

Minutes of Mount Aspiring College Board of Trustees Meeting held on 4 March 2008 at 6.00pm

Present: M Barton, W Bosley, D Cassaidy, L Jolly, A Penniket, T Perry
G Ruddenklau (Chair), D Schikker

Apologies: V Ashton

In Attendance: H Hammond (Secretary)

Apologies

M Barton/L Jolly moved that the apologies be accepted. Carried.

Curriculum Focus – 2007 NCEA Results

A report from Vicki Ashton was circulated with the Agenda. Vicki was unable to attend the meeting, but W Bosley spoke to the report and also tabled a comparison of Mount Aspiring College results with other Decile 8-10 schools.

In summary, the qualification achievement rate is good, especially at Levels 1 and 3, but Merits and Excellences remain a focus.

Some reasons why our students may not achieve as highly in Merits and Excellences were discussed:

- They are very busy with lots of opportunities to be involved in curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- Excellences are based on achievement standards, many of which are gained through external examinations, and students may have already achieved their goals such as University Entrance through internal results.
- Several of our subjects are assessed through unit standards rather than achievement standards, and unit standards are Pass/Fail only. This form of assessment is appropriate for the courses our students choose, such as hospitality and outdoor pursuits.

It was anticipated that the introduction and wider use of differentiation in the classroom would allow students to work to a higher level, and the introduction of certificate endorsements was expected to motivate the students to achieve more Merits and Excellences in future.

It was noted that the Merit numbers provide a better comparison than Excellences, as the number of Excellence students is very small and not statistically significant.

With respect to the Level 2 results it was noted that the Year 12 group was unusual last year, in that a large group of students was focussed on entering the workforce rather than carrying on at school. However the top students in Year 12 also did not achieve as well as expected, and they may have been influenced by the larger group in this respect.

The Scholarship exam results were very pleasing, in particular the fact that they had been achieved across a good range of subjects and local students featured strongly.

Curriculum Reports are due from Heads of Department shortly and they should provide a fuller background to the results achieved.

Goals and Annual Plan

Self Responsibility

The college goal is to produce well-rounded citizens of the world, and self-responsibility is an important part of that philosophy. The aim this year is to flesh out what this means at age-specific points, to help students understand what self-responsibility means and for them to become more self-responsible. The process has just started internally, and W Bosley invited input from the Board. The discussion included:

- What you are entitled to do at certain ages.
- Rites of passage, for example, mufti and lunch privileges in the senior school.
- Choosing subjects at Year 10.
- School expectations at different ages – especially at Year 7 as there is a big step from Year 6 at Primary School, parents need to understand what is expected of their child. The students may be ready for the change, but the parents may not be.
- Approach to pastoral care may change from Year 7 to Year 13, but the expectations may be the same, for example, not disturbing other students in class.
- The new curriculum includes the key competency Managing Self.

- New parent interview cycle to be introduced this term, and the aim of the first set of interviews is a three way conversation, where the student and parents can share information with the teacher. Term 3 interviews will follow the progress report as usual, but the term 1 interview discussions will not be limited by the report.
- May limit junior and middle school interviews to homeroom and core subject teachers only, possibly whanau teachers.
- Staff are now also meeting to share information about students related to their learning (as opposed to behaviour).
- Parents may prefer to have one staff member as a point of contact, eg. dean, whanau or homeroom teacher. Possibly a 15/20 minute interview with one teacher, and information on students can be shared through profiles on the computer.
- Important for the student also to be there, this builds self-responsibility.
- Also an aim to increase the community involvement by getting more parents in.

- Ask the students what they think should be expected of them at different ages, and what are the rites of passage. This could be a whanau group discussion.
- If parents know what the expectation are they can back this up from home.

The aim is to understand self-responsibility and make it a more successful strategy, not necessarily to change the school philosophy. Don't necessarily want to have a set of expectations written down, just aim to have a better shared understanding.

Principal's Report

W Bosley presented his written report. In addition:

- Summer Quad tournament has been in question for a while, as MAC has grown out of proportion to the other schools involved. East Otago High School has pulled out, and in

order to retain a competition this year we have offered to host the event with two MAC teams, Fiordland College and Cromwell College. A decision about the future of the tournament will be made when the other colleges are here.

- Swimming and Athletics Sports were notable for the level of participation and the enthusiasm of the students. They were well organised and there was a great spirit of competition. Two swimming records were broken. Athletics results are still coming in as some events had to be finished off after the day due to numbers.
- The March returns have been completed and the final number of students is 592. This is up on the funded figure but not as high as expected, mainly due to the large number of Year 12 leavers. It is unlikely that we will gain any staffing.
- Karyn Munro has been asked to have a role in replacing her position, and a counsellor is being sought. The other parts of Karyn's role can be covered by other support staff. The position has been advertised locally.
- A Penniket explained that Te Kakano will be a community based nursery to provide plants for the local environment. They will be looking for input from students, either through Students in the Community or individually. Funding is being applied for from the Sargood Trust. Andrew also tabled a draft Sustainability Strategy and Guidelines for discussion at the next meeting.
- D Cassaidy reported that Outdoor Pursuits is going well with a very busy start to the year. A new class has been created due to numbers and there are a few issues to sort out but everything else is working out well. The new timetable and organisation is going well, there is a good vibe in class, although there are still some challenges to tackle such as OutdoorsMark and the Safety Management Plan.

