

P&C Feedback Survey

Opened: 21 May 2019

Closed: 31 May 2019

Q1 Are you currently a member of the P&C?

Yes – 20

No – 20

Q2 How many meetings do you attend per year on average?

1-3 meetings – 17

4-6 meetings – 6

6 or more meetings – 1

NA - 16

Q3 Why did you join the P&C?

29 responses

- I wanted to contribute to the school, collaborate with other parents etc
- I would like to contribute to the school/community in way that could help/benefit especially as next year I will have 3 kids at the school.
- Support and to vote
- To have a greater level of involvement in the school and thereby be more invested in the education of my children
- To understand what is happening at school\
- To contribute to the school and to get a better understanding of what goes on at school
- Not yet joined
- To see what it is about and contribute, if i can.
- I didn't
- To keep in touch with the goings on of the school
- To be part of the school community and know what's going on
- To be involved in the life of the school, to demonstrate support for the school and the P&C, to assist with fundraising and community events.
- I didn't.
- To be an active part of the school community
- To be an active part of the school community
- I want to contribute to the school community
- N/a
- I am not in P&C
- to find out more about what is happening at the school, to become involved and to help our kids
- n/a

- I want to be involved in my child's school and available resources. I later became aware that it is not just a 'nice' thing for the child but a chance when parents visit for them to show off the place they spend their time.
- Increased insight / say into school happenings.
- To become involved with helping out at school.
- To contribute to the school community and have a say in what is happening
- N/a
- To get involved in activities and to find out what's happening in the school
- To be informed about what is going on. To see if I can help out.
- I know what is happening and to contribute to the school community
- To have a say on how we can make the school a better place for our children
- Not a member

Q4 If you are not currently a member, is there a particular reason why you are not interested in joining? What would encourage you join?

31 responses

- N/a
- I didn't join last year as I couldn't make the first meeting and felt I didn't really know much enough about the school or P&C to contribute. I probably would have done if there had been more reminders/invites throughout the year.
- n/a
- N/a
- I am interested. My son is in kindergarten. The meeting timing has clashed with other events so far this year
- Occupied by another community work
- We're a new kindergarten family. Hadn't made any conscious decision not to join. Don't know what's involved
- If there was a cup of tea offered at meetings.
- I don't have a lot of spare time. But just doing a survey like this would be a great way to ask for suggestions and feedback about the direction of the decisions being made.
- Halloween
- As the sole working parent in my household I prefer to volunteer when I can. I try to be as generous as I can to support fundraising when I cannot contribute time. There is a reputation of bullying in the past that I have witnessed on social media that has turned me off joining in the past.
- It does not seem a very efficient or effective group.
- Time poor mostly. I think this is an ongoing commitment to the school and would therefore need to be available for every meeting. My work requires me to travel which makes that difficult
- -
- Current member
- My partner already attends.
- I went to a meeting once a few years ago where members were very aggressive towards one another. I never went back. I also think the comments and behaviour on the Facebook page in the past have been atrocious. It

seems like there are cliques and lots of infighting between groups. Too much unnecessary drama.

- I don't want to come to meetings. I feel like there is a lot of tension between what parents want to do and the amount of involvement the school wants us to have. I'm not interested in a number of routine updates that happen and I feel stressed when people disagree about action that should be taken. I would be very happy to volunteer for things like working and gardening bees on weekends
- Mostly just time. Also potential for a conflict given I work for DoE
- Due to other commitment
- the reason I haven't joined in the past and only attended one meeting is that I usually work late in the evenings
- I am concerned about the length of the meetings and being involved in disputes that may arise.
- I would be encouraged to join if the P&C did something other than raise money. I would definitely come to a meeting if you invited a Teachers Federation member to discuss educational issues in the system and the implications for the school.
- Very long meetings. Not understanding the background to P&C choices and history in order to make suggestions or get involved. Valuable personal time used over things that I can't get involved in.
- Currently a member
- N/A
- It is at dinner time.
- na
- na
- N/a
- I would appreciate a more accountable and conciliatory process from the school leadership. Current school reporting isn't at an acceptable level, lacks professional rigor and transparency. It feel like the P&C is an ATM for the school. I expect a higher level of planning and partnership from school leadership.

Q5 What do you think the role of the P&C should be? Do you think the P&C is fulfilling its duties?

