



FEDERATION
of Religious Institute
and Ministerial PJP
Catholic School Authorities
in NSW and ACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Education Policy Committee
held at Level 10, Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney on 13 June 2019 at 2pm.

Present: Kitty Guerin – Committee Chair
Tony Fitzgerald
John Robinson
Jennie Hickey

In Attendance: Representing Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW)
- Dallas McNerney
- Danielle Cronin
- Brian McDonald
- Geoff Miller
- Kwame Wetsi
Paul Oakley – Chair of Council
Greg Smith - Executive Officer

Apologies: Marea Nicholson
Anne Wenham
Jane Curran

Welcome: Kitty welcomed those present and noted the apologies of those listed above.

Acknowledgement
of Country: Dallas acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting
took place and paid respect to the elders, past, present and emerging.

Prayer: Kitty led the meeting in prayer.

Conflicts of Interest: In response to enquiry from the Committee Chair, no person present declared
any conflict of interest in relation to any agenda item or other matters relating to
the Federation.

Previous Minutes: RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2019 be adopted.

Business Arising from
the Minutes: At Kitty's invitation, Dallas provided a broad outline of the recommendation from
the National Schools Resourcing Board that families' actual incomes and other
family factors replace characteristics of the census collection districts in which
families of a school reside. This will determine SES for the purposes of "capacity
to contribute" in determining funding for non-government schools. He advised
that the Australian Government had adopted this recommendation and that
representatives of CSNSW were involved in the consultation process to bring this
about. Geoff then provided a presentation on the issues being considered in the

consultation and the difficulties being presented in data matching. He advised that the new SES methodology (PIT scores) would be applied for all non-government schools from 2022 but that schools may apply the PIT scores from 2020 if to their benefit. He advised that clarification of the methodology was expected during August 2019, with schools to receive advice of their new SES before the end of 2019.

Greg expressed concern at the published SES scores arising from the 2016 census, which for RI/PJP schools showed disproportionate increases on average, when compared with other non-government schools. These changes would have arisen from changes in family cohorts and their addresses, as well as changed socioeconomic factors in the relevant census collection districts. While it was noted that schools may never need to apply the 2016 scores and may continue to retain their 2011 SES scores until 2021, then apply the new PIT scores, risk of these factors also flowing through to impact the 2019 PIT scores remained.

Danielle referred to the NSW Curriculum Review, advising that while an interim report had been provided to the Minister, no further information had been released, with the final report expected by the end of 2019.

Memorandum of Understanding:

Br Paul advised that the Council had developed a set of principles for discussion with representatives of the NSW Bishops, and that he was awaiting a date to meet with Bishop Randazzo.

CSNSW Services:

The committee noted the report on the survey of school principals on services to their schools. It was noted that schools will source services from a range of areas depending upon their specific needs, and that both the Federation and CSNSW should work towards ensuring that:

- schools are aware of what is available from CSNSW,
- services complement and add value to what might be available elsewhere,
- services are available to those who are unable to access them elsewhere,
- services are available in areas that are uniquely Catholic, and,
- the relationship between CSNSW and RI/PJP schools reflects the shared responsibility of all Catholic School Authorities for contributing to the vitality and viability of the ongoing work and growth of Catholic education.

The meeting agreed to continue discussions towards the above aims.

SchoolsHub Access:

In responding to privacy concerns about access to SchoolsHub portals for RI/PJP schools by CSNSW, Danielle advised that CSNSW previously had access to the Schools Entry Point (SEP) for all Catholic Schools and that this access had been automatically transferred across to SchoolsHub. This transfer of access had not extended to authority to access individual Commonwealth funded programs which had subsequently been requested of school principals.

Communications:

Greg advised that at the request of CSNSW he had provided postal addresses for all leaders of RI and PJP members so that they may be invited to the forthcoming governance symposium. He noted that the responsible persons for most member

schools would include directors of schools.

Next Meeting: 11:30am – Friday 9 August 2019 [**Proposed change to Friday 16 August 2019, at Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney**].

Other Business: Greg raised the issue of the consideration by some Dioceses of charging rent for Diocesan schools and advised that this had been a long-standing issue for RI/PJP schools governed by separate legal entities to their Canonical authorities. Dallas undertook to keep the Federation abreast of ongoing discussions on these issues.

Closure: Kitty thanked Dallas and his colleagues for their time and interest in attending the meeting and for hosting the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Read and Confirmed as
A true and correct record

Chair

Dated

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Impact of funding changes upon RI/PJP schools
- Pending advice from Commonwealth – approx. August 2019
2. NSW Curriculum Review
- Pending NESA final report to Minister – end of 2019
3. Br Paul Oakley to meet with Bishop Randazzo.
4. Progression of CSNSW Services Offering – Committee/CSNSW