

Denmark Senior High School Board Meeting Minutes – Friday 21 October 2016

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

Apologies: None

Meeting opened at 11:00am

Agenda Items

1. Approval of previous minutes

- Previous minutes moved by Ceinwen and seconded by Sarah.

Business Arising

- The Propectus on the school website is now updated over the four core learning areas, with some further changes to be made by the HOD's before finalisation.
- Further minor amendments were made to the Drug Education Guideline and presented to the Board for a final review, Gavin accepted the document as the updated version which was seconded by Brad.
- Discussion and follow up to the 'community and historical practice' agenda item from the last board meeting, and it was agreed that the chair of the board was to contact the parent advising that the issue was discussed and the outcome reached.

Action: Gavin to contact parent as appropriate.

- Connect for board members is now in use, all board members have been sent information via email.
- Discussion on the Music Wing tour from the last board meeting as well as the short term and long term plans for the Arts Wing/Building. The school was encouraged to pursue the current proposal of creating a theatre space/school auditorium with the Department of Education. There was further discussion of the needs of the town as a whole and that a forum should be organised to discuss the development of a community plan for a future larger facility that would meet the needs of the school, the various cultural groups in Denmark as well as the Shire of Denmark. The board agreed that the Civic Centre was no longer a suitable venue for larger events.

2. Healthy Eating Policy

- Discussion on the updated 'Healthy Eating Policy' developed by the Denmark Senior High School P&C, which includes menu planning within the 'traffic light system'.
- The board have sighted the policy, and will bring any suggested changes to the next board meeting.
- A new upgraded commercial oven has been purchased for the canteen, with the P&C donating \$4000 to support the school with the purchase.
- The board congratulates Ben and the P&C for providing a popular and healthy menu for the students.

3. School Survey 2016

- Denmark Senior High School send out a 'School Survey' for staff and students every second year, with a survey going out this year. This survey is generated nationally as part of an agreement made by the Ministers of Education.
- The previous survey questions were presented to the board for information.
- Discussion on possibly surveying parents and students by using a school developed survey in the future.
- Discussion on ideas, survey questions and survey methods with the opportunity for more detailed responses.

Action: The school board are to work in conjunction with the school administration to develop a survey for parents and students, which is different to that of the 'School Survey', in 2017.

4. Athletics Carnival Participation

- The Principal spoke about the Athletics Carnival which was held on Thursday 13 October, which was a fantastic day for all those who attended, although one third of the student population did not attend the mandatory school day. The school sought ideas from the Board as to how to encourage all parents that such events contribute to the culture of the school in a positive way.

- Discussion on the wide range of benefits for students who attend the carnival, as well as different ideas of how to market the carnival to encourage a higher attendance rate.
- Discussion on possibly holding the carnival at a different time of the year, as senior school students are studying for ATAR exams in October.
- The school board agreed that the athletics carnival is a beneficial day for both competitive sports as well as team building activities, and passed their congratulations to Alan Knight and all of those involved in planning a successful day.

5. Open Meeting 9th December 2016

- The open board meeting will be held on Friday 9th December at 5:00pm (Week 9, Term 4).
- The meeting will be advertised in the school newsletter, website, Facebook page and on the LED sign.
- Parents and community members are welcome to attend, and are also welcome to submit questions for the board.

6. Teacher Appreciation Morning Tea

- The board discussed holding a 'teacher appreciation morning tea' to pass thanks to the teachers for their support.
- Discussion on the possibility of working with the P&C on this kind of thanks for the staff in the future.
- The board unanimously agreed to hold a morning tea on World Teacher Day on Friday 4th November at the regular teacher communications meeting.

7. Correspondence from Chair of the Board

- Ceinwen sought feedback from the board in regards to a formal process for responding to parent queries directed to the chair of the board.
- Discussion on the feedback process, with the chair of the board explaining that he acknowledges the queries, bring the queries to the board as appropriate, gather a response and respond in a timely matter.

The next meeting will be held on Friday 9 December (Week 9, Term 4).