



MINUTES
SCHOOL COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 23rd MARCH 2023
46 South Road
Braybrook 3019

1.0 ATTENDANCE:

1.1 MEMBERS:

Laurence Guttman (Acting Principal), Colleen Bartolomei (WRECC), Lynn Moloney (DET), Denis Margetic (Community), Gerard Murren (AMES), James Wight (MiCare), Betty Huang (NWMRC),

1.2 APOLOGIES:

Yolette De Zilwa (Principal), Deng Malith (Horn of Africa Communities Network/Anglicare), Rose Italia Calafati (DET).

1.3 ABSENT:

1.4 VISITORS:

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of Previous Minutes **Accepted:** Laurence Guttman
Seconded: Colleen Bartolomei

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- **NIL**

Welcome:

- The School Council President, Denis Margetic, welcomed all members to the 2023 AGM, acknowledging the newly elected members, and retired members:
 - Elected Members:
 - Betty Huang, nominated by James Wight
 - Denis Margetic, nominated by Lynn Moloney
 - James Wight, nominated by Laurence Guttman
 - Retired Members: NIL

Recognition -School Council President:

- The School Council President, Denis Margetic, expressed thanks to the leadership team and to Laurence Guttman, Acting Principal, for meeting all targets.
- Thank you to all WELS staff for their commitment and dedication.
- Best wishes to all teachers, parents, and students for the 2023 school year.
- Thank you to School Council members for your dedication for your commitment to on-site and online meetings in 2022.

Recognition - Principal:

- The principal acknowledged the School Council President, Denis Margetic, for his great work and constant support of WELS.
- The principal acknowledged the attendance and dedication of School Council members in 2021 and looks forward to another successful year in 2022.

Annual Report to School Community

- File uploaded to SPOT and attested by WELS Acting Principal on 21st March 2023 and School Council President on 22nd March 2023.
- 2022 Reports: The Annual Report and AIP have been completed. The acting principal thanked all staff for their hard work and dedication. In 2022, WELS operated five campuses across Victoria, located in Braybrook, Wyndham, Footscray, Manor Lakes and St Albans (St Albans re-opened in term 4 2022 as a campus). The campuses are all situated in high-settlement areas of newly arrived families.

- Students have predominantly come from:
 - Afghanistan
 - China
 - Ethiopia
 - Iraq
 - Myanmar
 - Samoa
 - Sudan
 - Vietnam
- The report to the community is a public document with specific requirements that must be met such as, Child Safe Standards.

2022 Annual Report to the School Community:

- The principal presented the 2022 Annual Report data to School Council members.
- The Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) will be endorsed by the SEIL and School Council President. The AIP is generated on SPOT once the campus has comparison data.
- **WELS School Vision:**
 - WELS empowers students to develop the practical and academic language skills needed in mainstream settings within a safe and supportive environment.
 - Our vision is underpinned by respect, responsibility and caring as well as community connections.

School Strategic Plan (SSP)

2022 was the final year of our 2018-2022 School Strategic Plan (SSP). WELS School Review took place in term 4 2022.

- WELS' two Learning Goals:
 - Goal 1: To improve the capacity of students to compose texts.
 - One of the ways we worked to achieve this goal was to build in protected time for teachers to meet and be supported to plan and assess using the WELS-developed English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA).
 - Goal 2: To improve the capacity of students to read.
 - One of the ways we worked to achieve this goal was to continue to consolidate teachers' ability to teach

and assess reading through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

Engagement:

- WELS knows the importance of ensuring our students are valued and supported. Evidence from surveys displays the positive results in students' engagement and the high student attendance compared to the State.
- Data behind this improvement:
 - Attendance in the primary sector depicts 13% of F-6 students missed 20 or more days of school, compared to 35% for the Network and 44% for the State.
 - Attendance in the secondary sector depicts 12% of year 7-12 students missed 20 or more days of school, compared to 35% for the Network and 49% for the State

Wellbeing:

- The wellbeing team supported teachers to employ a variety of strategies, interventions, and resources to support our most vulnerable students.
- WELS additional support agencies and health workers used in 2022:
 - Foundation House (VFST)
 - Royal Children's Hospital
 - Speech Pathologist
- Through professional development, staff gained knowledge, strategies, and skills needed to build respectful relationships and contribute to a positive and inclusive school culture.
- A professional learning suite, facilitated by Body Safety Australia, included sessions on consent and covered topics such as:
 - Childhood abuse and body safety
 - Abusers and grooming
 - Signs of abuse
 - Handling disclosure and community care
- WELS school staff continue to build positive relationships with students and are aware that all staff have a role in supporting the health and wellbeing of all students.
- In 2022 the Wellbeing Team was reconstructed to include more members.
- A Secondary Mental Health Practitioner was appointed, and our Primary Mental Health Coordinator continued their work.
- WELS has processes in place to comply with Child Safe Standards.

Performance Summary:

- It was noted that WELS is 100% EAL and 0% ATSI (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)

- A total of 349 students enrolled in 2022, 155 female students and 194 male students.
- Overall low socio-economic band value is 'High' based on the SFOE.
- Parent satisfaction is extremely high at 93.3% based on Parent Opinion Survey.
- School staff survey is average at 65.1% being slightly lower than the state median of 65.8%.

Financial Report:

- The acting principal presented the Financial Performance and Position summary for 2022. It was noted that the Financial Performance and Position statement is prepopulated by DET.
- WELS considers it good practice to conclude the year with a Student Resource Package (SRP) surplus.
- Equity funding for student has been the most significant means of improving our delivery of programs and student support throughout the five WELS campuses. WELS ended 2022 with a surplus of \$312,614 as at the 2022 reconciliation.
- Any unspent grant funds were carried forward to the 2023 school year.

Reports passed:

**Accepted:
Seconded:**

**Denis Margetic
Laurence Guttmann**

Meeting closed:

6:25 pm

Next meeting:

21st March 2024