



# STANDING ORDERS FOR ROSANNA GOLF LINKS PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Introduction

The purpose of these Standing Orders is to assist school council to operate efficiently and effectively within the legal framework and Department guidelines for school councils.

## School council membership

The membership of the school council according to its constituting Order is 15 members – eight Parent, five Department employee and up to two Community members.

## Co-option of community members

The community members included in the constituting Order will be co-opted to the school council at a special meeting of council held as soon as practicable after the declaration of the poll and before office bearers are elected. If the appointment of the community members either cannot be resolved at the special meeting called or on the resumption of the adjourned special meeting, the school council may proceed to the first meeting of the school council to elect office bearers.

Community members serve a maximum of two-years before needing to be co-opted again. They can also be used for short-term assignments with their membership ending once the reason for their co-option is satisfied.

## Office bearers

The school council will have the following office bearer positions:

- President
- Vice president
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Office bearers will be elected at the first meeting of the school council after declaration of the poll each year and following a special meeting to co-opt community members. The school council executive is composed of the president, principal, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The roles and responsibilities of each office bearer positions is outlined in *RGLPS School Council Office Bearer Roles and Responsibilities* (Appendix 1).

## Election of office bearers

In the election of an office bearer, if the votes are tied, the school council will decide the outcome by either holding a new election or drawing of lots. If a new election is held and is also tied, the school council may decide the election by the drawing of lots or decide to conduct further elections until the election of office bearers is decided.

## Sub-committees

The school council will have the following sub-committees:

- Finance
- Education
- Facilities
- School Council Operations
- Instrumental Music.

Each sub-committee will be chaired by a member of school council unless otherwise decided by council. A sub-committee must include at least one school council member and have at least three members. The *RGLPS Guidelines for Sub-committees of School Council* (Appendix 2) provides more detailed information about the purpose and membership of the sub-committees of School Council at RGLPS.

## Meetings

### *Regular*

The school council will meet twice a term on a Thursday evening (dates will be confirmed at the second school council meeting each year). The meeting will commence at 7.00pm and will finish no later than 9.00pm unless agreed by the school council. If business has not been concluded by the scheduled closing time for the meeting, the chair should ask councillors whether they wish to defer the rest of the business until the next meeting or to extend the meeting by an agreed amount of time, generally 15 minutes. Meetings will be held in the staff room.

### *Annual general meeting*

The school council will call an annual general meeting at least once each year and at that meeting will:

- (a) report the proceedings of the council for the period since the date of the previous public meeting
- (b) present the annual report published by the council
- (c) if the accounts of the school council have been audited, present a copy of the audited accounts.

The council may, from time to time, call additional public meetings.

### **Extraordinary meeting**

An extraordinary meeting of the school council may be held at any time decided by the council, if all members are given not less than 24 hours' notice of the time, date, place and subject of the meeting. Of course, the principles of quorum apply.

The president of the school council or, in the absence of the president, the principal must call an extraordinary meeting of the school council if either of them receives a written request to do so from three members of the school council.

The president or the principal must call a meeting under the preceding paragraph by sending a notice to all school council members giving the members reasonable notice of the time, date, place and subject of the meeting.

The business of an extraordinary meeting will be confined to the subject for which it is called.

### **Quorum for meetings**

For a quorum to be achieved at a council meeting, not less than one half of school council members currently holding office must be present and a majority of the members present must not be DET employees. Any parent members on the council who also work for the Department are counted as DET employees for the purpose of a quorum.

If at the end of 30 minutes after the appointed time for a meeting of the school council, there is no quorum present, the meeting will stand adjourned to a time and place determined by the school council members present.

A member of the school council may be present at a council meeting, in person or by video conferencing or teleconferencing.

### **School council decisions**

Decisions of the school council will be by a majority of those eligible to vote and who are present at the meeting, where the majority are non DET members. A vote by proxy is not valid. Members will vote on a

matter and the number of votes for and against will be recorded in the minutes. Voting will normally be by a show of hands, but a secret ballot may be used for particular issues.

### **Tied votes**

When a vote is tied (i.e. an even number of people are for and against a decision), the president (presiding member) has a second or casting vote.

### **Circular resolutions**

From time-to-time, council may agree to resolve an issue before the council is next scheduled to meet via circular resolution. If a lengthy discussion is required to assist in the decision making, an extraordinary meeting of council should be convened if the matter is urgent.

