Sheffield School Association Inc.

Minutes – THURSDAY 20th NOVEMBER, 2014

Venue: VET Room at Sheffield School
Time: 7:00pm
Meeting organiser: Kate Haberle
Meeting recorder: Kate Haberle
Present: Kate Haberle, Tim Dyer, Ron Daly, Debbie May, Chloe Temple, Sharon Allen, Jamie Skirving, Helen Rockliff, Newton Maddick, Emma Wells, Elaine Deverell, Anita Richards, Chris Puccetti, Trish Laws (Sandra How and Marlene Febey till 7.20pm)

Apologies: Kelli Parker, Ayden Grey, Amanda Grey, Lillian Maddick, Allison Hicks, Cindy Dunlop, Allison Boutcher, Kathy Turnbull, Bradley Huett, Nicole East,

Absent: Phillip Turner (Apology Friday 21st November)

Moved: Trish Laws, Seconded: Chloe Temple, “that apologies be accepted.” CARRIED

Normal Proceedings for the meeting were suspended.

Sandra How and Marlene Febey addressed the meeting in regard to the Scripture Program in the school. Sandra thanked the school and the class teachers for their support during this year. She also thanked the council for the opportunity to speak to members about the program they use in the school. Worksheet materials are sources from the materials provided by ACCESS ministries Victoria for Scripture in State Schools. The material gives the teachers the opportunity to focus on key values that help students explore themes relating to everyday life both now and in the future. The lessons go for 30 minutes and students have the choice of opting into the program with parent permission. This program is not to the detriment of normal learning programs and it fits well with our value structure in the school.

Moved: Emma Wells, Seconded: Anita Richards, “that we approve the program ‘Scripture in State Schools’ with a request to reorient the program for grades 1-4 and to liaise with teachers around this initiative.” CARRIED

Tim thanked Sandra and Marlene for their time and effort in coming into the school each week and in a voluntary role.
Sandra thanked the members for permission to continue with this program as next year she will celebrate 25 years of teaching scripture in the school
1. Minutes of previous meeting: (16th October, 2014)

Moved: Chris Puccetti, Seconded: Chloe Temple, “that minutes of the previous meeting be accepted.” CARRIED

2. Business Arising: Defer to General Business

3. Correspondence

3.1 Out –

- Julie McCarthy, Rachael Watt, Claire Kent, Malcolm Von Steiglitz – Letter of thanks for their involvement in the building works at the Railton Campus and for their commitment to providing a suitable learning program for the children during this time.
- Ron Daly – Letter of appreciation for his leadership throughout the building program at the Railton Campus.
- Sandra How – Letter to The Hub Inc. Recycling Centre for their generous donation of $10000 to the Railton Campus.

In –

- Lesley Radford, Yolla District High School Association – Invitation to join other schools in lobbying politicians about the implications of the recent budget cuts to education.
- Hon Jeremy Rockliff, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and training – Information letter regarding the resources available for schools and colleges for the 2015 school year.
- Australian Education Union Tasmanian Branch – regarding Stop Work Action on Thursday 27th November 2014 from 8.30 to 10.30am to stand up against the budget cuts to schools and colleges and broken promises to parents on the implementation of the Tasmanian Gonski Agreement.

Moved: Anita Richards, Seconded: Elaine Deverell, “that the inward correspondence be received and outward correspondence be endorsed.” CARRIED

4. Special Committees Reports: No report

5. Standing Reports

Student

- On the 7th November we had the School Show
- On the 14th November we had the Athletics carnival with a BBQ
- The grade 9/10 LAC classes have been going on different excursions on a Friday including the Badgers walk, tennis and bowling. They are going swimming tomorrow.
- Some LAC students are assisting with the swimming classes at the Railton Pool.
- The grade 10 will experience life at Don College on the 2nd December.
- The term 4 social was held last night.
- The grade 9 students are going on an excursion next Tuesday to the Leven Canyon.
- ECC swimming program has been a success. The LAC students have been a great help and very good with the little people.
- Levels for Kindergarten students are being checked. A goal of the merging of the two schools was to get these levels raised and create better learning outcomes for the Railton students.

Early Childhood:
On the afternoon of Thursday 30th October all teaching staff (state wide) viewed a presentation by Michael Fullan via video link.

KDC data was entered into SARIS by the end of October.

PIPS testing was completed and the data has been submitted. We are awaiting the analysis of this data.

