

Denmark Senior High School Board Meeting Minutes – Friday 29 July 2016

Board Members Present: Diane Cole, Brad McDougall, Gavin Lacey, Sarah Pozzi, Ceinwen Gearon, David Beckwith, Adele Heaton and Lauren Anstiss (Manager Corporate Services as scribe only)

Apologies: Wayne Austin

Meeting opened at 11:00am

Agenda Items

1. Welcome to new Parent Representative

- The Chair of the Board extended a warm welcome to Ceinwen Gearon, as the new parent representative on the board.

2. Approval of previous minutes

- Previous minutes moved by Sarah and seconded by David.

3. Review & Endorsement of School Drug Education Guidelines

- Paula Stretton, School Nurse, was in attendance to provide information to the board in regards to the development of the new guideline. She explained that the existing drug guideline needed to be reviewed and updated, and spoke about the importance of educating students about the harm of drug use while also creating a supportive environment.
- The Board agreed that the document would read better if it included an overarching preamble/overview at the beginning of the document.
- The Board discussed the draft guideline at length, and provided feedback on the formatting/layout as well as the content; which included some minor clarification and suggested changes in regards to 'protective factors' and 'immediate actions'.
- Discussion around the possibility of creating a shortened pamphlet for parents to be included in the enrolment packages for 2017, and undertaking a parent survey to seek feedback on the guideline.

Action: Paula Stretton to undertake suggested changes to the guideline.

4. Building and Grounds Update

School Oval

- The Principal presented the concept drawings, provided by the Shire, for a facilities building and improvements on the Denmark Senior High School top oval for discussion. It was explained that the school would be supportive of junior sport and the building of some facilities. The proposal is to position facilities between the school field and the top oval; the school would not be supportive of this due to the lack of line of sight and hence duty of care for students. If the facility was to be constructed on the East/South East side of the oval, therefore not restricting the view of the top oval from the school then the concept would be supported. A new lease agreement would need to be negotiated with the Shire.
- The Board discussed the concept drawings at length, and is supportive of the Principals' response and ongoing discussions with the Shire.

Action: The Principal is to continue discussions with the Shire as required.

Arts Wing

- The Principal spoke about the renovations undertaken to the Arts Wing (formerly known as the CSL building) which included the mandatory replacement of the ceilings (to meet departmental standards) as well as the demolition of 6 dorm rooms to create a second large music classroom. The new music wing has been repainted and carpeted; students will begin by mid-August. The roof is also due to be replaced in November due to ongoing leaks.
- The Board discussed the benefits of moving music to the new classrooms.

- Brad McDougall also spoke to the Board about the parent group providing ongoing support to the music teacher.

5. School Development Day Update

- The first presentation by the Principal was in regards to collaboration and encouraging professional discussions between teachers within learning areas to facilitate a continuous educational journey for students. The second presentation by Sarah and Stephen Johnson from the Albany Engagement Centre focused on the engagement of all students within the classroom and included references to 'instructional strategies' as a means of doing this. The session was practical and engaging for teachers with all staff committing to trying some of the strategies with students.
- David Beckwith spoke about the presentations and discussed the benefits of the PD for both students and staff.

6. Festival of Perth

- The Principal recently met with the Festival of Perth Director, Wendy Martin, who contacted the school in regards to working with students to create a performance that would be part of the Great Southern Festival. Students will have the opportunity to work with a playwright/poet from the UK. The production will blend basketball, and poetry to create a theatrical event.
- The Board members watched a quick video of 'The Spalding Suite' which was created by the playwright and performed across England.

7. Other Items

- Brad McDougall noted that the Prospectus on the school website is in need of updating.
- The issue of rubbish left by students was raised to a Board member by a school cleaner. The board discussed the different ways that the school monitors the dropping of rubbish, which includes the supervision of the teacher on duty as well as encouraging the school counsellors to set good examples to their peers.

The next meeting will be held on Friday 16 September (Term 3 Week 9).