Relevant paper/s and their corresponding recommendation/s are circulated to members to facilitate the decision-making and approval process without the need to call an extra-ordinary meeting. It is the responsibility of the principal and president to ensure the circular resolution is properly drafted by the Secretary and circulated by the Secretary to all council members.

Circular resolutions take the form of a document, on School letterhead, outlining a decision of Council in the form of a proposition, e.g., "It is proposed that, by circular resolution, council ....".

The process for the consideration and adoption of a circular resolution is:

- A councillor requests through the president as presiding officer, a circular resolution be distributed;
- The secretary prepares the resolution in the form, "It is proposed that, by circular resolution, council ...." and emails it to the president and principal for review;
- Once reviewed and approved by the president and principal, the resolution is emailed to all councillors;
- A period of 72 hours is permitted for questions, comments and amendments to be made. At all times, the current version of the resolution is the most recent sent by the secretary.
- After 72 hours, the secretary will notify members that a vote is now required; and
- Voting on circular resolutions is by objection. If, 24 hours following the notification above, the majority of councillors have not objected, the resolution is accepted.

### **Absence of the president and other members from a meeting**

If the president is unable to preside at a school council meeting, the vice president will chair the school council meeting. If the vice president is unable to preside at a school council meeting in the absence of the president, the school council will elect a member of the school council to chair the school council meeting (other than an employee of the Department).

If a member is unable to attend a meeting, an apology should be submitted to the principal prior to the meeting.

### **Conflict of interest**

If a school council member or a member of his or her immediate family has any perceived or actual conflict of interest (either financial or non-financial), or if School Council agrees that there is a perceived or actual conflict of interest, in a subject or matter under discussion at a school council meeting, that councillor:

- must declare the conflict of interest
- must not be present during the discussion unless invited to do so by the person presiding at the meeting
- must not be present when a vote is taken on the matter
- may be included in the quorum for that meeting.

The declaration of interest will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

## Extended leave of a council member

A member of the school council may apply in writing to the President for extended leave of up to three consecutive meetings.

If a member of a school council is granted extended leave, the membership of that member is excluded in determining the requirement for a quorum of not less than half the members currently holding office.

## Agenda

The principal shall ensure an agenda is prepared for each regular meeting and distribute the agenda, draft minutes from the previous meeting and meeting papers such as sub-committee reports, principal's and president's report to school council members no less than five days before the meeting.

## Open and closed meetings

School council meetings will generally be open to the school community but the principal and school council may decide that only members may be present at a meeting or part of a meeting.

If the meeting is open, visitors may speak by invitation of the presiding member.

## Length of meetings and extensions of meeting times

If business has not been concluded within 2.5 hours, the presiding member shall ask the members whether they wish to defer the rest of the business until the next meeting or to extend the meeting. A motion is necessary if council wants to extend the meeting. The meeting will be extended for no more than 15 minutes.

## Minutes

The principal will ensure a record of each school council meeting is kept and draft minutes are prepared after each school council meeting and distributed to school council members prior to the next school council meeting. The principal may delegate this responsibility to another person.

The minutes will record the type of meeting (regular, extraordinary or public); date, time and venue of meeting; names of attendees and apologies received from members; name of presiding officer; a record of the business of the meeting including the decision on the minutes of the previous meeting; inward and outward correspondence and reports of any sub-committees tabled at the meeting; and decisions of the meeting including motions and any amendments, names of movers and seconders, whether the motion was carried or rejected and the number of votes for and against.

When school council minutes are submitted for confirmation, only questions regarding their accuracy as a record of the meeting are to be raised.

Once the minutes have been accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, they are to be signed by the school council president or the person who presided at the meeting.

Business arising from the minutes is dealt with after the minutes have been confirmed.

## Conduct of meetings

The members of the school council must abide by the Directors Code of Conduct issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commissioner and locally agreed etiquette.

## Review and modifications to standing orders

Each year, at the first meeting of council the standing orders will be presented for review. If no modifications are required, council will ratify the standing orders unchanged. Any proposed modifications will be discussed. If necessary, a working party consisting of at least the executive, will be established to consider any proposed modifications and presented at the next meeting of council for ratification by council.