

Minutes of the Meeting of the Education Policy Committee held on Zoom on 6 April 2020 at 9:30am.

Present: Kitty Guerin – Committee Chair

Jennie Hickey, John Robinson, Marea Nicholson, Tony Fitzgerald, Craig Wattam, Sue Lennox

In Attendance: Michael McDonald

Apologies: Lee McMaster

Welcome: Kitty welcomed those present including those attending as new members commencing 2020.

Acknowledgement of Country: Michael 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: Michael 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 29 November 2019 be adopted.

Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil

Items of Discussion

1. Catholic Schools NSW. Danielle Cronin attended the meeting for the first 30 minutes. In that time, she provided updates on
 - a. NESSA. COVID 19 Response Committee are currently working on how to respond to the situation concerning the HSC. CSNSW has established a COVID 19 committee to advise the CEO. NESSA is currently operating on one hand in the amber/red action area to halt the HSC exams and put in place another assessment scheme and on the other hand in the policy area it is operating as green.
 - b. COVID19 CSNSW Portal is available for staff at three levels.
 - c. System school closures were not a decision of CSNSW.
 - d. Education Ministers are meeting today, and things may be clearer after that meeting. Universities are important part of this process. These circumstances also affect Year 11. Danielle left the meeting.

2 Funding and Direct Measurement of Income. Issues about DMI and boarding schools have been replaced by the urgency of COVID 19 and its effect on school fees and school fee payments. Parents have been positive to date however the longer this crisis goes on then the more challenging things will become. Perhaps parents should be asked to speak to their bank before asking schools for leniency.

3 NESSA and the meeting of Catholic TAAs. The minutes of the meeting were with the Agenda. Agreed to distribute the PowerPoints to Principals.

4 No Principal's meeting was set. Perhaps a meeting later in the year. Michael to send a summary of the meeting and offer the support of the Federation to principals.

5 Employment Relations Agreements. Tony advised of an email from CCER today that this is no time for bargaining. Proposal 2.5% increase for support staff and teachers to be discussed in early term 2.

6 St Kelvin's Toorak and the CP incident. There is a need for media management of such events. Perhaps some media training would be beneficial for principals. That is on the Council's agenda. Principal's role is very difficult, and this has implications for recruitment. School authorities are having increasing difficulty in finding quality applicants. Michael to send a summary of the meeting and offer the support of the Federation to principals.

8 Strategic Planning. The Federation has reached a point where there is an opportunity to reflect and identify the work required of the Federation over the next 3-5 years. Michael will be arranging phone hook-ups to discuss. EPC members are asked to reflect on the future of the Federation and how it might look.

Action items from the minutes

1. Impact of funding changes upon RI/PJP school.
2. NSW Curriculum Review. Pending NESA final report to Minister – end of 2019 - NESA
3. Bishop Randazzo responses to discussions with Br Paul & Kitty. Still to be completed
4. State of the System Report – Agreed write to Danielle accepting the invitation to contribute to the 2020 report and look forward to involvement in that process.
5. Services Directory & Network Matrix - Could become part of the strategic Planning work.
6. Danielle Cronin – Analytics Showcase – not completed.
7. Multi-Enterprise Agreement – discussed in the meeting.
8. Additional Committee Member - completed for the moment
9. EO to distribute TAA PowerPoints to Principals
10. EO to send a summary of the meeting to Principals and offer the support to Principals.

Next meeting 4 May 2020

The meeting concluded.