



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

General Meeting

Time	5:30
Date	Thursday 24 August 2017
Location	Merredin College Science Department
Chair	Julie Flockart
Apologies	Tom James, John McKane, Di Dixon, Christie White
Attendees	Bev Stanes (Principal) Jarrad Ritchie (left at 6:23), Lynn Herbert (Deputy Principal), Julie Flockart, Lisa Fischer, Mick Hayden (arrived at 5:42) (Community Reps), Caitlin Crees, (Staff Reps), Jenny Doncon, Jamie Lee Walker, (Parent Reps)

Time	Item and summary of discussion	Actions
5:51	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>The Meeting was opened by Julie Flockart at 5:37. See list of attendees and apologies as above.</p> <p>The Board confirmed the agenda with no additions. The Board noted that there were no real, perceived or potential conflicts of interest experienced by any of the members in relation to the items on the Meeting 24/0/2017 agenda.</p> <p>Julie Flockart presented to the Board the minutes of the 3rd August 2017 meeting for approval. The Board endorsed the minutes of the previous meeting as complete and accurate.</p> <p>Bev Stanes presented Board Members with badges to be worn by Board members at school functions. The badges are to be returned to the school when term of appointment is completed.</p>	<p>Please wear badges at school functions</p>
5:37	<p>Get to know your school – Science labs</p> <p>Caitlin Crees presented the Science Labs. When the schools amalgamated, some cosmetic improvements were completed, but nothing of substance.</p> <p>There are several problems with the classrooms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doors are falling off the cupboards on edge of rooms. -Room 25 smells because the sinks connect to the prep room. - Lots of cables on the front desk, electrical hazard. -Modern chairs are taller than the old ones, and the gap between chairs and desks are not enough. -Prep room needs upgrading, cupboards are wooden and need to be melamine. -Exhaust fan exhausts to the veranda rather than out the roof. - Only 30 proper seats, in larger classes some students need to sit at desk against the walls. -School has 3 Science class rooms, which seems to meet the needs of the school. Some room sharing has been necessary. 	





	<p>-Would be helpful if cupboards were lockable.</p> <p>-Regional Lab Tech will be visiting soon to audit the Science area.</p>	
5:52	<p>Mobile Phone Policy</p> <p>Jarrad Ritchie presented. The school is reviewing our behaviour management policies. Our current Mobile Phone policy was due for review in 2014 based on 2011 Education Department policy. The current policy says no mobile phones at school. Staff need phones to communicate with school leaders. Students don't need phones in the class room but we know students have phones in bags.</p> <p>The current policy doesn't work effectively. Staff run a three strikes policy where if they see a phone a student is warned, then the phone is confiscated, and on the third strike the phone goes to Student Services and the parent must collect it.</p> <p>Most schools have policies that ask that students to turn off the phone at the start of the day and turn it on again at the end of the day. Suggested it is OK to use mobile as part of lesson.</p> <p>Board had input into what could be in the new policy.</p> <p>Suggestions include: basket at door to put phone in during class time. Only use in genuine need. Courtesy always important. School not responsible for phone. Phone should be switched off in class. Phone confiscated if breach of rules. On third strike, parent is requested to pick it up. Mobiles not in exams. Discourage use of mobiles in classroom unless it can be incorporated into learning. Need to include a fair use policy. These are suggestions only and will be considered but not necessarily implemented.</p>	<p>Policy to be formulated and then will be re-presented to Board for further input and consideration.</p>
6:07	<p>Business Plan Strategy 2 – Aboriginal Literacy and Numeracy.</p> <p>Jarrad Ritchie provided an update of the Year & 9 NAPLAN results as applied to a stable cohort of Aboriginal students. We managed to meet some of the goals. We have had some great improvements. Staff need to review the challenges, maintain improvements and continue with success.</p>	
6:25	<p>Uniform</p> <p>Jaimie Lee Walker reported back from the P&C meeting discussion about uniform. Confirmed to P&C that sports style shirt was preferred in survey results.</p> <p>Some "mock up" shirts were brought in to P&C Meeting, and lengthy discussion ensued.</p> <p>P&C will investigate new shirts and bring new design to Board. They spoke about suitability, practicality, cost and importance of colours.</p> <p>P&C will investigate local and national suppliers, and obtain quotes that will be presented at next P&C meeting on 4th of September.</p>	
6:29	<p>Community use of School Facilities.</p> <p>Bev Stanes provided an update on Community use and hire rates. Department of Education audit currently occurring for all schools. Plan to include hire costs when we review the costs and charges.</p> <p>End and review all hire agreements in December each year.</p> <p>Noongar sports have an agreement until June next year. Junior football no longer using school facilities. Natalie Beale agreement to be extended until December. David Adamson renting the farm on a community use agreement, which needs to change this to a</p>	





