



Minutes of the Meeting of the Education Policy Committee

held on Zoom on 12 October 2023 at 9:30am.

Present: Sue Lennox (Acting Chair) Sr Margaret Ghosn, Sue Lennox, Jennie Hickey, Stephen Dwyer Vittoria Lavorato.

In Attendance: Michael McDonald

Apologies: Kitty Guerin, Tony Fitzgerald

Welcome: Sue welcomed those present and acknowledged the apologises.

Acknowledgement of Country: Sue 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:

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 27 July 2023 was adopted.

Business Arising from the Minutes: CER EA negotiations on the Agenda otherwise no other no other matters arising from the minutes.

Items from the Agenda.

- i. 9.45 a.m. CER EA Negotiations. Mr Chris Owens joined the meeting. Chris provided a brief description of the current offers. By Model A, B and C. Some schools have made administrative decisions to pay increases. Losing staff is one of the reasons for doing so. It is a point of leverage that is lost by making such decisions. The EPC was not aware of Ian Yard Smith leaving and

requested information on the effect of the merger and details of CER staff and their responsibilities.

- ii. 10.15 a.m. CSNSW. Danielle Cronin joined the meeting and addressed several issues.
 - a. Countering violent extremism. This has been highlighted by the Israel-Palestine conflict. The civil society threat has not changed. CSNSW and DOE will be distributing more material about managing the situation in the coming week.
 - b. Disability Royal Commission Report delivered to the Government on 4 October 2023. The Government is seeking a reply by March 2024. The Government is unlikely to accept the proposal not to support separate disability schools. The ABC is doing a story on Mater Dei and the SMH is doing a story on St Lucy's. Those stories will focus on the input of parents.
 - c. Better Fairer Education System Review Discussion for a new funding agreement with the States and Territories in March 2024. The current rhetoric is about increasing transparency and accountability. The concern of CSNSW is not to increase the administrative burden. DOE is beginning to act as a regulator in its approach and is gathering information from other sources including the media.
 - d. Accreditation as Integral to Mission Sustainability. This report will be sent to the Federation for feedback. It is more focussed on the systems but has value for RI/PJP schools. It is an important issue for the future. There is not the population to sustain the role of teacher as identified in church documents.
 - e. Avila Leadership program. The program is oversubscribed and will include RI/PJP staff. Additional positions might become available.
 - f. Aboriginal Leadership: a symposium will be held on 2 November 2023.
 - g. Master Class by Dr Timothy O'Leary on leadership teams will be held on 31 October 2023.
- iii. ACT Report Nil
- iv. CORMSAA Report.

- a. On 16 November 2023 Forum of RI and MPJP School Authorities – Today’s Key Issues – accountability, lay leadership and the Voice.
- b. NCEC meeting in Canberra. Representatives of RI/PJPs were present. Kitty Guerin attended. The Productivity Commission Report on Education was a focus in the meeting.
- c. NCEC Strategic Plan. NCEC is preparing a Strategic Plan for the Bishops.
- d. Accountability – Naplan and financial accountability is on the agenda. Underperformance in numeracy is an issue for System and RI/PJP schools. A desk top audit was undertaken at Mount St Benedict’s and part of looked at the Stewardship and lease payment. A more proactive management of those payment are required for 3rd party payments. A fair payment and annual review are elements of the outcome that is now resolved with the DOE. The College Board is to sign off on those payments. Maria offered the resources arising from that process. EO expressed a desire to obtain those resources for the Federation. There are important learnings that others should consider. Maria to follow up with Kitty.
- e. Funding. There is ineffectiveness in responding to the arguments state schools are less funded than non-government schools. State schools are funded based on \$24 K while some catholic schools are down to \$8K per student. This is why school fees are increasing. Agreed to ask CSNSW to prepare a document that be sent out by schools with the increased school fees.
- v. Principals Briefing 7 September 2023. Confirmed the session went well and was appreciated.
- vi. EPC Review. The Council is reviewing membership of the EPC to renew it. Some natural change will take place and some members have been part of the Committee for some time. The Council would like to broaden RI/PJP membership. The Council will further the review at its next meeting.
- vii. 2024 Meeting Dates agreed.

Close of Meeting 11.25 a.m.

Education Policy Committee Dates 2023 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

16 November

