

Denmark Senior High School Board Meeting Minutes – Friday 16 September 2016

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

Apologies: Adele Heaton

Meeting opened at 11:00am

Agenda Items

1. Approval of previous minutes

- Previous minutes moved by Gavin and seconded by Sarah.

2. Business Arising

- The Shire of Denmark are looking into a longer term plan for sporting and recreational redevelopment for the whole of Denmark.
- Follow up on the website update, with the Prospectus needing to be updated to include reference to Year 7's.
Action: Wayne Austin to update Prospectus.
- Brad McDougall noted that the 'Year 7 for 2017' package was well written and presented.
- Discussion on the improvement of littering around the school after feedback from the cleaning staff.

3. NAPLAN Reveiw

- David Beckwith, Head of Learning Area: English, presented the NAPLAN results for literacy.
- David spoke through the results, comparing them to state and national scores and averages.
- Graphs were presented, comparing results in reading and writing from the previous NAPLAN testing, showing significant improvement across both Year 7 and Year 9 cohorts.
- It was noted that NAPLAN testing has been used to identify individual students levels of need, particularly where the test results differ from classroom results, allowing teachers to work with students individually for continuous improvement. The Board discussed the ongoing benefits of the Literacy Teacher coming on board to work with students one on one.
- Discussion on the benefits of NAPLAN testing. It was noted that Denmark SHS were identified as a school with strength in writing, and were contacted by a like school via the Deputy Principal enquiring about the teaching strategies used within the English Department.
- Discussion on the 'strategies for improvement'.
- Bronwyn Mather, Head of Learning Area: Mathematics, presented the NAPLAN results for numeracy.
- Bronwyn spoke through the results, comparing them to state and national scores and averages.
- Graphs were presented, comparing results in numeracy from the previous NAPLAN testing, showing significant improvement across both Year 7 and Year 9 cohorts.
- Discussion on the 'strategies for improvement'.

4. Drug Guideline Update

- The board reviewed the updated Drug Education Guideline, which now includes a preamble.
- It was agreed that the updates have made it easier to read.
- Discussion on the policy section on the school website and its need for updating.
- The Chair of the board congratulated and thanked those who had input into developing the policy.

5. R U OK? Day

- R U Okay? Day was held at the school on Thursday 8 September with students taking part in a range of activities organised by the Student Services Team, which was targeted at inclusiveness and fostering caring between peers.
- Jodie Pollard also ran 'Let's Bake Together' where staff got together to bake bread before and after school.
- The staff also undertook a professional learning session on 'mindfulness' facilitated by Adele Heaton from Kind Minds. This PD which focused on self wellbeing, which will be followed up by a second session for those interested.

6. Community Diversity – Historical Practice

- The board discussed a letter from a parent, with concerns about visits to the school from Gideons, and how the school manages student participation in any activities held.
- This issue was discussed at length, where the Principal assured the board members that religious indoctrination was not practiced. The school supports religious tolerance and diversity. Gideons have offered a Bible to students for at least the last 60 years in WA schools. At Denmark SHS it is a 10 minute assembly and students have had the choice to accept or decline.
- The board agreed that this discussion may be bigger than a reachable conclusion at this meeting, it was suggested the school to put a notice in the newsletters of any religious groups planning a visit to the school, to ensure that parents are informed.

Action: Administration team to include a notice within the regular newsletters where necessary.

7. Website for Board Members

- The board discussed, again, possibility of using Connect to communicate.

Action: Wayne to set up Connect for board members.

8. Music Wing/Arts Building Tour

- Plans were discussed regarding the development of a Performing Arts Centre but it will not proceed without funding from the Education Department.
- The board visited the renovated Music wing within the CSL building where a group of students put on a music performance.

9. Thanks to the P&C

- The board wanted to pass on their thanks for all of the hard work that the P&C team provide to the school. Also, a special thanks to Ben in the canteen.

The next meeting will be held on Friday 21 October (Term 4 Week 2).