The Minutes of the General Meeting for Richmond Primary School P & C Association Inc. held on Tuesday 17th August 2010 in Room 13 at 7.30pm.

1. **Open. Welcome. Attendance and Apologies**

   **In Attendance**
   Laura Cargill (chairperson), Debbie Murphy, Cheryl Peck, Nicole Gallagher, Andrea Lisewski, Rita Crooks, Lee Simes, Kate Duncanson, Milly Sayer, Michelle Dalitz, Richard Hicks, Sarah Levalds, Sue Phillips, Anna Hayne.

   **Apologies**
   Tania Radich, Susie Nicholson, Hillary Holiday, Jane Baker, Meredith Fonti, Jenny Crawford, Sjaak Lemmens, Alison Plowman.

2. **Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting**

   **Motion:** That the minutes of the General Meeting of Richmond Primary School P & C Association held on the 15th June 2010 at 7.30pm be taken as read and confirmed as true and correct.

   **Amendment:** Millie’s name omitted from previous minutes.

   **Moved:** Laura Cargill  
   **Seconded:** Lee Simes  
   **Motion Carried**

3. **Business arising from previous meeting**

   **3.1 Hand dryers**
   Hand dryers have now been ordered. Cost: about $3,000. No DET electricians are currently available because of all the ongoing school building projects.

   **Action:** Laura will continue to chase.

   **3.2 Computers**
   Currently we have 40 computers available. We could pay for another 20 (around $20,000), but how would this be best spent. Lisa agreed to check with other schools.

   **One school has responded:** all yr 4s and upwards have rented laptops, supported by parents. $12/week rental. Students “own” them and bring home.
Discussion: $12 is a lot for use in-school only, but can children be trusted travelling with laptops - some bad experiences are known about? Some private schools appear to be moving away from laptops, eg Christchurch. It would be good to know more info on other schools that have tried this for a few years.

Action: P&C to talk with Dave Carter and any expert IT parents about pros and cons. Lisa may be able to ask a DET expert to come and assess school. Try and find out why Christchurch had laptops and now have decided against them.

3.3 2009 Fete
Jenny will present accounts at the September meeting as unable to attend August meeting.

3.4 Uniforms
Laura has organised boxes for 2nd hand clothing and pens for clothing. Scarves have been organised and advertised in newsletter.

3.5 Garden
Laura will look at decking option for outside Room 12/13 but another alternative is to include this area in the designs for a new playground (see below).

4. Correspondence

4.1 Incoming
- various fundraising information
- Receipt from Cancer Research Foundation

4.2 Outgoing
- Cheque IGA

5. Treasurer’s Report
An aggregation of all accounts shows we have close to $100,000 in total. Commitments include $45,000 from fete towards playground and bike shed, and roughly $20,000 for computers. A few thousand will be requested by Pre-Primary and Kindy for books etc. at end of year. We should aim to commit more by the end of the year - ideas?

Voluntary contributions received are on a par with previous years for this time of year.

6. General Business

6.1 Permaculture garden
In the coming year there will be a need for new garden works when new buildings are finished. Meredith Fonti has suggested having permaculture gardens as a whole school approach. E.g. more natives; vegetables grown in amongst garden plants, etc. Lisa Dentith and Hank have been - and will continue to be - involved in discussions.

P&C applauded what has already been done - this initiative is very well supported by the kids who are loving harvesting vegetables and using them. Could also look at
sponsored tree planting. Could the P&C visit the Stephanie Alexander garden at Palmyra?

**Action:** Meredith will put together a proposal for discussion.

Play equipment: Proposal from Jane Baker: Whilst yr 1-3 playground out of use (could be 12 months), could the P&C fund some extra play equipment, portable equipment etc. to keep Year 1-3s occupied? P&C supported this suggestion and agreed a budget of $2000 as a guide. More could be available upon request. Year 7s could be responsible for putting away.

