



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Special Meeting

Time	4:00
Date	20 June 2019
Location	Merredin College Board Room
Chair	Julie Flockart
Apologies	
Attendees	Julie Flockart (Chair/community rep), Alby Huts (Principi), Tom James (Deputy Chair/staff rep), Caitlin Crees (Starr Rep), Romolo Patroni (Community Rep), Lisa Fischer (Community Rep), Phil Van Der Merwe (Parent Rep), Jamie Lee Walker (Parent Rep), Jenny Doncon (Parent Rep/Secretary) Janelle Millar (Manager Corporate Services) Mia Davies MLA Julie Demarco (???) Andrew Hastie, Manager of Environmental Services, Department of Education John Fischer, Executive Director of Infrastructure, Department of Education

Time	Item and summary of discussion	Actions
4:00	Welcome Julie welcomed visitors. All members introduced themselves.	
4:15	Asbestos Issue Julie outlined our concerns. It has been 18 months since this issue was brought to our attention. Asbestos in schools has recently been in the news. Previously we were told the asbestos could not be disposed of locally, but on investigation, the Shire has said they can take asbestos at the tip, for a price. Discussion The following points were made during the discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area along Cunningham street and near the farm has been cleaned. Area behind the trade training centre hasn't been. • A number of other schools have similar asbestos issues, some of these are at the same risk rating as Merredin College. There has been no community outrage, so little action. Significantly more resources go towards asbestos remediation in other states. • Remediation is complete on the main school area. The area opposite the old brewery needs to be re assessed. A quick look showed signs of asbestos on the surface. Department is planning regular emu picks of the school area, maybe 2 – 4 	



	<p>each year. This will become part of the routine maintenance of the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department is currently developing a site management plan for this site. Asbestos can only be moved during school holidays when no one is on site. • Some remediation was done in 2012 when work was done at trade training centre, this was disposed of at the tip. Only a limited number of sites can take class 4 waste, ours should be a maximum of class 2. • 2/3 of public schools have asbestos on them, much of this is from demolition of old buildings. • Sand piles down the back have been tested extensively by Greencap, who report no elevated risk. Original report had a mistake, which has since been rectified. After a follow-up investigation, the report says no elevated risk. • We were originally given three options, bury it, move it off site, or spread and cover. Our preferences is to relocate offsite. Once the asbestos has been collected it can be classified and then either disposed of locally or at Red Hill. Our asbestos is currently classified as level 1 or 2, but needs to be retested as more has been found which can affect classification. Digging a hole to bury it onsite could find other problems. • The history of the site is vague, so it is difficult to know where the asbestos came from and what is actually there. • Communication with the community is important. The Department will be doing a letter drop to inform community of what is happening. Once asbestos is removed it would be best to have consultant back in to ensure that it is safe before reopening that site. School community will be continually updated on progress. • Residential college has some asbestos, similar situation. The back area has been fenced off so that students can't access it. Dumping is more clear and open, again history is unknown, but there was a building complex up there in the 40s. Most of the asbestos was picked up around the water tank it is well bonded asbestos panelling. There is also a lot of low density fibre board which as used in schools in the 70s and 80s. this is more of a concern, but still not a lot of fibre. • The goal is to ensure children can wander around that area, use it for cross country etc. Make it usable for general purpose. <p>The Board thanked Andrew and John for coming up to help clarify the situation.</p>	
5:00	Close	