On the 31st October we had our last Prep-6 assembly for the year.

On Friday 7th November our classes made their way to the school farm to support the School Show. Our students enjoyed watching the cattle handlers at work.

Last Tuesday EC staff and students attended the Remembrance Day assembly in the central courtyard.

Last Thursday our Kindergarten classes bussed to Ulverstone for their excursion. They participated in a workshop with Slipstream Circus and then visited Fairway park.

Last week our students attended their first Water Orientation session at the Railton Pool. This was the first of 4 sessions that they will participate in. The students are thoroughly enjoying this experience.

Last Friday 14th November the Athletics Carnival took place. Apart from the windy conditions, the students did enjoy their day.

The last social for the ECE students was held yesterday.

Teachers are busy finalising end of year reports.

We are looking forward to the following end of year events:

- The Prep-6 Christmas assembly
- The Prep-6 end of year pool picnic
- Christmas parties and a visit from Santa
- Our Presentation Day assembly

Primary

Grade 5/6 Richards and 6 Last/Jackson participated in the growing Up Program run by Family Planning Tasmania. Students were involved in discussions about issues relevant to their age group as well as some important health and safety topics.

A sports presentation afternoon was held to acknowledge and congratulate primary students involved in sport this year.

Grade 3/4 students have currently been participating in a bike safety program.

During our professional learning day staff continued work on our school literacy plan, moderated student work samples and worked in planning teams to further develop unit plans.

On the 31st October, we held our last P-6 assembly for the year.

Staff has begun to look at this year’s NAPLAN data and how we can use that to address student learning needs.

Our Remembrance Day service was a beautiful tribute and we were very proud of our wreath layers, Kasey Woods and Tony Temple.

Last Friday all primary students participated with enthusiasm in the Athletics Carnival. It was a highly successful day and thoroughly enjoyed by all the students.

Our last social was held yesterday and was especially important as it was the last primary social for the grade 6 students.

Staff is currently in the process of writing reports and finalising assessments.

Along with the grade 7’s, 5/6 Richards and 6 Last/Jackson now have access to a trolley of Acer Netbooks which students are thoroughly enjoying.

We still have many exciting events coming up including learn to swim, P-6 picnic, class excursions, arts concert, Christmas assembly, Presentation Day, grade 6 luncheon and grade 7 orientation, just to name a few.
The integration of grade 5 students from Railton has been very positive. The students are thriving academically and there is no segregation between the students. Opportunities to include Railton in whole school activities has helped develop good relationships. There are no behaviour problems due to the new social environment and the students have adapted very well. Affirmation to the community about the merger will be acknowledged on Presentation Day.

Team planning with the staff between the two campuses has been very rewarding.

Secondary

- Grade 7 Information Evening was held on Tuesday night.
- Athletics Carnival – despite the wind everyone had a fantastic day and we had excellent participation by the students.
- The grade 10 exams were a great success and students did a wonderful job.
- We had a beautiful Remembrance Day ceremony and had members of the RSL and the public attend. The office staff received a phone call from one of the community members with really lovely feedback about our grade 10 students (Hamish McLean in particular)
- Don enrolments have been finalised over the last few weeks with staff from Don College coming to Sheffield to assist students with the process.
- The grade 10 first aid course was held last week. The students said it was very beneficial.
- Last night was the social. The theme was ‘initials’ so we had some very interesting costumes!
- The Sheffield School Show was on the 7th November and it was a fantastic day.
- Moderation Day for staff where students work is assessed equitably.
- On the 25th November, year 9 students are travelling to the Leven Canyon for an excursion.
- On Monday night, the Food Technology dinner party will be held at the school.
- On the 2nd December year 10 students will attend the Don College Starter Day.
- Also on 2nd December, the year 7 orientation day will be held. This will involve some games and activities and a picnic at Lake Barrington.
- On the 4th December, the Arts concert and exhibition evening awards will be held.
- The 8th December is the Inter-High athletics carnival.
- 9th December is Presentation Day
- 11th December is the year 10 celebration evening
- On the 12th December, reports go home.

