

# Minutes of Mount Aspiring College Board of Trustees Meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** M Barton, W Bosley, E Brown, H Dobbie, R Hemingway, L Jolly  
(Chair), D Schikker, G Thornton, N Whyte,  
**In Attendance:** M Bird (Secretary), Mike Toepfer  
**Apologies:**

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## Welcome

L Jolly welcomed everyone to the meeting, with a special welcome to Maxine Bird our new Executive Officer. Also welcomed was Mike Toepfer a parent interested in standing for election to the Board.

## Apologies

Received from L Baker

## Curriculum Reports: Arts

Angela Mote-Andrews HOD of Music, took the Board to the Music department to present her report.

Prior to Angela's time at MAC the performance focus was very much Rock, and very skewed towards male students. It has been a focus to widen the type of performance, and in doing so she has altered the gender balance of those taking Music. Also a goal was to increase the external exam success. This is a bit of an uphill battle, but progress being made. Performance though, is still a key focus of this department, and MAC continues to do very well in competitions, including winning the Regional Rockquest and performing in the local production "Tracing Hamlet".

The Board were treated to some examples of filmed music performances by both junior and senior students.

The Board then came back to the staffroom, where the Arts HODs, Music, Angela Mote-Andrews, Drama – Emily McRae, Art – Murray Allen and Arts Coordinator – Sheryl Alty joined them for a round the table discussion about their annual reports. Key points to come out of the discussion were:

- Y10 half year option. Music struggled with this concept, and felt they needed the full year prior to NCEA to get up to speed. Art like the option, as they felt it gave the students more options to get a taste before they had to choose for NCEA.
- Y9 can't do all 3 art options at present, and this is being looked at.
- Numbers small, difficult when so many more options offered for students. But MAC small numbers in specialist subjects at senior levels anyway, and at Level 2 it tends to be only very dedicated students that take the arts. Difficult to support large class numbers at senior level in these subjects.
- Accessing community support where possible, and certainly helped by now having an Arts Coordinator. But need to be careful that the expertise is being

taught appropriately to the curriculum requirements, so often not easy for an external person to do. First focus needs to be the classroom.

- Outside performances and exhibitions a part of the department, but puts some pressure on time in classroom, and performances need to cover costs. The students are great ambassadors for the school. The Arts coordinator role is developing and will be a great help in this area.
- Arts Coordinator plans to work further on the relationship with the Primary School.
- MAC art students are achieving well at Tertiary level, and it would be good to showcase some of these successes to our community.
- Lots of personal growth success in Art subjects, which is not measured by, or necessarily reflected by, NCEA success.

Angela, Murray, Emily and Sheryl left

### **Self Review:**

#### NAG4 Finance and Property

H Dobbie, R Hemingway and D Schikker advised that not much alteration to the previous template. They are dividing the tasks, and should be done before the next meeting.

### **Special Topic: Y10 Mentoring**

The Board had been provided a written report from Greg Thornton.

- Busy first term, expected more numbers to come on board this term.
- Need to see as a long term thing and will take some time to get established, but in good heart. It takes some considerable time to coordinate and search for appropriate mentors.
- A good number of options offered.
- No particular students targeted, it was not the intention to dictate who went on the programme.
- Mentors normally committed to an hour per week, but other scenarios could be a one off day of work.
- Mentor programme funded by the Wanaka Anglican and Presbyterian Churches and MAC.

### **Special Topic: Student Attrition**

Greg Thornton spoke to his written report regarding Student Attrition. Greg was tasked with analysing the reasons for students leaving our College. When the "normal" reasons for leaving such as employment, tertiary and families moving district were removed, the most common reasons for leaving were

- Family tradition of sending to a particular Boarding School
- Sporting Scholarships
- Perceptions or misperceptions

Some discussion was had about the "perceptions" in the community, and how to get the message out there, not just to the students, that we compare well with other schools academically, and that we have so much more to offer than just our Outdoor Pursuits programme. Diana suggested that Friends of MAC may be a useful forum for doing this.

Greg felt it had been a useful exercise to survey leavers and analyse those results. If misconceptions kept coming through, then the school should be addressing those.

### **Special Topic: BoT Election**

To date there had been 6 parent nominations for the Board and one staff nomination, so there would be a parent election.

Brent Pihama had emailed Linda to say that he would be standing down from the Board.

### **General Business: Summary Curriculum Report**

Vicki Ashton still preparing this report. Will be forwarded to the Board shortly

### **General Business: Format of Principal's Report**

Wayne asked for feedback on the format of his Principal's report. Linda felt that even when there was nothing to report against goals or NAGs it was good to keep the headings, to ensure nothing is overlooked. Hamish felt that a "traffic light" type report highlighting the major issues would be good, and just ticking off the non-event headings, so that the Board did not have to sift through to find out the real issues. Report to strategic plan the key performance indicators.

## **Reports**

### Principal's Report

W Bosley spoke to his written report which was circulated prior to the meeting.

Diana advised she had lined up a benefactor willing to grant \$1500 towards the setting up costs of a sports council, if \$500 could be found from sporting clubs. Sports clubs were asked to donate \$50 each, and currently nine have done so. Wayne suggested that MAC could contribute the final \$50 as one of the clubs. The Sports Council would be looking to see how the Upper Clutha Sports community can support MAC, so that there is a collaborative approach to sport in Wanaka.

Wayne advised that Ultra Fast Broadband would be connected at the school earlier than expected. This is fantastic news, and means that we can look forward to planning for BYOD and a robust network.

Health and Safety committee now established. It had been questioned whether a committee member be appointed that would focus on emotional health and safety. It was decided that the school already had plenty of support in place for staff and students at MAC, and that the Health and Safety Committee should be focusing on physical safety.

Wayne announced the resignation of Greg Thornton DP. Greg has taken up a position in Hong Kong. He will finish at the end of term 2, barring some hostel interview commitments at the beginning of term 3. The vacancy is now advertised in the Gazette and on our website. Closing date 5 June, anticipated start date 19 August.

### Hostel Report

Written report received by the Board prior to the meeting

#### International Learning Centre Report

Written report received by the Board prior to the meeting.  
The Board felt that the ILC should apply to ENZ re an international hostel

#### Learning Support

Written report received by the Board prior to the meeting.

At this point the Board moved that the public be excluded from the Board meeting to discuss a sensitive student discipline issue. This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the LGOIM Act 1987.

L Jolly/H Dobbie  
Carried

#### Finance

The March 2013 Financial reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mike commented that the school was in a very similar position at the same time last year, but variances differed within the breakdown, usually around timing. Discussion regarding reduced donations, as this is a voluntary fee, it is often the first thing to go when families are struggling financially. The Board felt that the fee needed to be increased at the next review.

*M. Barton/W. Bosley moved that the Finance Report for March 2013 be accepted.  
Carried*

#### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

*L Jolly / M Barton moved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 April 2013 were a true record. Carried.*

#### **Correspondence**

The correspondence schedule was included with the agenda.

#### **Dates**

Next Board meeting: **Tuesday 11 June, 6.00pm**

#### **Next Meeting Agenda:**

Learning Area:	Postponed
Self Review:	NAG6
Strategic Aim:	SA4

Special Topics: New Board welcome/induction  
Other: Special Needs  
General Business

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

**Signed as a true copy of the minutes:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Action Plan

Approach ILC re ENZ and International Hostel	Wayne Bosley
\$50 donation to Sports Council Setup fund	Wayne Bosley