



# Meeting Minutes

## PEG Meeting

**Time** 8:50am – 9:50am

**Date** Monday, 11 August 2025

**Present** Parents: Bianca Gustini, Kate Maniscalco, Nina Nathan, Suzie Toogood, Megan Phillips, Claire Filsell, Aspa Callisto, Bec Malcolm, Eliza Seward, Meg Vedig, Jo Cowain, Kristy Esdale, Angela Marsh (online), Amanda Mcilroy (online)  
Staff: Jennie Bell, Andrew Balkwill (online), Paige Fraser, Narelle Sandercock, Brodie Atkinson

**Apology** Elspeth Rofe, Rand Sabri, Gandeep Gill

**Minutes** Parent Engagement Group (PEG) Meeting 3, 2025

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Jennie Bell welcomed everyone to the Term 3 PEG meeting and invited the group to introduce themselves.

### 2. Co-Curricular Sports at Mercedes College

- Jennie welcomed Director, Co-Curricular Sport Brodie Atkinson to the meeting.
- Brodie started at Mercedes College in January 2025. He talked briefly about his background – he grew up in Port Pirie and played footy from a young age, eventually playing for the SANFL and AFL. He has three children – two of whom are at Sacred Heart College, his eldest son has followed his footsteps and has recently joined an AFL club.
- Brodie has extensive experience in both high-level senior and junior-level sport from his own experience, but also from volunteering with his children's various sports and understands the importance of skill development from a young age.
- Brodie is looking to improve opportunities in the Middle Years to create a smooth pathway for students from Junior to Middle school through to our Open teams at the Senior levels.
- Brodie introduced his team: Kaiden Brand (Boys Secondary Coordinator), Deb Hocking (Girls Secondary Coordinator), Rebekah Jury (Junior Coordinator), and past employee, Astrid Powell (ad hoc support as needed).
- Brodie aims to expose students to new competitions in and outside of the College to create more opportunities for skill development from the Junior years onwards.
- Brodie invited any questions: Aspa Callista asked if the College would consider having straight year-level netball teams (rather than composite teams) to build confidence, team spirit, and familiarity by playing within their cohort.
- This often depends on the number of students who register interest.

### 3. Term 3 Update

- Deputy Principal, Narelle Sandercock provided an update on current initiatives at the College.
- The new Strategic Direction was launched last Term, and the three key focus areas are **Excellence** (across all areas, not just academic), a **Rich College Life** (across community, students, staff) and **Cohesive Curriculum** (reporting, software platforms)
- The College is also working on language offerings across the College, following our Languages Week.
- Our new Podcasting studio has been installed in the library, offering students a new way of learning, engaging with each other, gaining confidence in public speaking

- Communication methods for students, parents, and staff are being reviewed and streamlined to reduce the number of platforms used.

#### **4. SEQTA Engage App**

- Work is underway to upload all relevant information into SEQTA Engage, so that all information will be available to families, in the palm of their hands, via the SEQTA Engage App.
- Staff training is ongoing to ensure everyone is confident using the platform, which was introduced six months ago, so that when updates are launched, the user experience is streamlined and consistent.
- The long-term goal is to review ManageBac and make SEQTA Engage the key communication platform.
- Narelle assured the group that improving user experience is a priority for the College and took on board feedback that the current home page display on mobiles for SEQTA Engage is not ideal. Jennie agreed to address this.

#### **5. Events Round Up**

- Remaining events for the year include the Father's Day Breakfast on **Thursday 4 September**, a new Business Lunch (led by College dads) on **Friday 14 November** featuring a discussion Panel with The Premier and Old Scholar, and current dads, Dr Dan Pronk and Alex Carey.
- Jo Cowain suggested holding targeted family BBQs for Middle and Senior School.
- Jennie highlighted that the Garden Party at the start of the year was for all new (and current) families, as a way to bring together all levels of the community, as one College.
- The group agreed this was a good overall welcoming event – but did feel that the Middle School sometimes got a bit 'lost' and felt that a targeted welcome event for Year 7 families and the rest of Middle School could have merit. There was discussion about utilising families more to volunteer at these events.
- There was a brief discussion about engagement levels from Year Level Reps. Jennie said she would look into ways to increase engagement in this area, given the important role YLRs play in keeping year levels informed and connected.
- Jo Cowain asked about the fundraising dollars raised at the Quiz Night. Jennie advised that funds raised at community events, including the upcoming Business Lunch are set aside. Once the Master Plan is completed and adopted, where to direct these funds would be considered.

#### **6. Meeting Schedule for 2025**

- The group was happy for the last PEG meeting (Term 4) to be held 5:30pm as this was traditionally the end-of-year wrap up and 'thank you' for the year. Drinks and nibbles will be served at the end of the meeting.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

- Meg Vedig said the 887 bus is always late, resulting in late sign-ins for students. Narelle advised that the College had complained multiple times to the company (public transport) and made a commitment to again look into this issue.
- Kate Maniscalco asked if a College bus service could run from Goodwood as there are a lot of families in the area, who are looking at Mercedes College for their children, but the complicated public transport routes were a barrier.
- Jennie mentioned that looking at additional bus serves to the College has been discussed for some time and would share this location request with the Executive Leadership Team.

#### **8. Meeting Close**

Meeting closed 10:15am