Railton – No report

6. Sub-committee Reports

6.1 Chaplaincy –

- A meeting will be held next week on Wednesday 26th November.
- The main function of the committee now is to organise the Carols by Candlelight to be held on the 14th December at 6.30pm.
- The Evening at Fudge N’Good Coffee was a wonderful success. Many people from the community attended and the response was very positive. The Lions Club have since indicated that they will be donating a substantial amount to the ongoing work of chaplaincy in the school.
- Funding Issues – The Federal Government is not funding in the same manner as in the past. The State Government will now manage the funding. They are offering 400 hours a year which equates to 1.6 days. Hopefully we can get the same as this year as we demonstrate the importance of this work in the school and our commitment to the program.
6.2 Show Committee –
- It was an excellent day at the show. Rheanna Hanlon won champion handler. The beef judge from South Australia was excellent. He paid his own air fares and flew in for 24 hours only.
- Sheffield School won the Hoof and Hook. It was a great evening and very enlightening.
- Key to success was the lovely sunny day! The catering group did an amazing job providing food for the guests.

6.3 Farm Committee –
- A meeting will be held next week.
- Tim has signed the Audit Report

6.4 Junior Cattle Handlers Committee –
- The cattle handlers have been very active on the show circuit. They all competed at the Sheffield School Show and the majority of the team took home a ribbon or trophy on the day.
- Last week the team went to Scottsdale Show. We left on the Thursday night and returned Saturday night. We came home with Josie de Boer as Champion Dairy Handler and Bronte Page as Champion Beef Handler. One of our new members, grade 7 Ethan East, also brought home the Junior Beef Encouragement Award for his efforts.
- Saturday we head to Deloraine at 6.00am, followed by Devonport Show next week and Stanley the week after.

7. General Business

7.1 School Charter
- Policies are written in line with our charter. The charter has been updated to reflect amalgamation with Railton. The curriculum is linked with the Australian Curriculum.
- It is a good reflection of where we are as a school at the moment.
- There is another level of values for our younger students.
- It also reflects the Education Department guidelines.

Moved: Chris Puccetti, Seconded: Newton Maddick that “The School Charter be approved.”
CARRIED

7.2 Years 11 and 12
- Next year we will not be offering a VET Program at Sheffield, partly due to a staff reduction of 1.8 teachers.
- There is a change in the eschool organisation and a cut in funding.
- Alan Green is prepared to come up for discussions if we put in an expression of interest.
- As VET is finishing our chances of accommodating years 11 and 12 have lessened.
- It was resolved to defer discussions as we won’t be submitting an expression of interest. We can talk about our reasons if we meet with our local member.
- The Don College staff is fantastic in their commitment to preparing our students for the transition to Don College. For social reasons we see significant advantages for our students to go to Don College.
7.3 Railton Pool

- The temperature is set at 28 degrees.
- At this stage there are still a number of vacancies for time slots. We need 70% occupancy to get us through and meet the budget requirements. It will be advertised in the Kentish Voice and the school newsletter.

7.4 Software Company

- Chris Puccetti has submitted a proposal to Tim and Ron to trial new software in the school, “The Champions System” and discussions have taken place with Jamie Skirving.
- The software could be trialled in the school and the results can be used to rally the Government for funding.
- The overall goal is to use the pilot study to develop a package that can be utilized by all Tasmanian schools to enhance learning and improve student outcomes. It will provide teachers and administrators with a way to meaningfully track students’ progress throughout a school year or potentially over a student’s entire school life.
- It is the use of games for learning purposes. It is an adult education tool also.
- Positive outcomes include: instant results which are fed to the administrator, multiplayer version where the teacher is in control of the whole game.
- There is an online quiz which will present opportunities in the classroom and engage students in their learning.

Moved: Emma Wells, Seconded: Trish Laws that “approval be given to trial this program in the school subject to Departmental guidelines” CARRIED

7.5 Levies

- Levies usually increase each year by $5.00 per grade. Kindergarten will now be $150, Prep/grade 2 - $185, grades 3 to 5 - $215 (swimming program), grade 6 - $185, grade 7 to 10 - $390.
- Parents can enter an agreement to pay levies by the end of term 2. There are no extra expenses for parents during the year.
- 45% of parents are on the Student Assistant Scheme.

Moved: Newton Maddick, Seconded: Chloe Temple that “these increases be approved.”

7.6 Education Act

- Meeting was held with Ron, Kate, Chris and Phillip in attendance.
- Kate to type up recommendations to table at the next meeting.

7.7 Delegation

- In response to the letter from the Yolla District High School Association, it was decided to request a meeting with our local politician to discuss the budget cuts to education. Chris, Kate and Elaine to form the delegation.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Next meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY, 3rd DECEMBER, 2014 at 7.00pm in the VET Room.