34 responses

- Facilitate conversation & cooperation between parents, teachers, students and members of the general community; Assisting in the provision of resources, facilities and amenities for the school or schools; and The fostering of community interest in educational matters.
- Yes although I wonder if it could be more of a 'bridge' between parents and the school, somehow
- Communicate parents' and the community's interests to the school executive and support students, parents and carers through extra programs and events that help build a strong school community
- I think the P&C should be there to support the families of the school and assist people in getting to know others through the school community.

- Supporting the school through fundraising, other community activity (eg WestConnex action), genuine engagement in strategic direction. Also questioning the school leadership where appropriate on decisions/direction. I think the P&C does an excellent job of fundraising and does the best it can on other activities, but isn't encouraged or supported to engage as fully as it could by the school leadership.
- Directing funding in order of priority. Bringing parents and carers together. Being involved and connected. Raising additional funds. Not sure yet
- Support the school community. Yes, the P&C have been doing a great job.
- To organise and update on important events for the school. Fundraising, keeping up to date with the effects of Westconnex to the school. Keep up to date with upgrades to the school. Collectively finding solutions to problems that the school may be experiencing.
- It should be there to raise money, wellbeing of the school community and inspiring everyone to be involved
- Yes
- The P&C should represent the whole school community - those who are and aren't members of the P&C. The P&C members are doing a great job this year. The events and activities have been enjoyed by all.
- I think it'd be nice to understand the role of P&C. I genuinely don't know what the scope of the group looks like.
- The role of the PandC is to support the school in whatever way it needs. I think this year the PandC is very cohesive without the rubbish of recent years where the executive were forced to resign midway through their term. I think as long as we continue as we are and respectfully work with the school as staff - it will be fulfilling its duties.
- I think P&C should be fundraising as well as allocation of these funds in consultation with the school. Also a way for parents to work with the school and have a say in what happens in the school. I don't think there is enough information on whether the P&C is fulfilling these duties. There is certainly a great deal of effort give to fundraising.
- Supporting the school, creating a communication link between school and parent community, raising funds for school resources and special events/projects... the P&C (or some members thereof) go absolutely above and beyond in their duties!!
- The P&C should give parents a chance to engage with the Principal and find out about what is happening in the school. Events are a bonus.
- To help the school be successful, to help make it the best experience for our kids. Yes they are
- To represent the views of parents to the school and to raise money for the school. It appears to be fulfilling this role, particularly on the fundraising side.
- I think it should be a voice for parents into the school and should support the school through both fundraising activities and community building activities that bring parents together
- Assisting to guide the direction of the school. Providing feedback to parents and teachers about ways we could improve the education of the kids who attend.
- I think the P&C is doing it's job so good.

- I think it is doing a great job, and am always inspired by how much its members do. I think the role is to support the school - in terms of issues and fund-raising and improving its sense of community
- I think the role of a P&C is to assist and support the school in its goal to educate the children. The P&C should do this by fundraising then using the funds as the school sees fit. I can see a huge effort in fundraising so it seems you are doing a good job at the above.
- I don't think the role of the P&C should be to raise money. A better role would be to build a community and provide social support for families that are less advantaged. It should also be to stand up for free education. The P&C should oppose both the payment of student fees and charity work, which both lead to user-pays education.
- Active involvement of Parents and Citizens in the school and community. Some key people are doing all the work. I want to be involved but feel the school is restricted by communication issues, long meetings and time pressed teachers and parents in order to get things done.
- Communication between school and parents Raising funds to be invested into the school as parents see fit Yes in regards to fund raising, o in regards to communication
- Bridge between school at families. Fundraising. Yes.
- To work with the school administration and community for the betterment of the school and its facilities
- Yes
- Allow for a forum between parents and the school and also to have activities for the school community. Also fundraising for specific projects
- To be an advocate for the parents, forum to air concerns with the school, for the school exec to be accountable and to accurately provide full information. To work closely with the school but represent the parents view.
- Fund raising for the school, building a school community where everyone is welcome, organise interesting events (eg kids discos, film nights), voice of parents
- To act on behalf of the voice of members and parents in the school. To facilitate fundraising (not run all!). I think it should look at ways to be more inclusive. A lot of power with 1 or 2 people is not inclusive.
- Has a wonderful fund raising team, Jen is such an amazing leader in this area. The P&C just doesn't get the right partnership from the school Principal.

Q6 How could the P&C be improved?

