

Minutes of Mount Aspiring College Board of Trustees Meeting held on 23 June 2008 at 6.00pm

Present: M Barton, W Bosley, D Cassaidy, L Jolly, A Penniket, T Perry, G Ruddenklau (Chair), D Schikker

In Attendance: D Bruns, C Carr, H Hammond (Secretary), T Harper, K Logan

Rutherford Programme

Colleen Carr and Kris Logan were welcomed to the meeting to discuss the report on the Rutherford Programme as circulated with the agenda.

The programme is being reviewed as part of the strategic goals this year, to see whether it is still meeting the needs of the school and community. Surveys of parents, staff and students are being conducted at the moment. The information from these will be collated and then W Bosley, C Carr and K Logan will review this and seek more input if needed. The goal is to retain the good aspects of the programme, look at how best to move forward in the future, and to look at how the programme can be extended into the senior school.

We were an early provider of a gifted and talented programme, so others are looking at what we are doing rather than vice versa. Some issues we need to deal with are that whatever is done must fit in with the current timetable, and the busyness of our students, especially in the senior school – they often need to be cajoled to get involved.

Kris currently takes two periods per week and Colleen takes seven periods per week with students, plus a lot of time is spent on administration, particularly in organising for students to take part in competitions. The students get one hour per week and then can opt into other groups such as future problem-solving, etc.

In primary school they have a whole day a week through the One Day school. The new curriculum may allow more freedom. Banding has been tried in Years 9 and 10 with one top class and the other two homogenous, and whilst this created a great environment for the top class it was not good for the other two classes.

We do not want to label the Rutherford students as different. The programme is generally well supported by teachers, our staff are very flexible. The programme has been very effective in promoting the academic and cultural aspects of the school, balancing sport as part of the culture.

Students are identified at Year 7 through a reasoning test, and then their entry into Rutherford is negotiated with the teachers. It is not unusual for the bright students to also have learning difficulties so there is a need to identify the best route for them. Students may also be identified by teachers during the year and sometimes by other Rutherford students. Some students do not take advantage of the opportunity and leave the programme.

Communication with parents was big when the programme was first started but this has tended to be less over recent years due to pressure of time and the programme being better known. If parents are kept better informed this means that they can support the programme. It would be good to have a page devoted to Rutherford on the website.

Competitions are a useful tool to extend and inspire the students, but some will never enjoy the competitive element. Students can be extended in their usual classes in the normal ways, such as differentiation, but the competitions are very good at developing group skills which is an important aspect for the workforce and is sometimes lacking in these students.

One Day school students are automatically put into Rutherford but tend to be less motivated than the others.

In the senior school, at Year 11 students can choose subjects to extend themselves and in Year 13 students can do Scholarship. Mentoring may be the answer in Years 11 to 13. Seniors do get invited to stay involved with Rutherford competitions, and there are now several House competitions to keep them involved, such as interhouse debating, chess club, etc.

Rutherford allows students to pick up new skills without looking “uncool”.

A follow up will be scheduled for the Board once the results from the surveys have been reviewed.

Colleen and Kris were thanked and left the meeting.

ICT “Go Forward Plan”

Denise Bruns and Tim Harper were welcomed to the meeting to introduce this new initiative in ICT, and a background paper was tabled.

Tim gave a brief history of Otagonet and Schoolzone, which is now in over 1000 schools and is a large part of Tim’s role with Telecom. The internet bandwidth is now inadequate for many IT applications that schools are using, and The Community Trust of Otago and Central Lakes Trust have indicated that they would be willing to put funding into improving connectivity to schools. It has been proposed to put very fast fibre optic connectivity into Mount Aspiring College and Logan Park High School as a proof of concept trial. This will allow immediate benefits to IT applications such as eAsttle, eCasting (video downloading) and videoconferencing. It would also allow us over time to move to “virtualisation”, which would involve moving our servers to a location in Dunedin where the software can be managed centrally for a number of Otago schools.

The fibre optic cable would be extended from the Telecom junction down Plantation Road, and we would be the first end user in Wanaka. We would be a guinea pig but because of Tim’s role with Telecom we have been asked to be involved. In two other areas schools have been upgraded in this way, paid for by the local power companies. The only provider that can offer this facility in this area is Telecom and they are keen to trial it. The proof of concept would be reported back to Central Lakes Trust and The Community Trust of Otago with a view to them funding the roll-out.

There are some potential downsides. The cable is vulnerable (eg. to being cut through) but then so is power cable. We would be able to back out if the trial went badly wrong for some reason. The virtualisation aspect would be trialled gradually, for example, one application such as the email exchange could be moved off site before we made a decision about physically moving any of our three servers.

A remote server would have the advantage of much more cost effective service as several schools would share the servers and software and an expert company (Decision One) would be looking after it. Our servers have a limited life and at least one will need replacing in the next

couple of years at a cost of around \$20,000. Telecom will fund putting in the fibre optic cable to schools.

Tim and Denise were thanked and left the meeting.

Healthy Eating (NAG 5)

W Bosley and H Hammond have met with Bernie Rillstone-Caig and looked at the new requirements for healthy eating with respect to the canteen. The current menus were checked against the Food and Beverage Classification System, and Bernie has rewritten the menus to identify the everyday and sometimes foods, and cut out the occasional items (mainly drinks). There is a fair amount of flexibility with the new regulations and these can be tailored to meet our local needs, given our environment and our students.