	<p>commercial agreement.</p> <p>Amity Health provides us with a social worker and two family support officers. They have an arrangement with the school to provide salaries and we provide the venue. This is currently covered by an MOU. Amity Health have a contract with the Health Department who then have a contract with the Education Department.</p> <p>Amity needs to register as a playgroup if they are funded for next year.</p> <p>Merredin College Board endorses the extension of Natalie Beale's contract until December 2017.</p> <p>Merredin Board endorses the conversion of David Adamson's deed of licence to a commercial use one.</p> <p>Merredin Board endorses current community use hire charges.</p>	
6:39	<p>Year 6 Leavers' shirt</p> <p>Proposed Year 6 Leavers' Shirt is the same as 2016 shirt with updated dates.</p> <p>Merredin College Board endorses the 2017 Year 6 Leavers' shirts. The shirt will be the same fabric and colours as the Merredin College Interschool Shirt, with the following changes: collared 3 button tab front opening; navy coloured short sleeves; the words <i>Merredin College</i> across the back shoulder area; on the back the number 6 with student names contained within the 6; and 2017 written below the 6."</p>	<p>Motion for next Board Meeting regarding Year 6 Leavers' shirt to be included in the School Dress Code Policy.</p> <p>Motion for next Board Meeting regarding Year 6 Leavers' shirts allowed to be worn in Term 4 to coincide with their gazetted Sport Day.</p>
6:44	<p>Contribution and charges</p> <p>Merredin College Board endorses that a debt collector be engaged to assist in the collection of outstanding charges.</p>	
6:50	<p>Christian Religious Education</p> <p>School currently offers Christian Religious Education in line with the program designed by YouthCare and endorsed by the Department. The Board would like to investigate the current program. Board invite Zane Walker (or other current CRE teacher) to present on classes at next Board meeting. Lynne Herbert to present data on current engagement with the program by students and parents. Board members to be sent a copy of the course booklet so that we can investigate the contents of the course. Board members to then investigate community opinion on this topic. A small note is to be included in the next MC Link informing the school community that the Board is reviewing CRE and could parents please check the link provided to investigate the course.</p> <p>School Community will be surveyed in Term 4 regarding CRE.</p>	<p>Board members to investigate CRE classes.</p> <p>Survey questions to be discussed at Term 4 Meeting 1</p>
6:59	<p>School Farm</p> <p>The farm is currently used for egg production/sales around town. It is also used as a vegetable garden for primary and secondary students. The farm is also leased to David Adamson.</p> <p>There are a number of negatives: difficult to attract staff to the role – funded for 26 hours over 6 days per week during term time plus 1 days per week in the holidays. Ag Tech officer is usually working alone, also needs a skill set to be able to assist providing Agriculture classes. Farm funding is separate from general school funding. Ag trust provides</p>	





	<p>\$2000 per year for maintenance. Management of Ag Tech Officer and farm creates extra responsibilities for staff etc. Asbestos recently located behind Trades centre. Difficult to find a teacher who can teach Ag. We have had sheep but town dogs have caused the death of animals. Farm needs to be kept fire safe. Equipment is getting old and is a hazard. New egg production rules to be complied with.</p> <p>Positives: primary kitchen garden is very successful. Secondary vegetable garden is also very popular. Agriculture is offered to the Year 7 & 8 students. Great opportunity for an Engagement program, many kids enjoy digging and planting etc. School truck and tractor are very useful to the school, but are tied to still having a school farm.</p> <p>Future ideas: run another program that doesn't involve livestock. 26 hours over 5 days is much more positive. Horticulture may be an option.</p> <p>Bev Stanes (Principal) will investigate options and present them at the next meeting.</p>	
7:14	<p>Business Plan Strategy 2 – Aboriginal NAPLAN primary</p> <p>Lynne Herbert provided data on results of ATSI NAPLAN results. Increase percentage of stable cohort Aboriginal students achieving high or very high progress in writing and numeracy. Progress is good.</p>	
7:23	<p>Business Plan Strategy 1 – Early Childhood NAPLAN</p> <p>Bev Stanes (Principal) presented the Year 3 NAPLAN results. Lots of success this year, with many students improving and achieving. This year we had no red flags for our classes, and quite a few green flags.</p>	Board members please share the good news with the community.
7:46	<p>The meeting was closed by Julie Flockart at 7.46pm</p> <p>Next meeting Thursday 26 October</p> <p>School Open Day on the 8th of September</p> <p>Primary are having a technology showcase in Week 4 of Term 4.</p>	<p>Next Get to Know Your School at School Farm.</p> <p>Board Members encouraged to attend School Open Day (wearing School Board badge)</p>

