

Denmark Senior High School Board Meeting

Denmark Senior High School Board meets regularly throughout each term. The board wishes to keep the school community informed about what the board does.

Given the role, the board has decided to communicate their meetings by providing an overview of the discussions taken place as well as the outcomes achieved. Being connected to the community is an important part of how the board operates.

Outcomes of the School Board Meeting 17 June 2016

Uniform

The board discussed the current uniform policy, and noted that there are two versions (one within the Behaviour Management Policy as well as an independent Uniform Policy). It was suggested that only one policy be kept and maintained, therefore parents and student will always be able to access the current copy. The uniform policy will no longer be found in the Behaviour Management Policy, and will be available as a separate document only.

The P&C are seeking to possibly include a hat within the uniform as a non-mandatory option. Hats are currently encouraged but not included within the uniform policy. The P&C will liaise with the student council in regards to adding a hat to the current uniform.

Additional parent representative of the board

Congratulations to Ceinwen Gearon, who was voted in as an additional parent representative of the school board. Ceinwen will be joining the board meetings from Term 3 onwards. The board are also seeking an additional community member for the board.

Proposal to publish full minutes on the website

The board discussed the option to post the full minutes from the meetings onto the school website, instead of only posting an overview. The board agreed that the overviews provide an accurate reader-friendly version of the meetings, but acknowledge that some may want to review the full minutes. It was agreed that minutes will be posted to the school website, along with an overview, from the meeting of 20th May 2016 onwards.

Drug Education Guideline

Denmark Senior High school has developed a 'Drug Education Guideline'. This document was circulated to the board for review and endorsement; and have been asked to provide feedback on the guideline at the next board meeting in Term 3.

Newsletter frequency and graduation ceremony

The school newsletter will now be published during the third week of each term (weeks 3, 6 and 9). This is to ensure that the newsletters are shorter but more frequent. All of the newsletters are emailed out to parents and published on the school website. If you are not currently on our email list, please let us know and we can add you onto our circulation.

The board suggested making changes to the graduation ceremony for this year. They discussed the option of splitting the ceremonies, having a separate ceremony for the graduating year 12's. This idea will be discussed at a later date with the schools' administrative team.

Building and grounds update

The board discussed the possibility of creating an all-weather eating space for use during the winter months. The school currently opens 'wet weather rooms' for students to utilise during recess and lunch when necessary, which alleviates the need to build an enclosed eating space. The Finance Committee have recently approved for more natural lighting (laser light) and seating to be installed throughout the undercover area between the maths and english blocks, this will create a much more welcoming seating space for students to spend their breaks.

Performance Management Update

The Principal spoke though the Department of Educations' Performance Management procedures, which have recently been reviewed and is mandatory for all staff. The board discussed the benefits of performance management.

Vocational Education

The board discussed the importance for our students to undertake vocational education, and sought further information into the options available. The Principal spoke to the board about the vocational education currently available to students, which includes certificates in Sport & Recreation, Hospitality as well as Building & Construction.

Students can also undertake school based vocational learning in trades such as plumbing and gas fitting. The Chair of the board feels as though the school is doing very well in supporting students who choose to undertake vocational education.

Debate Team

The board supports the possibility of creating a debate team within the school, which would be great for developing a range of skills including public speaking. They discussed who could possibly run a debate team, if this person was not a school employee, they would need to undertake all of the departmental clearances. The board discussed the possibility of presenting the idea to parents for feedback for a debate team in 2017.

Planning Update

The schools' administrative team have commenced planning for 2017, which includes staffing and timetabling. The Chair of the board spoke about the benefits of creating short term and long term plans for the school as a whole, and thanked the administrative team for planning in a timely fashion for 2017.