35 responses

- Greater accessibility, e.g. digitally, being able to attend a meeting via Skype.
- I think it would be useful to be able to discuss things eg in FB group that do not necessarily need meeting time so as to keep the length of meetings down. Also to have threads/ topics to organise discussions. Yes there is a skill fb group but I don't think that is the forum for more detailed P&C discussions.
- ???
- I think the P&C could try and reach out to more of the school community so hopefully surveys like this will help to better understand people's desire for

involvement. I think people are probably just time poor and it is easy not to be involved.

- Would be good to have more parents engaged although not sure how to do that. Does rely on a small number of v committed people. I think the school could improve its engagement with the P&C for the benefit of students, and have seen this occur much better at other schools
- Not sure yet
- Keep going, you are doing a great job!
- Have set dates for mtgs.

- No more plastic!!! I found the Halloween fete very disappointing choices. With rides and plastic toys. It lacked community spirit and the real involvement from the community. Get a parents band together and have concerts on the grass and a picnic.
- By selling cheaper things
- It would be interesting to hear what the kids want our fundraising money spent on. There is a consensus amongst the kids that we've raised money for iPads that they don't use. Whether this is real or imagined it would be interesting to hear about what they need.
- The fundraising demands feel never ending and then the funds get wasted on things like a 'sensory garden' which wasn't actually a sensory garden and never gets used. Meanwhile the fact that the home readers are falling apart and some date back to the 70s.
- More members
- More effective communicating of what they are doing. Less emphasis on big fundraising events. Following through on projects such as the sensory garden.
- By more people joining and sharing their skills/ volunteering their time.
- Actively spending fundraising money
- Perhaps the P&C and school could introduce a Class Parent role, where a parent representative from each class collates feedback from other parents, attends meetings and reports back. This would ensure a broader representation of views. They could also rally volunteers within their class for events. I know of other schools that follow this model.
- I don't know. I think the people who participate work really hard. I wonder whether people who would like to contribute to the school community can't because there are very few opportunities to help outside work hours or whether people are just so busy they don't have time
- I feel the focus on fundraising is too much and a focus more on how we as parents have a say in how the school is run, the way the budget is spent etc would increase the value of the P&C
- Class based meeting with parents for 15-20 minutes before 9am or after 3pm.
- Make all parents aware of the Parents of Haberfield FB site - I only found out this after 3 years at the school. Not the P and C - but I think the school could improve its communications a lot. Often emails are not answered for days, and notes for school functions are sent home with too little time to change work schedules.
- Not sure
- PLEASE STOP DOING CHARITY WORK AND RAISING MONEY! This sends the wrong message to our children, ie that we should be paying for our education ourselves. Education should be free and we need to teach our

children that. It is better that they go without rather than learn the wrong values. Also, many of us in the school community are poor, and asking us for money is quite insulting. If you want more money, then lobby the government. It is the role of government to pay for education, not the role of parents.

- Meetings need to be shorter, to the point. All efforts to run events encouraged (with quick discussion of necessary roles and if the manpower to do this is available - then with smaller groups formed to plan and hold event) Greater communication with teachers to encourage their promotion of P&C activities. Principal to encourage parents more to be involved in the school. Database of parents interests and skills and when/what activities they might be keen to be involved in. Survey parents to see if they would give time on different activities or donate money and opt out of getting involved. Getting involved builds a great community.
- I see only few regular voices which are loud and they get what they need. I'm not saying it is wrong but we need more voices and also listen to other things.
- Be more of an understandable/relatable body Better communication between school and committee Less focused on funds and more on general improvements in the school Be more welcoming to new members/suggestions
- Shorter meetings, or split meetings.
- More parent contributions and participation
- They are doing a fantastic job.
- Need to get new people involved
- Much shorter meetings - the Principals report has a lot of unnecessary process information and misses key areas - limiting the Principals report to a few dot points (speaking notes). More diversity among parent reps.
- Maybe have meetings on alternating days (Tuesday is a really bad day for me which is why I don't attend more meetings)
- Inviting (often) ideas from members and parents in regards to fundraising ideas and events. It appears as though only 1 parent is allowed to have ideas in the school.
- Have the school leadership use and actively support the P&C by being more transparent, plan and articulate in partnership, present proper reports and accept and develop from proper scrutiny.

Q7 In terms of meetings, please tick all boxes that apply.

30 responses

Not frequent enough - 2

Too frequent - 3

Too long - 19

Informative - 16

Welcoming - 13

Engaging - 8

Inclusive - 9

Boring - 6

Q8 Do you have any further comments in relation to the meetings?

