

Minutes of the Meeting of the Education Policy Committee

held on Zoom on 9 February 2023 at 9:30am.

Present: Kitty Guerin – Committee Chair, Marea Nicholson, Sr Margaret Ghosn, Sue Lennox, Tony Fitzgerald, Vittoria Lavorato, Joe Zavone, John Robinson, Jennie Hickey, Stephen Dwyer.

In Attendance: Michael McDonald

Apologies: Nil

Welcome: Kitty welcomed those present and acknowledged the apologies.

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: Meeting 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 18 November 2022 was adopted.

Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil

Items for the Agenda

i. Mr Ian Yard-Smith CER Managing Director

The Committee prepared for the Zoom meeting with Mr Yard Smith. Concerns were raised about communications and the progress made on EAs.

At 10.00 a.m. Mr Yard -Smith joined the meeting and the discussion ensued about Enterprise Agreement for Model A, B and C. The IEU appears to be delaying progress on finalising EAs because of the March State election. Discussion occurred on the poor EA communications from CER and their effect on schools. Mr Yard -Smith

apologised and confirmed extra steps have been put in place to ensure communications are correct when sent out.

He also explained the new CER pricing regime that will be considered and decided upon by the CER Board next week. Some RI/PJP schools have decided not to continue payment to CER. It was acknowledged this new pricing system would be challenging to implement considering the current less than optimal service by CER. Pricing issues will be discussed with the Systems later in the year. It was suggested to Mr Yard -Smith that he engage with the Principals so things are dealt with as they arise for schools.

- ii. Productivity Commission Report on Student Outcomes for funding. This is continuation of themes raised over the last few years. NCEC has carriage of this matter. If we meet with Danielle, then this could be discussed then with her. Agreed to have a Zoom meeting with Danielle on 2 March at 12.00 p.m.

- iii. ACT Report
ACT principals are receiving good support from CER in relation to the School Support EA. A proposal will be made to the IEU next month. The Education Act has been changed to so that details of the situation and accountability exists for any suspension or expulsion of a student.

- iv. CORMSAA Report.
Agreement RI/PJPs will participate in Funding negotiations. DMI appears to be having unintended consequences because it is a relative measure and Catholic Schools appear to receive less than expected. The Law Reform Commission is examining Religious Educational Institution and Anti-Discrimination laws. The NCEC has carriage of this work. The EPC is interested in meeting with Jacinta Collins to discuss this issue if possible. This is a difficult issue for some School communities. Marea is to contact Jacinta to explore to meeting possibility.

- v. Review of Principals Briefing 30 March 2023. The possible issues for discussion are Jacinta Collins- DMI, Antidiscrimination and the

Productivity Commission Report. Also, Erica Thomas in relation Cybersecurity. Agreed Joe Zavone, Tony Fitzgerald, Marea Nicholson and Kitty Guerin will work on the Agenda for the meeting.

Other Business Nil

Close of Meeting 11.00 a.m.

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

30 March

25 May

27 July

7 September

12 October

16 November

Principals' Briefings commencing at 10.00 a.m.

30 March 2023

7 September 2023

NSW Government School Holidays 2023

Term 1 (Eastern) – Friday 27 January to Thursday 6 April

Term 1 (Western) – Friday 3 February to Thursday 6 April

Autumn school holidays – Monday 10 April to Friday 21 April

Term 2 – Monday 24 April to Friday 30 June

Winter school holidays – Monday 3 July to Friday 14 July

Term 3 – Monday 17 July to Friday 22 September

Spring school holidays – Monday 25 September to Friday 6 October

Term 4 – Monday 9 October to Tuesday 19 December

Summer school holidays (Eastern) – Wednesday 20 December to Monday 29 January 2024

Summer school holidays (Western) – Wednesday 20 December to Monday 5 February 2024

