

Denmark Senior High School Board Meeting Minutes – Friday 31 March 2017

Board Members Present: Wayne Austin, David Beckwith, Brad McDougall, Gavin Lacey, Sarah Pozzi, Ceinwen Gearon, Adele Heaton, Steve Jones (Chair of the Board, WA College of Agriculture Denmark), Liz Jack (Manager Chamber of Commerce) and Lauren Anstiss (Manager Corporate Services as scribe only)

Apologies: Katy Mitchell

Meeting opened at 11:00am

Agenda Items

1. Visiting Board Members

- Steve Jones – Chair of the Board, WA College of Agriculture Denmark.
- Liz Jack – Denmark Chamber of Commerce

2. Approval of previous minutes

- Previous minutes moved by Sarah Pozzi and seconded by Gavin Lacey.

Business Arising

- Brad shared links to other school surveys via Connect for board members to review, with Katy and Wayne chasing up surveys from like schools. Discussion on difference between primary school and high school surveys in regards to content.
- Discussion on 'Big Picture Schools' article which focuses on personalised education programs that are unique for each student, building on their passions as possible career paths. Article/website was shared via Connect.
- Census enrolment figures for 2017 came in at 416 students, increasing by 11 students from 2016.
- Discussion on the use of a grounds committee and the follow up action from last meeting. Liz Jack spoke though some possible mentoring opportunities/training for the committee via the Shire of Denmark.
- VC/IT equipment for the new videoconferencing unit has arrived and the Department of Education will be installing the equipment in the last week of term. Discussion on the internet speed/schools upgrade to NBN, as the schools internet speed cannot currently cope with demand.
- Connect demonstration for board members was held at the school on Friday 24 April. All board members are now utilising connect to communicate/share information. Discussion on the P&C possibly utilising Connect, the school would have to set up/moderate content which would involve considerable time. P&C to assess need.
- Discussion on the use of Connect from a parent perspective, great when teachers contribute.
- School survey continued – Brad speaking through survey idea, and the purpose of the school board survey is to assess how people feel about the schools culture. Discussion on the importance asking the correct questions, and providing the opportunity for written responses. 'School Survey' is currently mandated and questions are from the Department of Education, the school board survey add questions to this/or conduct separate survey.
 - Discussion on the importance of acting on responses and utilising different survey methods/utilising survey tools from other agencies, such as 'culture counts' utilised by the Shire of Albany.
 - Liz Jack offered the use of her Survey Monkey account which includes analytics.
 - Three surveys required for students, staff and parent community.
 - Discussion on prioritising themes, including a staff representative and facilitation of survey responses.
 - Steve Jones explaining the ag school student survey methods and how they survey leavers (1 year post grad and 5 year post grad) and utilising that information to stay relevant in regards to agricultural technology.

Action: Brad McDougall to work with Adele Heaton to develop survey questions prior to the next meeting. David Beckwith to reach out to teaching staff for input/assistance.

3. Drama Steering Committee

- Discussion on CSL wall removal, quote for works have been received and will be discussed with the incoming Principal as well as the Finance Committee. Discussion on the pro's and con's for sharing a teaching space with the community with multiple perspectives discussed.
- Sarah Pozzi and Romy Surtees are currently assisting the drama teacher with clearing out her storeroom etc.

4. School Report 2016

- Draft School Report provided to board members for review, with Wayne Austin speaking through content.
- Discussion on NAPLAN results and the importance of presenting the results to the community, perhaps via the Denmark Bulletin, as academic achievements are not always publicised to the wider community.

Action: School board to review report and provide input as required.

5. Financial Update

- The schools 'comparative budget' was presented to the board members for review. Discussion on income and expenditure accounts as well as reserves. The school is yet to receive their One Line Budget for the year, therefore this will be presented at the next board meeting for the boards' endorsement.

6. Uniform Presentation

- Student representatives presented to the board their proposal to include black pants/bottoms within the current school uniform. The students presented their own uniform as an example of acceptable black pants and spoke through their reason for requesting the change, which included versatility and the ability to purchase cheaper, black options. Discussion on deciphering the difference between black pants and black sports leggings, which could be done by identifying zippers/pockets. Gavin Lacey moved motion to change the uniform to include black pants, with the exception of leggings, which can only be worn as an undergarment/underneath shorts or skirts. Unanimously supported.

Action: Uniform Policy to be updated for the commencement of Term 2.

7. Website Update & PR Portfolios

- Discussion on the importance of updating the schools website, with it noted that the calendar on the website is not utilised.

Action: Wayne to engage web developer to update website.

8. DES Review & Business Plan

- The school is due for a DES review this year, although the Department is currently running behind due to the large number schools to review. As the review may be later than the current Business Plan, a new plan will be developed in the second half of the year.
- The code of conduct that was sent to parents for the upcoming whole school beach carnival, the board was disappointed to see that the content was negative, and the wording was not necessary for a beach carnival.

Action: Lauren/Wayne to review permission letters sent out to parents.

9. Steve Jones

- Steve thanked the board for inviting him to be part of this meeting, and provided an overview of the College of Agriculture in Denmark, which currently teaches 130 students and is at its enrolment capacity. He spoke through the 5 ATAR programs and certificate courses on offer. The Ag school operates on 600 hectares of land, which has, in the past, been earmarked for potential residential land. Steve spoke of the importance of keeping the school running, for the students as well as the town. The school aims educate their students to an exceptional level and aims to be the school of choice for agricultural businesses to take on future employees. The board thanked Steve for his time and input into the meeting.

10. Liz Jack

- Liz thanked the board for inviting her to be part of this meeting, and spoke about her role at the Chamber of Commerce Denmark. The chamber supports both schools and facilitates dialogue between agencies to create opportunities, for schools as well as the wider community. The chamber also works with schools to support work experience opportunities and also provides a yearly award for students at graduation, Liz spoke about the importance of supporting each other and was excited to have the opportunity to build stronger connections. The board thanked Liz for her time and input into the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Friday 5 May (Week 2, Term 2).