Subiaco Primary School
Parents and Citizens Association
ABN 75 015 848 751
271 Bagot Road SUBIACO WA 6008
www.subiacops.wa.edu.au

Term 3 Week 9 2026 General Meeting – Minutes
Monday 14 September 2026, 7-8.30 pm, School Library

Attendees: *Jo van Gorkum, Heather McNeil, Jackie Trimby, Laura Battison, Natalia Esina, Christina Dismuke, Christopher Malins, Charlene Yates-Bishop, Geoff Lansell, Anne Finch, Eleanor O'Brien, Veronica Wilshaw, Genelle Cox, Tamara Brestovac, Karl Sullivan, Rex Vines, Jacinta O'Shea, Cat Skreiner, Mauro Palmieri, Cale Mason, Lisa Spence, Chloe Duncan, Cath Price, Fawzia Wilson, Anthony McEvoy, Michael Torn, Danielle Moyer, Charlotta Kemp, Kasey Sandstrom, Sharon Chew, parent representatives*

Apologies: *Lindsay Dodd, Shan Carberry, Katie Minchin, Victoria Hewitson, Munkhzaya Dagvadorj, Sirisha Illa, Rachel Feldhusen, Cecelia Saunders, Sarah Senthi, Sam Faulkner, Phil Grida, Chloe Senior, Andrew Devitt, Catie Parsons, Elizabeth Samson, Alice Potter, Alma Alsayed, Amanda Ireland, Louisa Frew, Emily O'Mahony, Jane Armanasco, Patrick Merrithew, Mohit Sharma, Constanza Araya, Raed Al Khayrat, Jessica Wallwork, Tom Russell*

Minutes: Natalia Esina

Opening statement (see annex 1) by President welcoming the School's initiative to make BYOD a top priority. The school did not ask the P&C if the agenda would allow sufficient time to discuss the school's approach and its request for financial support, prior to the School sending messages to parents asking for their support. It was also noted that any financial request should be make in accordance with the P&Cs Constitution and Code of Conduct. The meeting agenda was amended to allow the sufficient time for a first discussion of the School's approach on BYOD.

Motion: That the P&C agrees with amending the agenda to accommodate a discussion on BYOD. All scheduled representatives limit their updates to 5 minutes. BYOD discussion will start at 7:45PM and finished at 8:30PM. **Carried.**

1 Meeting Open: 7:06 PM

Apologies, quorum & Conflicts of Interest

- Apologies above.
- Quorum confirmed as more than 8 financial members (as required by the P&C Constitution s25.2).
- No conflicts disclosed.

Confirmation of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Meeting were circulated prior to this meeting.

Motion: That the minutes of the General Meeting on 17 August 2026 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record. **Carried**

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2 President and Vice-President's update

Community Initiatives Budget

- The P&C has allocated approximately $46,000 of this year's $50,000 budget to support financial requests from the school, with additional proposals received from parents ($1,200) and the School Board ($1,874), leaving just over $1,000 available.
- Large portion of the budget (i.e. ~$21K) is addressing PP student's needs (playground, books, etc.)

Uniform shop

The P&C discussed the need for additional assistance in the Uniform Shop, particularly during busy periods.

Options include:

- engaging a temporary/part-time assistant, possibly through an agency;
- employing former students for casual assistance; and
- succession planning for the Uniform Shop.

The vacancy is expected to be advertised early next term. A special Executive Committee meeting may be required to approve employment arrangements, with the decision subsequently ratified by the P&C.

Next year planning

Members were encouraged to consider joining P&C subcommittees and the Executive Committee for 2027.

3 Treasurer's Report

- The application for a term deposit account for a total sum of $350k with Bank Australia was unsuccessful. As they don't have a branch in WA, documentation had to be submitted via regular mail. No response was received, even after a follow-up. Parent's noted disappointment as the bank's focus on social and sustainable investment aligns closely with the P&C objective to increase the impact of the received funds.
- It is proposed to open a term deposit account with our current bank, in addition to the 12-month term deposit account that already holds $250k and discuss other options for the remainder of the SCC funds (~$80K)
- Mother's Day fundraising raised approximately $6,000. Funds relating to voluntary contributions have also been received.
- Father's Day breakfast proceedings are not processed yet.

Financial Motion:

- That the P&C approve the opening of a second fixed term deposit account with our current bank ANZ, and that total sum of $350,000 be deposited or a 12-month term in that account. **Carried**

Motion:

- That the Treasurer's report was received, reviewed, and approved. **Carried**

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4 Strategic Projects Committee

- The Strategic Projects Committee is developing longer-term priorities to inform the P&C's three-to-five-year funding plan.
- The Strategic Projects Committee will circulate a survey to gather community input for the P&C's long-term plan. P&C members are encouraged to contribute their ideas.

5 Pool Coordinator's Report

- The City of Subiaco has renewed its Community Partnership with the P&C and will provide $7,500 towards operation of the pool outside school hours during the 2026–27 season.
- A new agreement with Royal Life Saving Society WA for the 2026–27 season was approved.
- The pool will open at 3:15 pm on school days during the upcoming season.
- A preliminary feasibility assessment of pool heating options has been completed. The P&C will work with the school to submit the assessment to the Department of Education and investigate options for extending the pool season.

Financial motion:

- That the P&C enter into new Agreement with Royal Life Saving Society of WA for 26/27 season and commit to payment of expenses in accordance with its terms. **Carried.**

6 Update on Events (by President)

- ***Dawn of the Dad*** (Father's Day breakfast at a local park). Michael Rowe organised it for the 3rd time. The Father's Day event was reported as a success, with approximately 100 attendees. Final financial results will be reported at the next meeting.