Chairperson's Report

G Ruddenklau advised that a proposal for the Principal's Performance Appraisal has been emailed out. This is from Peter Wilson, who has quoted \$2250, and this has been agreed to.

The NZSTA conference is in Christchurch this year during the July holidays. This is a good opportunity for a board member to attend, please let Grant know if you are interested.

Whanau Report

T Perry reported that the meeting held with local parents and the Maori community on 21 February was very successful. Tania's role as Maori representative was explained and understood. The group decided that the wider whanau would consult with the Board rather than just Te Korowai, as this group was no longer representative of the community. The group would start as a whanau and move on from there. A big barrier had been broken down as now the wider community felt they could be involved.

The renewal of the Te Hononga document was discussed and the group would get together and look at the document to see what had been achieved, and what aims should be included in a new document. A review of what has been achieved, what hasn't and why, could be carried out by Wayne, Tania and Pam Keelan.

Once aims for the future had been identified they should be incorporated into the Board charter and strategic plan.

Finance

A final budget was presented for ratification. Although this shows a deficit of \$121,529 it also included \$130,000 depreciation, so it is cashflow positive.

The amount of school donation to be requested was discussed. Whilst the Board favoured moving to a flat rate per child, it was agreed that this be done gradually over several years. In 2008 the donations to be requested were agreed as:

One child	\$80
Two children	\$120
Three children	\$150

G Ruddenklau/A Penniket moved that the budget be adopted. Carried.

Audit Committee

Finance

The Finance review has now been completed, the only outstanding matter now is to get the online banking set up.

Community Consultation

D Schikker and L Jolly had met to discuss the process for gaining feedback on Prizegiving. The preferred method of collecting information was through a survey, which could be attached as an email with the newsletter. A suggested survey was tabled, and it was agreed to also ask what would be the preferred method of liaison for parents, and if they had any other issues.

D Schikker has also investigated using a hangar at the airport, but this was not a viable option at present due to the size (50m x 40m), lack of facilities, etc. However, there was potential for the future as resource consent is being applied for to increase the size and facilities of the hangar. The cost was normally \$5-6000 to book but they would look favourably on a booking from the college. Question 2 regarding an alternative venue should therefore be deleted, as there is no alternative at the moment. D Schikker and L Jolly will now finalise the questionnaire.

Staff and student surveys on Prizegiving are also to be done by W Bosley and A Davidson.

The email option for parents receiving the newsletter is growing, but the one downside that has been identified is that students are not necessarily seeing the newsletter, and some may miss information which is aimed at them.

Radio Wanaka is also very supportive of the college and willing to give us airtime and good publicity.

Health and Safety Audit

This audit to be commenced. H Hammond to provide copies of policy and relevant information to the Audit Committee.

Next Meeting Agenda

The date of the next meeting was changed to Tuesday 15 April, as 9 April clashes with parent interviews.

Agenda will include:

- Economics department report
- Sustainability
- MAC Foundation
- Health & Safety audit.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting (12 February 2008)

D Schikker/M Barton moved that the minutes are an accurate record of the previous meeting. Carried.

Matters Arising

1. The ERO Report on the ACE programme has now been received, this will be passed to A Penniket. The recommendations included better links with the Board, and reporting and review processes. This should be built into the Board's self review process.

Correspondence

The correspondence schedule was circulated with the agenda.

One item was noted, a letter received from the Ministry of Education regarding the Five Year Property Agreement. W Bosley to work with Ronnie Moffat on this. Most of the funding is committed to the Property Development plan. The plan should be received from Opus soon and will be tabled. In the meantime plans for the new Primary School are progressing very slowly.

Other Business

None

Dates of Next Meetings:

April BoT	Tuesday, 15 April, 6.00pm (dinner at 5.30pm)
May BoT	Tuesday, 27 May.

Meeting finished at 8.15pm.

Signed as a true copy of the minutes:

Chairperson

Date

Action Plan:

What	Who
Let Grant know about the NZSTA conference	Board members
Review of Te Hononga	Wayne, Tania, Pam K.
Finalise parent survey on Prizegiving	Audit committee
Staff survey on Prizegiving	Wayne
Student survey on Prizegiving	Angus
Health & Safety information to Audit Committee	Helen
ACE ERO report to Andrew	Helen