**Action:** Ask Jane to draw up suggestions and ask teachers to ask students what they would use. Board games? Goal nets. Bocce. Hop scotch marking.

6.2 Playground Year 1 - 3 on completion of new buildings

About $30,000 - $40,000 will be available from Fete profits. Space is an issue. Playgrounds will be approximately where the old library was. We could also consider including the area in front of Rooms 12/13.

**Options:**

- **Spider climbing frames.** These cost upwards of $30,000 and must have a soft-fall base. Whilst they are lots of fun, the P&C members had concerns that only a limited number of kids could use them at one time, smaller kids might be displaced by bigger kids, and it was a big investment in a single piece of equipment.

- **“WildPlay” idea, providing fun activities in a natural type setting.** Based on similar plans for Ullrich park and Sumpton Green. Uses all of the senses. Permaculture included.

  Sue Phillips described a “natural” playground, in which parents had been involved in designing and building at Bold Park Community school and which is maintained with occasional busy bees. This playground includes fallen tree trunks for climbing on, stepping stones, bushes to hide behind and make cubbies, a water course with muddy area, little beach, etc. The ideas came from a Danish designer Helle Nebelong ([www.sansehaver.dk](http://www.sansehaver.dk)) and were presented at a Kidsafe conference ([www.kidsafewa.com.au/speakers](http://www.kidsafewa.com.au/speakers)). The P&C members present at the meeting preferred the option of a “natural” design.

**Action:** Laura to ask Lisa for agreement. Then approach Bernhard Kaiser (Natural Play Environments plc), who has designed many local playgrounds including Ulrich Park, to view area and put together a wish list to choose from. Then get the students involved, by asking Years 1-3 to list their favourite things and what they don’t like or wouldn’t use. If the area outside Room 13 can be included, this bit could start soon. The P&C could also investigate opportunities to leverage more external funds to complement the P&C funding.

**P&C wish list:** water course, mini frog pond, growing cubby (made from vegetation), fallen tree, stepping stones, “buy your own paver”, bush pathway to hide behind (like Sumpton Green), musical sounds – pipes / cow bells, sensory (colours and smells such
as herbs), wooden animals, climbing wall - natural incomplete stone wall. Thank you to Leah for the research she did on Spider frames.

6.3 Entertainment Books
Around 5 left. Should have raised around $800. Thanks to Lee Simes.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Canteen committee
Sports week will be discussed next week by the canteen committee, since the plans are different from other years due to works on the school oval.

This year the only “captive audience” at lunch time is on Wednesday, when the lower primary have their carnival. Rita is hoping that the Year 7’s will still run a cake stall as usual that day (for graduation funds). She will suggest that there is still a full sausage sizzle on Wednesday for all students, not only lower primary. She will be looking for lower primary dads to help with the BBQs.

Volunteer numbers for the canteen are low and Rita is struggling to find enough to continue the current practice of one paid employee supported by volunteers on each canteen day. Ideas to resolve the situation are:
1) Rita will go down to PrePrimary next term and chat with new parents;
2) rosters could be filled on a classroom basis with the active help of parent reps;
3) a roster could be drawn up with all families in the school given a day and then provided with the chance to swap dates with another family or explain not able to do;
4) employ more people and put up prices;
5) indicate again in newsletter the need for volunteers, and ask P&C members to go out and spread the word, and encourage more volunteers.

The canteen will be transferring some surplus money across to the main P&C account.

7.2 PP / Kindy committee
Gardens and lawn being well looked after by Hank. Vegetable garden going well. KK have organised t-shirts for “pre school” so can wear both years. PP were thinking of organising next year’s PP shirts in term 4 of kindy, but this may not now be necessary.

Next term the committee anticipates requests from the teachers for money for Christmas books and general running costs.

8. Thank you and next meeting
Laura thanked those in attendance.
The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 September 2010.

9. Close
The meeting closed at 9:20 PM.