Beverley School Council Meeting

Date: 4th May, 2016
- Meeting commenced at 7:00pm

Present: Wendy Moore, Brendan McLean, Angela Sims, Ros Mellick, Julian Roche, Karen Wansbrough
Apologies: Scott Morrell
Chair: Brendan McLean
Minutes: Karen Wansbrough

Previous minutes
- Previous minutes presented for acceptance and signature by Chair.
- Minutes accepted as true and correct.
- Moved-Brendan, Seconded-Wendy. All in favour.

Matters arising from previous meeting
- Wendy issued Ros and Julian with a print copy of the Annual Report which they had received by email.
- Ros queried what the acronym for ICSEA was and Wendy explained it was the Index of Community Social and Educational Advantage, similar to Socio-economic status.

Agenda Items / Speakers
Wendy- Presentation of school budget statements for consideration and acceptance.
- Wendy reported that the School was on track with the budget. Queries were made about;
- JULIAN(C3205 Student -Centred Funding). Julian queried why there was a $75,255 discrepancy. Wendy explained that the first part of these funds the school received in February and the rest of the allocation comes mid-year. So, it is all in order.
- KAREN (D2705 Teaching Staff PD). Karen queried why the Staff PD Budget was over. Wendy explained a lot has been spent already due to whole School Staff PD (such as Rock & Water which was expensive) and a lot of other PD has already been paid for in advance and we will be reimbursed by the Avon Schools Network.
- JULIAN (Staffing). Julian queried why (Staffing was down $17 000) -Wendy explained that it was anticipated that this would be made up by days ‘not charged’ to school, e.g. for Principal relief.
- JULIAN (D2505 Computer Equipment). Julian queried the $28 379 for computers. Wendy explained that Naplan was going to be on-line in 2018. The school was due to purchase computers next year but with the Dept matching dollar for dollar, it made economic sense to purchase computers now. Discussion ensued about the ethics and format of on-line Naplan testing.
- ROS (D1105 Computer Lease) Ros queried why this was down. Wendy explained it was the monthly photocopy use spend and was on track.

Wendy moved the Budget be accepted. Julian seconded. All in favour.
Wendy -Parent Communications

The school wants to reduce the number of pages in the School Newsletter. The school currently uses the following communication avenues; Newsletter, the Blarney, Connect notifications and Facebook. The advertising pages at the back of the newsletter must remain the same until the end of the year.

Brendan felt the information via Connect needs to be kept short, sharp and information needs to be in the body so attachments don’t need to be opened. Wendy explained an App will be available soon – Do we remain patient or look to pay for App so we can connect with it?

Parents have already been canvassed for permission to use picture (photos) in communications. Aliesha seeks consent and manages Facebook posts.

Wendy raised the possibility of a Term Wrap Up instead of the fortnightly Newsletter. Brendan raised the option of submitting more Newsletter info into the Blarney with the notion of it suitting our aim of improving community involvement/ relationships. Julian asked who currently gets the Newsletter. Wendy explained the youngest in the family are newsletter carriers and it also goes onto Connect. It was agreed that 4 pages for the Newsletter was appropriate.

Wendy -Independent Public School development process

School Members prior to the meeting had been issued with reading to do on the IPS Development Day 2 and a survey to complete. Wendy outlined that our next step was to develop a plan to review our school’s governance. The school still does not have to decide yet whether to go down the IPS path. It is fine to make a decision by the end of this term.

Brendan felt it was important for the community to receive some communication about the pros and cons of becoming an IPS school. Some parents are asking questions/ others not. A summary will be prepared by Wendy about pros and cons of IPS and emailed to Council members so they can discuss this with parents and get their opinions.

Wendy suggested we could go down the path of working on our school and community links, and governance, as a means of improving our school anyway. Then it would not be a bigger deal than it needs to be, and we can decide to proceed with IPS if we wish. This would maximize the value for our school and minimize disappointment in the community if our school was not yet considered ‘ready’ for IPS status.

Julian raised that marketing is a key component of IPS and we need to be organized. We need to consider and consult key potential stakeholders and potential board members at school events. Wendy raised the date set for a possible Community Forum about school development planning. This is Wednesday of Week 8 (June 15th) and it coincides with the construction of the Chook Run and the Mini-Olympics. Parents could be invited to stay for lunch, followed by a talk about IPS. Ros felt a Friday would be a more community friendly
day. Other dates of note where the IPS concept could be raised were the ABMT (Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea) and the Faction and Interschool Cross Country events.

The composition of the board was discussed – skills, motivation and parents need to outnumber staff. The maximum number of people as defined by the model Terms of Reference is 15.

The next step in the IPS is to complete the self-reflection information. This needs to be taken to the next Development Day which is on June 8th, in Narrogin. Wendy and Brendan to attend. Brendan asked if more than two council members could attend. Wendy said most likely they could, but that she would find out.

Discussion about the community and getting people to take on roles on a board has historically been difficult. In the early years there seems to be improved parent involvement so we may need to promote the council/board as something not to be feared. “I’m just a mum!” Transitioning of members requires consideration. Council members to complete a personal profile to go into newsletters etc so that parents get to know who the councillors are and what their role is and forward to Wendy.

School branding/ vision/ history/ fresh ideas to be extracted from the Community Forum. Michael Harries – ex York School Board Chair may attend next Council Meeting.

**School Council were all in favour of proceeding to the next stage of the IPS development process.**

**Wendy - Mandatory National Opinion Surveys**
The school needs to conduct its normal biannual survey of stakeholders. It was decided to postpone them for this term and concentrate on the IPS surveys that need to be done before the next Development Day. Council self-audit surveys about school governance to be emailed back to Wendy.

**Meeting closed at 8:46pm**

**Next meeting June 1st 2016**