



Meeting Minutes

PEG Meeting

Time 8.40am – 9.40am

Date Thursday, 8 February 2024

Present Andrew Balkwill, Narelle Sandercock, Nathan Bassett, Jennie Bell, Alex De Porteous, Alexia Deegan, Amanda Carrick, Andrew Carrick, Annabel Mckenzie, Aspa Callisto, Beth Schultz, Briana Bates, Bhumi Shah, Claire Filsell, Courtney Hood, Cristal Tsouvalas, Denny Thomas, Jennifer James, Kathy Stanford (online), Kirsten Drabsch, Lena Fenwick, Lorin Cassetti, Megan Phillips, Natalie Stevens, Nina Nathan, Raynee Wilsdon, Rose Rossi, Sandy Wang, Sarah Coligan, Sonia Lefevre (online), Sue Kelly, Suzie Toogood, Trudy Nankervis (online), Rosemarie Acosta (online)

Apology

Minutes [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Principal Andrew Balkwill welcomed everyone to the first PEG Meeting for 2024. Introduced the Year of Mercy and the College's 70 Year celebrations. He thanked everyone both in person and online for making the effort and the time to attend. Gave a brief background to the PEG model – it's a fairly new initiative in schools – providing a great vehicle for engagement, sharing ideas and gaining insights from the community.

Andrew handed over to Jennie Bell, Director, Communications & Engagement, who opened the meeting. Jennie introduced Deputy Principal, Narelle Sandercock to share new innovations for 2024.

2. 2024 – The year ahead – The Arts and more...

Narelle Sandercock presented a summary of changes and introduced new opportunities for 2024.

- Acknowledgement of continual investment from parents and how valuable that is to the College
- Focus on connecting children to community – vertically through House Spirit activities
- Innovation across STEM and the Arts
 - Whole School Musical – Yr 7 – Yr 12: Legally Blonde
 - New learning opportunities in robotics and coding in JS and MS and Chess in the JS
 - New Inspire pathways
 - We will be entering the Oliphant Science Awards with a new teacher, focused on this project
 - Debating introduced for Years 4 and 5
 - College will attend Generations in Jazz for the first time since Covid.
- Holistic educational experiences – across a range of interests across the College
- Leveraging resources – current and new teachers in the areas of dance, drama, music, tech design
- Year 8 Arts Experiences – More opportunities to perform throughout the year (in addition to the musical)
- New Podcasting studio

3. 2024 – The year ahead – Sports

Jennie Bell invited our new Director of Co-Curricular Sport, Nathan Bassett to share his ideas and thoughts for 2024.

Nathan discussed the importance of student and community strength in co-curricular sport. The idea of team building, house spirit, healthy competition. Especially, the importance of inclusive opportunities for all students

He shared several initiatives with the group – to get feedback

- Partnering with external sporting clubs (footy/basketball/netball) to share coaches/facilities/training opportunities
- Outlined the responsibility with maintaining and investing in resources, facilities
- Looking into using the Main Oval as a Soccer pitch – need to review boundaries
- Keen to bring sport back onto the Campus, especially on weekends
- Footy will be played off site, at the Oval is not big enough for AFL footy games
- Looking at moveable goals for Soccer on the Main Oval (need to protect the pitch especially in the goalie area)
- As soon as the new facility is opened, all spaces and uses will be more clearly defined
- Importance of keeping young people moving – in whatever sporting area they choose
- Idea of conducting baseline concussion assessments – onsite – then advise on next steps for the student
- Injury Triaging (10-15minute) assessments to help our athletes to keep moving or seek best treatment
- Football
 - We have 100 boys and 40 girls playing football within the College
 - Student led training sessions are occurring – there is passion for the game
 - Looking at increasing our Football offering to bring in additional enrolments/students
 - Work closely with The Unley Mercedes Jets coaches for our students – training opportunities
 - Reviewing installation of Footy Goals

4. 70th Anniversary

Jennie Bell discussed the 70th Anniversary of Mercedes College and the calendar of special events in 2024.

- Food and Wine Fair
 - Thursday 22 February, 3.30pm – 7.30pm. Come after school – fully catered. Perfect Welcome Event for new families
 - Suggestion to give all guests colour coded stickers with Year Level/JS/MS/SS to help connect new families
- Mother's Day lunch – new venue – Friday 10 May – hoping for another sell out event
- Quiz Night – hopefully held in our new Gleeson Theatre – aligned to the 70s theme!
- Emerald Ball – A gala ball for families, staff and old scholars will be held on Saturday 1 June
- Building Brand Pride
 - Expanding the College brand beyond the hedge
 - Fresh advertising campaign to highlight the many ways students Flourish
 - New supporter wear will be available - based on PEG feedback
- House Spirit
 - Uniform update – broad discussions are underway about incorporating House colours in PE Tops
 - Encouraged students to wear plain coloured t-shirts for Swimming Carnival and other carnivals in the meantime
- Reminder to read The Hedge – weekly snapshot of what's on and what's coming up at the College

5. Second Hand Uniform Shop

Jennie Bell discussed suggested changes to the Second-Hand Uniform Shop, based on community feedback

- Change in Opening Hours – due to a change in rosters/availability of volunteers
- Aspa Callisto is still happy to come in one afternoon / week
- Call for volunteers to do a couple of hours one morning a week
- Highlighted that all funds raised through the Shop are re-invested back into the College
 - Coffee Cart – which is for students to run – is being finalised and will be ready for Term 2
- General consensus that all clothing to the Shop would be a donation – except for Blazers, which would be on consignment selling for \$120 (with \$60 going back to the donor family)
- A reminder that no socks, hats or stained clothing can be donated – and a plea to donate clothes that are washed or dry cleaned – ready for sale!

Actions

- The idea of changing the name to 'Pre-Loved Uniform Shop' was raised – to be finalised.
- After the third or fourth resale – Blazers will not be eligible for consignment

6. Year Level Representatives 2024

Jennie Bell called for volunteers for Year Level Reps in 2024

- Great way to connect with your year level – welcome new families – grow friendships
- Thanks to those who have already volunteered – there are still some years with no Reps
- Permission needs to be gained from all families – to share their contact details
- This will be done in the next week and shared with YLRs
- Plans to have YLR meetings in Term 1 and Term 3 (TBC) to catch up in between events

PEG 2024

Jennie Bell discussed PEG meetings for 2024

The days and times are varied to encourage maximum attendance.

Looking into recording future meetings for those who can't attend online or in person.

Meeting schedule for 2024

Term 2, Week 1 | Thursday 2 May 2024 from 2pm to 3.15pm

Term 3, Week 1 | Friday 26 July 2024 from 8.40am to 9.40am

Term 4, Week 3 | Monday 28 October 2024 from 5.30pm to 6.30pm