

MINUTES OF MOUNT ASPIRING COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 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), Dean Sheppard, Dawn Bosley, Jane Watson-Taylor, John Turnbull, Lauren Whitely, Jane Hamilton, Vicki Ashton

Apologies:

CURRICULUM REPORTS:

Social Sciences

Dawn and Jane W-T hosted us in Room 26, where examples of student work was set out, which included a wide variety of presentations including knitting, knowledge wheels, cartoons, t-shirts and posters. They explained the enquiry based learning approach to social sciences, which is not so much about finding the answers, but the journey to finding the answers, so that students learn the skills.

Some students with a lower level of literacy will struggle with social sciences as while the amount of writing in class has dropped off over the year, it still requires a certain amount of pen to paper, especially in external exam situations, where students need to write, when they are used to using computers in class. In Geography can get away with less writing and more visual answers.

Teaching networks were found to be essential to good teaching practice, whether they be internally, local or further afield. Our isolation makes it more expensive to access useful professional development.

Opinion was divided about the value of offering level 1 NCEA credits to Year 10 students. If Year 10 students did not achieve as well as they would have liked, they do get the opportunity to resit in Year 11.

Dawn, Jane W-T, John T, Lauren, Jane H and Vicki left.

SPECIAL TOPICS:

Pastoral Care

Dean presented a power point to the Board outlining the pastoral care system at Mount Aspiring College. The report showed the flow through of the system, and how the different parts interact with each other. The Pastoral system includes, year level deans, whanau,

UrSpace. The strength of the pastoral care is in the diversity of approaches, and its aim to produce well rounded students.

An upgrade of the Student Management System was seen as something that needed to be investigated in the near future to ensure that communication links between all groups is carried through for all students for their entire time at the school.

SELF REVIEW:

NAG6 Legislation

John advised that his group had an ERO checklist to work from, but that to date had been unable to locate the last audit. It was felt that it was a lot of work to start again, and that Hamish Dobbie would be asked if he had the one that was finished in October 2010, then only new legislation from that date would need to be checked for compliance.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Strategic Planning

Sport

Dianna Schikker had provided the Board with a discussion document regarding the provision of sport at Mount Aspiring College. Discussed was; raising the level of participation of students; raising the level of teacher involvement; creating a greater culture of school pride through sport; improving achievement pathways for students; having a fund for supporting sport at MAC; encouraging greater community involvement in sport at MAC.

The Upper Clutha Sports Community had been developed to try to pool the resources, including knowledge, of the area, and it recognised the special geographical challenges the schools in the area have. Most student sport is played through clubs, not the school.

The new leadership structure for 2014 has a sports committee, which will address a number of the issues raised.

Staff PD

There was strong support from the Board to support Staff PD as a strategic focus for the next two to three years. The points discussed were

- the difficulties for staff to access good PD and the costs involved because of our geographical isolation
- looking at a Central Otago cluster, so that we can bring PD to the region, and share knowledge
- the responsibility for staff to make what they have learnt become part of their teaching, and to pass on to colleagues this knowledge
- the Principal taking on a coaching and mentoring role, one on one with teachers
- funding in the budget, get a true idea of current cost, and look at a different approach to how it is distributed
- best practice not just in NZ but globally
- make sure that PD is pitched to improve the use of ICT in learning, not just as a writing tool

REPORTS:

Principal's Report

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

The new leadership structure was discussed, and Eden and the student executive were thanked for instigating this. Good applications had been received and the next stage, voting, started next week. Applicants will be involved in junior activities at the end of the school year. The successful leaders will be involved in an orientation day prior to school starting in 2014. The head boy and girl will be announced at the first full assembly of the year.

Property

Written report received by the Board prior to the meeting.

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 September 2013 Financial minutes were read at the meeting.

September review showed a reviewed negative operating budget figure, but showing a very healthy working capital.

It was clear that professional development was to be a focus for 2014, and that this would need resourcing. Some discussion was had about the role of the Foundation.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting on 10 September 2013 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Change to the spelling of Bramfitt,

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 September 2013 were a true and accurate record

R. Hemingway/W. Bosley

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence schedule was included with the agenda.

RESOLVED: To accept inwards correspondence

R. Hemingway/W. Bosley

Carried

DATES

Next Board meeting: **Tuesday 19 November, 6.00pm**

Next Meeting Agenda:

Learning Area: Health and Physical Education

Self Review: NAG 6 Legislation

Strategic Aim:

Special Topics: Budget 2014

Discussion Topics:

General Business

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed as a true copy of the minutes:

Chairperson

Date

Action Plan

NAG 6 self-review	Ian, Paul, John

