

## PALMERSTON & RURAL REGION GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 22 August 2019

**6.00pm – 7.15pm**

Brennon Electorate Office

(Tony Sievers Office, Shop 2 Palmerston Shopping Centre)

### MINUTES

**1. Meeting Open: 6.05pm**

**2. Welcome: Nikki Elliott (Chair)**

- 3. Present:** Nikki Elliott (Palmerston College), Melissa Perry (Bees Creek Primary School), Lyndell Nichols Carl O'Connor (Durack Primary School), (*Quorum Achieved*) Tabby Fudge (Taminmin College), Toni Willis (Humpty Doo Primary School)

**Guests:** Sargeant Domenic Crea, NT Police

- 4. Apologies:** David Flanagan (Woodroffe Primary School), Beverley Ratahi (Taminmin College)

**5. Minutes previous General Meeting:**

**Moved:** Nikki Elliott

**Seconded:** Melissa Perry

- 6. Business Arising from previous General Meeting Minutes:** Two Action items

**Action 1:** Copy of School –Based Police Program Review emailed to attendees. Sent to schools, available on NTCOGSO website and provided in current pack.

**Action 2:** NTCOGSO to provide a list of suggested questions School Representative Bodies to include on the end of year ACARA school survey. See attached NTCOGSO follow-up from Michelle Parker. It was suggested some example questions would be helpful for 2020.

**7. Correspondence In:**

- 7.1. NTCOGSO to Regional Council: Joint Media Release on principal Wage Freeze.**

- 7.2. NTCOGSO Media Release: Schools Hit in Government Budget 2019 Saving Measures.**

**Moved:** Nikki Elliott

**Seconded:** Lyndell Nichols

**8. Correspondence Out:** Nil

**9. Business Arising from Correspondence:** Nil

**10. Chair / Regional Representative Report:**

I can't believe we are halfway through term 3, where has the time gone. A lot has been going on in the Educational world. NTCOGSO has released two media releases:

- 10.1. Schools hit in Government budget 2019 Saving Measures** – where there was to be a reduction of \$21.564 million over next 5 years cut from school budgets

**10.2. Principal pay freeze joint media release with AEU and NTPA**

- It's good to see the Building Better School grant has assisted so many schools already with their \$300,000 upgrades and will continue with the remaining schools in 2019 and 2020.
- The Solar in schools' program is being implemented in some middle and high schools with \$5 million being contributed by the NTG 2018 to 2021. Schools will be using this process as an opportunity to educate students on solar energy.
- It was great to read the media release from The Honourable Selena Uibo, Minister for Education on the Reaching for the Stars: Youth Engagement Programs that are being launched in the following Palmerston's Primary Schools; Moulden Park School and Driver Primary School. These two schools are participating in the first expansion of the Clontarf and Stars Youth Engagement and Mentoring Programs for Primary Schools in the Northern Territory
- The Katherine Times produced an article this week which gave a very positive outlook on the Police in Schools Program.

**Moved:** Nikki Elliott

**Seconded:** Melissa Perry

**11. General Business:**

**11.1. Guest Speaker: NT Police, Sargeant Domenic Crea**

- Sargeant Crea discussed his involvement in the Police in Schools Program and gave an overview of his position and the program. Discussed the current structure of School Based Police (SBP) in middle and high schools and how they are set out in clusters. The SBP Model was originally set for 10 School Based Police Officers (SBPO's) in middle schools.
- Current model doesn't work the way it is. Servicing 7 base schools, feeder schools and catholic colleges.
- Recommended changes by Sargeant Crea to address this would be to reduce allocation of SBPO's from two to one SBPO for both Taminimin and Palmerston college, to allow more input into primary schools, concentrating on years 5 and 6. Look at having 3 SBPO rotate in these schools to when a SBPO goes on leave, the students will be familiar with an alternate SBPO.
- Sargeant Crea mentioned they need more clarification on what the program wants to achieve. How to do what's in the review. How to put together a lesson plan with DoE assistance. Then they can implement lessons plans that are consistent for all SBPO to present. Examples of lesson plans they can facilitate include, road safety, rock throwing, cyber bullying and personnel safety.
- Commitment from DoE to address the 4 recommendations. Program development and program specific. Marion Mariner to help with lesson planning within schools. Police can provide 10+ lessons. Need clarification on dos don't and expectations from the SBPO. Draft plan on review recommendations. Framework to be in place by the end of the year.
- Police don't have enough cars currently, partially resolved with reducing numbers in some schools.
- Need to develop timetable programmes. Sargeant Crea suggested getting things like, ask a police officer a question and then attending assembly and answering students' questions. Getting a profile of the SBPO in the school newsletter. Having a conversation so both school leaders and SBPO's know what they can offer and where they can assist and how this can be implemented in the schools.

**11.2. NT Full Council meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM) – 2 November 2019**

- Discussion on the motion paperwork in the folders for their School representative bodies

### **11.3. Regional Council AGM prior to Full Council AGM – 2 November 2019**

- Date set for Thursday the 24th of October 2019

### **11.4. DoE Guidelines and Procedures: Staff selection**

- Taminmin College Chair intends to refer issues related to Principal Selection Processes and Non-compliance by the Department with the DoE Guidelines and Procedures: Staff selection.
- A question was raised about members from a SRB being on selection panels for Principals and if they are allowed to ask questions. Our understanding is normally the Chair sits on the panel. Discussion around how government selection processes work is different from private sector selection. NTG panel members carry out formalised training and the Chair of the panel will guide participants with questions. More emphasis is now placed on referee conversations and for the panel to determine if they would like to interview applicants.

**Request:** Nikki sought to extend meeting for an additional 15 minutes to finish general business. All agreed.

### **11.5. Motions for NTCOGSO Full Council Meeting and AGM**

1. NTCOGSO to discuss with the Department of Education, to produce a Primary School Transitional policy. We are aware that Primary schools do a physical transition orientation to Middle schools. However, there is no written policy on the DoE website, like the Early Childhood Transitioning Policy and Transition from school for Students with Disability, which explains the business needs, scope, roles and responsibilities, related policy, legislation and documents. This we feel will enable parents, guardians and school staff to become aware of the process.

**Moved** Nikki Elliott

**Second** Melissa Perry

**Action:** Nikki to place on Motion form and email to be sent to Melissa for a signature

2. That NTCOGSO have a discussion with the Smith Family who fund the ELDERS program, to discuss how this program can be expanded into Primary schools. This program goal is to educate the students about the Larrakeyah and stolen generation and teach children about caring for country. They learn to respect self, and others and do activities like arts and craft. Our understanding is this program is open to all students and provides understanding and education into the indigenous culture, while providing mentorship by Elders.

**Moved** Lyndell Nichols

**Second** Melissa Perry

**Action:** Nikki to place on Motion form and email to be sent to Lyndell and Melissa to sign

3. A third motion was discussed to on how SBPO can be implemented into primary schools but only with the additional resources required. We have agreed to work on this out of session as it needs more work. Nikki to send motion by email to attendees for a possible late motion.

**12. Date of Next Meeting:** Term 4 24th of October

**13. Meeting Close:** 7.15pm