

MINUTES OF MOUNT ASPIRING COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 AUGUST 2013 AT 6.00 P.M.

Present: Wayne Bosley, Eden Brown, Tracey Gibson, Richard Hemingway (Chair), Ian McNabb, Diana Schikker, Paul Tamati, John Watherston;

In Attendance: Maxine Bird (Secretary), Annette Ellwood, Heather Watt, Marcus Bates, Denise Bruns

Apologies:

CURRICULUM REPORTS:

Mathematics

Annette Ellwood and Heather Watt presented an overview of Statistics from Room 9. Also on display were examples of student work. The presentation highlighted the shift in statistics from learning the skills of collating and presenting data, which is now done so much more with computer programmes, to interpretation of data with a lot more writing required. Statistics has become more real for students and focussed on such things as predicting risk, which has relevance in the workplace. The Board were shown examples of computer programmes and the graphs and presentations that could be produced from them. Very good free software is now available to schools for this purpose. The shift in the curriculum is recent, and the change in thought processes has been difficult for some students. But the change in thinking is being taken right back to Year 7 at MAC and the Maths department is beginning to see a better understanding coming through. Games are also used to further help student understanding, especially at junior level.

Discussion and questions regarding Annette's report included:

- How assessed - More internal assessment. Students choose data to interpret. At Year 13 they need to research a topic
- Literacy content -More literacy required, makes it more difficult for students less inclined in this area. The new curriculum only introduced 2 years ago, and understanding is improving as they are now being trained from Year 7.
- Work ethic, striving for better results – There has been a big change from learning skills to interpretation, which has thrown some students. As above the new concepts are now being trained from Year 7.

Annette and Heather left

SPECIAL TOPICS:

Pathways

Denise Bruns and Marcus Bates presented a report to the Board on the Pathways Programme.

Pathways was introduced to fill a need for students who were unable to achieve NCEA level 2 in the normal one year time span. All students meet with the staff and their family to draw up an Individual Learning Plan. Family are regularly emailed progress regarding their student. Success is achieving the goals they have set for themselves, achieving standards, with the ultimate goal, leaving for employment.

The Pathways programme focuses on literacy and numeracy, taking extra time to be able to achieve credits and teamwork. Different learning needs are catered for, with little or no writing required for some assessments. Lessons are not all about achieving standards, with practical skills such as cooking, budgeting and work experience included.

There are currently 10 in this year's programme, with 20 the maximum they can handle. Entry to the course is by invitation, Denise and Marcus scope likely candidates in the school, by talking to teachers and Deans.

The Board were very impressed with the programme.

Denise and Marcus left

Hostel

The Board met with Hostel Manager, Duncan Miles, at Avalanche House in the Village. Duncan outlined the programme, which caters for 30 students from all round the country, in six self-contained houses. While Duncan and his assistant manager play a supervisory role, the students are largely independent, budgeting for, shopping and cooking their own meals, cleaning and laundry. Students partake in the MAC programme the same as the local MAC students. 8 hours of homework is required a week, and on Sundays various outdoor pursuits are arranged.

The Board met some of the resident hostellers who were fantastic advocates of the programme.

SELF REVIEW:

NAG4 Finance and Property

A final report on the Property self review was tabled. The format was in columns: objectives, observations and recommendations. It was felt that this was a useful format for future reviews.

Diana reported that there were a few recommendations, but nothing of any major concern.

Richard wanted to record the Board's thanks to Hamish Dobbie, now retired board member, for seeing this task through.

NAG6 Legislation

The next NAG for review is NAG 6. Paul, John and Ian agreed to look at this.

REPORTS:

Principal's Report

Wayne's written report which was circulated prior to the meeting.

Wayne provided a snapshot of the internal NCEA results to date. The results are tracking ahead of targets, in some cases well ahead, with excellence results very pleasing. Wayne is going to release Annette Ellwood for some time to do some further analysis on these results to date. Some discussion around how to keep these results up for externals, when students can sometimes back off when they have already got the credits and endorsements they need by the time they get to exams. Course endorsements helped to keep students motivated. Also reminded that we needed to get a balance between the measureable results of NCEA and the holistic learning approach, which is not always so measureable.

The PB4L team are at the stage where they are going to present their matrix with the four cornerstones to a full staff meeting tomorrow. These are 'Respect', 'Ownership', 'Self Responsibility' and 'Excellence'. PB4L focuses on the positive, trying to "catch students being good", and to make expected behaviour the norm. There needs to be consistency from students, staff and the community. It is a long term strategy, which requires teaching the behaviours.

Property

Written report received by the Board prior to the meeting.

Draft 10YP also emailed to the Board prior to the meeting. It was decided that the Board should meet with Ronnie specifically to discuss the 10YP as soon as can be organised.

Hostel

Written report received by the Board prior to the meeting.

International Learning Centre Report

Written report received by the Board prior to the meeting.

Finance

The June 2013 Financial minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting.

A reforecast had been done showing a forecasted operating deficit. Relief, PD and ILC marketing were all being reviewed.

The Board endorsed the Finance meeting decision for Maxine Bird to produce the annual report from 2013.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

The Board discussed a new heading to be introduced into the annual agenda. Discussion topics will be used to highlight topics outside of the usual agenda that the Board wished to discuss. This would give the Board time to get feedback from parents and to research the topic before discussing it at a Board meeting. The topics suggested were as follows:

- Staff PD, is it sufficient to give the staff the tools to meet the school goals
- Time out of class. Holistic learning philosophy, what does it mean and what are the pros and cons
- Self-responsibility

- Why are some parents choosing to send their students away from MAC
- How do we communicate with our community. Community involvement and perception
- Student leadership
- Technology, how it can enhance learning
- Support programmes for students
- Strategic goals review
- Benchmarking, draw ideas from elsewhere that can benefit college
- Friends of MAC.

Richard and Wayne would go through the discussion topics and group and prioritise at their next meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting on 9 July 2013 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 July 2013 were a true and accurate record

J. Watherston/T. Gibson
Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence schedule was included with the agenda.

RESOLVED: To accept inwards correspondence

R. Hemingway/I. McNabb
Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Meeting Format

The Board discussed the format of the meetings and the time allocated to topics. The Board felt the agenda was good and that the Curriculum reports were vital, and it was particularly good to have these presented in their area of the school. It was agreed that 40 minutes was an appropriate length of time for these reports, leaving at least 20 minutes for the Board feedback and questions on the report.

Student Trustee Elections

Maxine advised that Student Trustee elections were due. NZSTA have advised a common election date of 20 September, and the Board were happy to also adopt that date. A returning officer needed to be appointed, this is usually the role of the Executive Officer.

RESOLVED: To adopt the 20th September 2013 as the Student Trustee Election date, at Mount Aspiring College

I. McNabb/T. Gibson
Carried

RESOLVED: To appoint Maxine Bird as the Returning Officer for the Student Trustee Election at Mount Aspiring College.

I. McNabb/T. Gibson

Carried

DATES

Next Board meeting: **Tuesday 10 September, 6.00pm**

Next Meeting Agenda:

Learning Area: Learning Languages
Self Review: NAG 6 Legislation
Strategic Aim:
Special Topics: Property and Pastoral Team
Discussion Topics:
General Business

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed as a true copy of the minutes:

Chairperson

Date

Action Plan

NAG6 template to Ian, Paul and John	Richard
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NAG 6 self-review	Ian, Paul, John
Discussion topics set up	Wayne, Richard