26 responses

- I can't make it physically due to caring responsibilities and I feel I miss out on a lot. I feel disengaged due to this but would like to be more involved.
- There seems to be a culture of suggesting things and then expecting (the same few) to action. I think there should be more people putting their own hands up
- No
- No
- Think the new arrangement of twice a term is good. They do sometimes drag on, but I generally find them informative. It's the lag on action between meetings that's the problem (eg long-running inertia over school grounds upgrade!)
- No
- Do more polls like this
- No
- Westconnex, although important, dominates the end of the meeting. Discussion becomes unrelated to the school and more about the local residents and their fight. I really don't need to hear about all the meetings and protests people go to, all the workers parking here there and everywhere, all the readings that may or may not be accurate. We live in the inner west - there is some pollution. Westconnex needs its own meeting for those interested and be a 5 minute update at the PandC. Please!
- I attended one in order to find out about the HOOSH situation a couple of years ago. The issue was not discussed at all even though it was obviously a major concern to parents at the time. There was a real elephant in the room.
- I only said "too long" because I know it is a factor that turns some people off coming. There is a lot to get through! One idea I have here is if there are two per term, perhaps some of the content could be split between the two? So everything is covered every term, but meetings are shorter?? Might attract some different parents too. So meeting 1 is Karlynnne, fundraising, events, meeting 2 is Karlynnne, treasurer's report, Westconnex. Obviously doesn't have to be split that way exactly... but you get my idea!
- I haven't been to a meeting in a few years so perhaps they are shorter and more welcoming now.
- I don't think the school values parent input through the meetings. Unfortunately I don't think there is anything the P&C can do about that
- No but I like the idea you have been offering online attendance
- No comment, but want the P&C to be bit more active about the awareness of car parking and kids drop off and pick up from the school.
- It's hard to say as I'm not involved and I've only started at HPS this year but I would say that very strictly time controlled agenda items with direct voting options at the end of succinct presentations would be beneficial. I'd also say that not allowing new agenda items to appear during a meeting if they are not on the agenda is imperative. You may be doing this already, but I'd say limit the P&C meetings to mostly one hour with an occasional extra 15-20 mins.
- -

- I would like to see more opportunities to involve our parents of different cultural backgrounds. Shorter to the point update by the Principal. Opportunities to meet in smaller groups regarding sub interest groups
- The principal talks too much about school happenings that parents who attend the meet tings geveralky already know about.
- It would be great if they were shorter - although this is sometimes difficult to achieve with any meeting!
- No
- Sometimes topics take over the meetings. The agenda is not well managed so frequently runs over time and I think this means people don't come to meetings
- Na
- See above
- Thank you to all the volunteers who donate their time to fund raising opportunities.

Q9 Do you have any comments in relation to the events that the P&C organises? What events would you like to add to the calendar?

30 responses

- Ideas for fundraising- colour run, cookie dough.. Feedback- I think we could do more during election bbqs. I did one but I didn't know if we did anything this year as i'm so out of the loop. Yep park did a great one.. Maybe a day to celebrate teachers? 25/10/2019..
- I think community building events are really valuable. I know there are some coming up.
- I like the events and try to get to as many as we can. I think the events team does a great job!
- I would like to see that we don't try and overload the community calendar. Let's focus on doing a few events well and involving more of the school community. Also think that whilst making a profit for the school is valuable it is also important to remember not everyone has a huge disposable income and therefore providing the options where the P&C just break even is also ok. I think he P&C does this already. I think it should be about bringing people together.
- Jen and everyone involved in organising events does an amazing job. I wouldn't suggest more events until more people came on board to help with organising.
- Election day fundraisers.
- No
- I really didn't like Halloween and all the plastic. It was also very expensive. These things need to be much more environmentally friendly.
- Children's day
- The trivia night is great. Perhaps another parent focused event? Even if it's a cheese & wine night (something simpler than the trivia night which is mammoth to organise!). Perhaps this could be done at the beginning of the year to welcome new parents. It's often hard to connect with other parents with young kids around!
- Jen works too hard - She organised some great fundraisers!