Bernie has visited Cromwell College which has already been audited by the Health Department, and she feels comfortable with what we are doing. However there is some risk that the viability of the canteen will be affected, given that it is already marginal.

There are other aspects to the regulations, and we also need to look at how healthy eating is promoted in the college. A Food and Nutrition policy is required and W Bosley will lead this. It will require community consultation, and this is something that ERO will audit.

There is an STA training session on 14 August in Cromwell which Bernie and Helen will attend, and anyone else is welcome to go.

Principal's Report

W Bosley presented his written report.

- A presentation of Ka Hikitia will be held in the staffroom on Tuesday evening at 6.00pm. The other Upper Clutha schools have been invited, and staff and board members are welcome. Ka Hikitia is a five year strategy for success for Maori students. It is a very positive approach and promotes building good relationships with teachers. Packs have been received with information which are available for board members to read.
- Staff have started to discuss the revised curriculum. There is a cross-curricular group looking at developing a template for all departments to use for new schemes, which incorporate the requirements of the revised curriculum. In addition the general concepts of the values, principles and key competencies are being discussed to promote better understanding. The key competencies underpin the revised curriculum, these provide the "how" rather than the "what" of the curriculum. It may require the charter to be revisited to align with the revised curriculum.
- Sustainability – the concept of a college garden and worm farm is being promoted with students and Wastebusters have been helping to raise the sustainability profile in college. Students are putting their names forward to be involved in a sustainability group.
- It has been decided not to go ahead with a changed timetable in Term 3 for the OP snowsport programme. This would have involved everyone changing to a double period (before and after lunch), and there were more downsides to this than having the OP students missing one period a week on their snowsport day.

- Maurie's farewell from staff and board is planned for 15 August, week 4 of term 3. The theme will be 1973 (Maurie's first year of teaching) and it will be held in the East Common Room. Invitations will be issued to current staff and board members, and some other guests nominated by Maurie. Contributions to a gift will be invited. There will be a separate farewell from the students which will take the form of a special assembly. This will be student driven and held in weeks 2 or 3, and will be open for ex-students and parents to attend if they wish.
- The Formal will be held at the Lake Wanaka Centre on Saturday 28 June, and all parents are welcome to attend between 8.00 and 9.00pm.
- The police visited school on Monday 23 June and made an inspection with the drug dog. Fourteen classes were inspected in the Year 9 to 13 age group, and two junior classes were visited to introduce the children to the concept. No problems were detected. It is planned for them to revisit in term 4 and include the hostel. Two of the police watched the students' body language as the room was being inspected and were very impressed with the attitude of the students.

Chairperson's Report

- The first meeting of the Friends of the School will be held this Thursday at 7.30pm, and all board members are welcome to attend.
- Student elections are coming up in September.

G Ruddenklau/A Penniket moved that Helen Hammond be appointed Returning Officer for the 2008 Student Elections. Carried.

- The draft property plan has been received from Opus, and has been reviewed by Grant, Wayne and Ronnie. The Ministry of Education has asked for a small change to a reference to sharing playing fields with Wanaka Primary School.
- The position of Principal has been advertised in the Education Gazette and applications close on 15 July.
- The Boardview section of the latest Education Gazette included an EOTC Guideline review and details of the submission process.

Whanau Report

T Perry reported that there had been no meeting of the whanau group since the last board meeting.

Finance

- Excerpts from the Annual Financial Report for 2007 were circulated with the agenda and the full report was available at the meeting. M Barton reviewed this for the meeting. It was noted that although there was an overall deficit of \$62,297, this was much less than the value of depreciation of \$193,837. There was a question of why curricular activity

fees appeared to be much higher in 2007 than 2006, and the accountant is to be asked for a breakdown of how these figures have been made up.

- The finance report for May 2008 was discussed. It was noted that the Year 8 camp did not run in Term 1 this year and has yet to be finalised.
W Bosley/M Barton moved that the finance report be accepted including the approval of payments of \$289,977.47 for May 2008. Carried.

Audit Committee

Curriculum (NAG 1)

The committee met with Vicki Ashton and Andrew Miller to view the online InterMac QMS system. It was noted that the main curriculum document was a very useful document that the whole board should be aware of.

The committee will meet again to formulate an audit review programme, and will then arrange a meeting with the curriculum committee. There should be a list of tests available for the next board meeting.

Next Meeting Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 5 August.

Agenda will include:

- Graphics/Design/Technology department report – Simon King
- Outdoor Pursuits – strategic goal focus
- Special topic – Property plan (possibly)

Minutes of the Previous Meeting (3 June 2008)

L Jolly/D Schikker moved that the minutes are an accurate record of the previous meeting. Carried.

Correspondence

The correspondence schedule was circulated with the agenda. In addition an email was received last week from a parent, addressed to W Bosley and copied to the board. This raised concerns about the actions taken in response to incidents of bullying.

G Ruddenklau noted that this was a management issue and that W Bosley had put in place an appropriate response to the issues of bullying prior to the letter being received. The parent would be advised of this.

Other Business

None

Dates of Next Meetings:

Audit Committee 9.00am, Monday 30 June
Next BoT meeting 6.00pm, Tuesday 5 August (dinner at 5.30pm)

Meeting finished at 8.40pm.

Signed as a true copy of the minutes:

Chairperson

Date

Action Plan:

What	Who
Schedule follow up on Rutherford review	Wayne, Grant
Food & Nutrition policy	Wayne
Book STA training on Healthy Eating	Helen
Response to parent re bullying letter	Grant