



Minutes of the Meeting of the Education Policy Committee
held on Zoom on 19 February 2021 at 9:30am.

Present: Kitty Guerin – Committee Chair

Jennie Hickey, Marea Nicholson, Tony Fitzgerald, Sue Lennox, Lee MacMaster, Tony Fitzgerald, Vittoria Lavorato, Joe Zavone, Stephen Dwyer, John Robinson.

In Attendance: Michael McDonald

Apologies: Nil

Welcome: Kitty welcomed those present and particularly the new Principals. She also congratulated Michael on his OAM.

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

Prayer: A Leaders' 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 20 November 2020 was adopted.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Nil.

Items of Discussion

1. Principals Briefing

Suggestions for the meeting are: 200 years a of Catholic Education, Engagement with RI and MPJPS, New Principals, RI/MPJP formation, NESAs and Catholic Studies, New Accreditation Requirements and Lead Teacher, Sport Competition, Profile of the Federation and National Funding Review.

Agreed Joe Zavone, Sue Lennox, Jennie Hickey and Kitty Guerin would prepare the Agenda for the meeting. Date claimer to be sent out and request for any Agenda items.

2. New Principals Catholic Schools NSW. Kitty to contact new Principals and inform them of the work of the Federation. Kitty and Michael to update and distribute the Principals List to all Principals.

3 ACT Report

Joe Zavone provided an ACT Report which included information on the 3 RI/PJP schools. Two of the three schools are worse off under the new funding model. The three work together on EAs and there is good collaboration. A review of the ACT Education Act is underway which proposes minor changes however the Schools want to be part of the consultation. Joe will discuss future Reports with the other two Principals.

4 CSNSW

Danielle Cronin and Dallas McInerney joined the meeting.

Danielle provided information on

CSNSW Strategic Projects – workforce, curriculum, VET and Early childhood.

Professional Learning- single sign on to CSNSW portal. Governance modules are available – on demand and some will be available live. Link id available from Danielle. CSSA Forum and Education LAW conference coming up. Request has been made to CSNSW to facilitate networks for e.g., business managers.

CSSA

CSSA will be folded into CSNSW. Staff are in place to do this work. A Reference Committee will be established. Consultations will take place on its formation after the final AGM.

HSC Analysis and De Courcy

RI/PJP may want an overview of the Schools under their authority.

Lismore Distance Education

This is a registered entity that provides courses. Operation may need to change and so this is a matter for future discussion.

The Principals' Briefing is a way to support Principals. Require personal contact with new Principals. To help Schools understand the governance structures/ issues. CSNSW is the defacto representative on many things and is collecting data. Need to understand what information that is being sought and why. Not only CSNSW may want to know information.

Dallas McInerney spoke about the Education Legislation (Parents' Rights Bill). Its purpose is to outlaw gender fluidity in education and provide sanctions. Consultation will take place in March. This raises important questions about mental health, personal care of students and ideology. CSNSW will ask for submissions.

4 CORMSAA

Marea provided an update on CORMSAA. CORMSAA and AMPJP have agreed on a governance discussion paper and underpinning principles about what needs to be each state's RI/PJP body. Consultation will assist in exploring state structures.

Other Business

The Committee had a lengthy discussion about the Parents Rights Bill. The purpose of the legislation is counter the work to date in Schools in assisting students and parents. It is counter human dignity and inclusiveness of school communities. For the student it can lead to mental health issues Joe and Marea are to search out Bioethicists and at worse suicide. Federation should provide response to CSNSW and so this should be taken up by the Council. Michael to draft a letter for Kitty and Frank to consider.

Next meeting 19 February 2021

The meeting concluded 11.45 a.m.