- I think there is too much emphasis on big fundraising events. The P&C should be spending more time trying to sort out other issues of concern to parents such as parking, lack of communication from the school, parent helpers in classrooms, ethics program, other ideas that parents have to improve the school.
- Events are fab. Can't think of anything I would add. Will let you know if I get any brainwaves!
- I would happily help with a quarterly gardening or cleaning bee.
- I wouldn't want to see things added. I would prefer a few fundraising events that we can contribute to and less of the smaller things. I would be happy to consider donating a block amount rather than baking and assisting with other events as my other commitments do not allow for this level of participation and I feel I then don't contribute well. The discos and the trivia night are great. Perhaps a focus on these would be good.
- No
- Think they do a great job I would love to see some more physical activities included eg. a fun run or orienteering course (to balance out the cake stalls!)
- Again, it's hard as we've only been here this year but maybe an outdoor movie night for kids & adults, a welcome party early on in the year for adults only - though the trivia night is already on early in the year & that might be a double up. But that could be moved to later?
- No events aimed at raising money.
- Sub interest groups - school grounds, events (music/art/languages), cultural, parents sharing their professions and skills with students, environmental, gardening, active kids.
- No
- P&C are doing an amazing job at organising events. Halloween, Quiz night, discos all wonderful.
- Maybe a jumble sale/markets/ cake stall fundraiser once a year - not as big as a fete, but still a community event
- Halloween in the afternoon with alcohol for parents. Like Nicholson Street public school. Or BYO.
- It would be good to find something that engages a broader section of the school community and gets more involvement and volunteers
- The events are great and organized very well. Difficulty in engaging with diverse ethnic community and having representation. Regular fairs around a theme eg the lego one at Croydon is great.
- see above
- Spring fair / fete. \$\$\$ coming into school from outside (not always parents pockets? Fun stuff for kids is good ie. Movie night, disco - these should be non profit nights too.
- No

Q10 Please leave any other comments and feedback.

22 responses

- Thanks for the survey
- I cant understand why there are not more people volunteering to do more things. Is it that they feel they can't - that the P&C is established enough that

they can't break into it, or that they simply can't / don't want to...? Getting more people on board I think is a big challenge but something to work through. I think people feel bombarded with P&C / school updates. Hopefully the website will help with that. I don't really know what the answer is. I think the P&C could work on making people feel a bit more welcome at meetings, and to let people know they are welcome at any point, and that any suggestion / contribution is welcome. The website is a great idea - I didn't know much about the P&C before I joined. Thanks for all the great work you do for the school and community!

- I would like to see more genuine and strategic engagement between parents and the school. I think we're seen as a useful source of additional funding (although the process of agreeing on funding priorities and then acting on them is ridiculously slow) but otherwise not really welcome to be involved at a deep level in the school life. I'd be interested to know if other parents feel the same or even think we should be involved in other ways. I would also like to say thanks to all parents who turn up to meetings, and especially those who hold exec positions, as it's time-consuming and often thankless.
- The play area needs astro turf please. That dirt is like cement!
- That is all.
- Thanks
- Overall the P&C is doing a great job. Trivia night and Disco have been great events.
- A good year so far - keep it up!
- I think there are a few amazingly dedicated people in the P&C who give a great deal of their time. I'm really grateful for their efforts. Communication and consultation with wider school community could be improved.
- I love our P&C and the amazing level of commitment from some members. We are so lucky... I had no idea how completely disorganised, ineffective and unmotivated other P&Cs are in comparison... but having seen others now I have a new level of appreciation for the amazing drive (named Jennifer) behind ours. Hopefully before particular parents leave the school others have joined and taken inspiration and continue on!
- I appreciate the work of the people who are in the P &C and think they do a lot for the school.
- Overall P&C are doing a great job.
- It does seem that the P&C might be struggling to connect with all parts of the HPS community. Perhaps specific effort needs to be made on engaging people from diverse cultural backgrounds. I'm not entirely sure how to go about this and I'm sure I'm not the first to think of this. Maybe including vegetarian options eg curries, dumplings as well as sausage sizzle type food. Perhaps asking families from other backgrounds how fundraising happens in their countries of origin, what would they be likely to attend and enjoy?
- -
- Most parents have interests and skills. What would they like to share at school. This gives kids such a huge sense of pride in their own place, their school. Also they are proud and want to be more involved in their school extracurricular activities. Even some of the most time poor parents want to be involved. It's very daunting in such a big school with huge population, well known long meetings with a history of tension and conflict. We can turn things around.

- No
- I really appreciate all the hard work from the P&C exec and secretary. Thank you for all the work you do for the school
- P &C are fantastic and work so hard.
- Na
- Need to know what we are fundraising for??? Not open ended constant fundraising!!
- Thank you again and please if possible formally recognise the efforts of the fund raising team.