- ***Parents' Night*** is nearly sold out. Approximately $4,500 in sponsorship has been secured.
- P&C received a lot of enquiries regarding ***Colour run*** this year. The event requires ~100 helpers. The P&C is investigating whether the Colour Run could be outsourced to an external provider to reduce the volunteer workload.
- The possibility of organising community-wide event will also be explored (for the next year).
- The Events Committee is currently without an Events Coordinator. Members were encouraged to consider taking on this role or assisting as part of a small coordinating group.

7 Actions and Calendar Review:

Next meeting date:

- *9 November* (T4 Wk5).

8 BYOD Discussion

The Principal opened the discussion with the presentation on BYOD policy

Current arrangements

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- *The Principal* confirmed that BYOD is voluntary and has never been compulsory at Subiaco Primary School. Families who do not provide a device can access school-owned devices.
- Parents were reminded that devices can be kept at school with only 4 students doing this currently.
- The school clarified that the curriculum requires the teaching of *Digital Technologies*, but does not specifically require students to have a device (whichever brand) or participate in a BYOD program.
- Current use of devices varies across year levels and classroom activities. The Principal described the use of devices for activities including digital learning, online programs, assessment, feedback and teaching students how to use technology safely.

Educational considerations

- The presentation considered the difference between one-to-one access and shared devices.
- Examples of BYOD and school-owned device models used by other schools were presented, including different approaches to one-to-one access, shared devices and school loan programs.

Financial considerations

- The Principal outlined its current spending on its existing technology requirements, including devices, applications, storage and related infrastructure.
- The Principal presented indicative costs for a school-owned one-to-one model.
- Indicative annual lease costs were discussed, with the cost increasing as larger cohorts are included. The school advised that a one-to-one model could involve approximately $61,000–$63,000 per year in lease costs, in addition to storage, charging, device management, repairs, licensing and technical support.
- The Principal also noted anticipated growth in student numbers and the need to consider future demand when determining a sustainable model.

Possible solutions

The Principal outlined three broad options:

  - Continue with the current voluntary BYOD model.
  - Expand the school loan pool to provide more families with access to school-owned devices (2:1 or 3:1 shared model, individual access would depend on loan pool size.
  - Move towards a school-owned one-to-one model.

The school advised that it could not finance a replacement model on its own and that P&C and/or community support would be required.

Parents questions and concerns

- P&C Members questioned the extent to which the curriculum requires individual devices. It was confirmed that *Digital Technologies* does not necessarily require an iPad or any other device for every student.
- Questions were raised about the current use of devices across different year levels and subjects and whether there is sufficient evidence of educational benefit to justify the significant investment required for a one-to-one model.
- The age and relevance of some of the research presented was questioned, with members requesting a clearer understanding of the evidence supporting significant investment in devices.
- Equity, affordability, screen time, educational benefit and the practical use of devices in classrooms were identified as matters requiring further consideration.

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- It was acknowledged that families have different views and concerns regarding technology use and that any future model would need to consider the needs of the broader school community.

Next steps

- The *Principal* advised that a Working Party had been established to investigate the issue further, with representatives from the School Board, staff and parents. Parents interested in were invited to contact the School Board.
- It was agreed that the P&C was not in a position to consider or vote on financial support at this meeting as no financial motion was submitted in line with the P&C's constitution.
- The school and Working Party will use the period before the next P&C meeting (*9 Nov*) to develop possible models and options and consider recommendations.

Meeting Closed: **9:03 PM**

Next Meeting: Term 4, Week 5, Monday 9 November 2026, 7pm, School Library

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Annex 1: Opening statement Subi P&C President - GM 14 September 2026

Before we start, I have a few housekeeping rules to share. The P&C is an entity separate from the school and we our governed by our Constitution and Code of Conduct. Our general meetings are open to our members. If you are not a member, you can become one right now (form & $1).

As President, I chair the meeting and I set the agenda. I also must ensure our agenda and relevant documents are provided to our members at least 7 days before the meeting. As most of you know, any financial decision requires a motion, again with 7 days' notice, so parents have time to think things through, identify issues or concerns and consider what they want to contribute to the meeting.

The P&C has been encouraging the school to take an active approach to its BYOD policy. It has been on our agenda for the past two terms, thanks mostly to Karl Sullivan and Christopher Malins, who are currently working on a ToR for a dedicated P&C subcommittee. We appreciate the school is making the review of it's BYOD a top priority and will give this our full support.

I note that last Thursday, and this morning, the School send out Compass messages about the intend to ask the P&C for financial support for a school-owned approach to digital devices, encouraging parents to come and discuss this at tonight's P&C meeting. I also note that we were not asked or informed in advance of these Compass messages.

Now, I appreciate a lot of parents coming out here tonight wanting to discuss BYOD, so I propose a pragmatic approach. We will follow our regular agenda and go through it a bit faster than usual. I propose all scheduled representatives limit their updates to just 5 minutes and we all save BYOD until last. After we have discussed our other items, under strict time keeping, we will start the BYOD discussion at 7:45 pm and finish our meeting at 8:30 pm.

I don't think 45 minutes is sufficient at all. The discussion will continue at our next P&C meeting, 9 November (week 5). I encourage the school to submit a proper proposal in time for our members to consider.

To wrap things up, our code of conduct requires that changes to the agenda can only be approved if a motion is passed.

<Motion to adjust agenda. Count votes. Continue meeting>