021. Mandatory statements from within Student Code of Conduct templates were tabled and discussed (pages 16-29) and it was noted that this text template seems more focused on a secondary school setting and will need to be amended for McDowall State School. Previous School Council Minutes can inform these amendments.

Informed: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **Day 1, 2021 Procedure.**

It is difficult to know what COVID-19 Guidelines will be in place for January, 2021 – following a school vacation period. School procedures need to be established and published this month. It is anticipated that parents will be advised of their child's class by Friday, 22nd January, 2021. Note that school enrolment trends are variable presently so changes are likely to result by Day 8, 2021.

Parents will be advised of a school time window for Friday, 22nd January, 2020 for them to deliver book packs etc to their child's classroom – monitored by teacher aides. Eg. 10.45am-1.15pm. Different Year Levels are assigned a 30min access period. It is acknowledged that not all parents will be in a position to attend on Friday, 22nd January, 2020.

It should also be noted that the school (*indeed classrooms*) are the work place of teachers and students.

For Day 1 only, Preparatory Year parents and students are requested to arrive at school through the Metro Street Gate to attend their allocated Covered Area during a 20min time window. This minimises crowding. Teachers and teacher aides will then accompany students into their classroom so that parents may promptly leave the school site – making way for and providing car parking opportunities for other parents. Preparatory Year classes may begin at 8am, 8.20am or 8.40am.

For Day 1 only, Years 1-2 are scheduled for school arrival between 8am-8.30am. Should elder siblings arrive, they are to quietly wait in their usual before school Waiting Area. This permits as many staff as possible to attend, guide and assist Years 1-2 students. Parents are permitted to attend Years 1-2 supervised Waiting Areas but are also requested to promptly depart the school site – making way for and providing car parking opportunities for other parents.

For Day 1 only, Years 3-6 are scheduled for school arrival between 8.30am-9am. These students are 'old-hands' at arriving at school so should simply progress immediately to their Year Level Waiting Areas.

Decision: Endorsed by all members.

▪ **Parent Entry & Involvement within McDowall SS in 2021.**

Latest Department of Education COVID-19 Guidelines for State Schools were released today (16.11.20). Only minor amendments to previous guidelines were noted. These will be reviewed again before the end of the school year.

From Monday, 23rd November, 2020 parents may deliver their child (if absolutely necessary) before school to their designated Waiting Area, promptly departing the school site. Parents may also elect to return and wait (quietly seated) with P-2 siblings beneath the Large Covered Areas (Tuckerbox, School Emblem) J Block Undercroft and lawn area from 2.30pm-3pm. Certainly, these same parents may wish to remain under the School Oval Covered Areas. Playground equipment remains closed as routine cleaning requirements remain. PA and PC Covered Areas are closed. Areas located between teaching Blocks are also closed. (Noted in Tartan Times) These relaxed restrictions represent an almost full return to previous parent / visitor access procedures employed within the McDowall State School prior to COVID-19. As Queensland Government guidelines are relaxed or tightened, they will apply within McDowall State School.

Decision: Endorsed by all members.

10. Meeting Closure

- Meeting closed at 8.10pm.

11. Next Meeting ... 8th March, 2020.

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

- Refer to School Council Charter 2018-2021.

MEETING MINUTES PREPARED BY:

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

DATE:

MEETING MINUTES CONFIRMED AT NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

CHAIRPERSON SIGNATURE: Soraya Bews
Over-sign please.

DATE: