

MINUTES OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, CATHOLIC SPECIAL SCHOOL INC.
HELD AT ST. PATRICK'S SPECIAL SCHOOL ON 19TH AUGUST, 1991

Present: P. Morrissy, Sr. Loreto, D. Prince, C. Hamam, R. Cavuoto, G. Samuel, G. Neagle, A. Eckerman, M. Aartsen, T. Bates and D. O'Neill.

Apology: R. Stuart.

The Chairperson, Paul Morrissy, opened the meeting with a prayer at 5.35 p.m. Prior to the arrival of Ms Trish Winter from SECC, member's questions were discussed and arranged so that they could be put to Ms. Winter in an orderly and expeditious fashion.

Ms. Winter duly arrived at 6.00 p.m. and after being welcomed by the Chairperson and introduced to all Board members, answered questions and spoke on various issues which concerned Board members. From her comments the following points are noted -

1. When asked by the Principals for her overview of the paper which they had prepared and sent to her on the subjects - "Vision for developing effective Special Education Services in the 1990's", "The Collaborative Action Plan" and recent Education Department policies on "Students with Disabilities", Ms Winter interalia remarked that the Catholic Schools have moved forward in the past 3 to 4 years. Extension of their roles outside the school has been expanded and has been noted. The expertise in the two schools is highly respected and is needed. The greater involvement with the community at large has been observed.
2. Role of Special Schools in Education: Ms Winter indicated that she was opposed to the closure of special schools. Already it has been observed that the expertise of many skilled teachers is lost when they are removed from this type of teaching. The status quo of special schools is continually changing and curricula must change according to needs. There is now and will be in the future an array of options for young disabled people. Despite these changes Ms. Winter stated that Special Schools will continue to exist.
3. Funding/Long-term Planning: Ms. Winter stated that South Australia was now considered to be better funded for Special education than any other State. It was unfortunate that funds were subject to funding on a year by year basis and this would never change. Teacher salary increases have contributed to funding problems and the present financial climate has had serious effects on fund-raising. The Crippled Childrens' Association and the Spastic Centre are not receiving the large endowments from estates and companies on which they have been very dependant, and have already had to impose staff cuts. Both Government Ministers Dawkins and Crafter have been urged by SECC to press for greater assistance and funding in the area of Special Education.
4. Transport: Ms Winter feels strongly about the need to provide appropriate transport facilities for disabled students. Claude Hamam heads the committee looking into this problem.
5. Availability of Services: Ms Winter advised that ancillary services are available no matter where the student goes to school. In response to comments that physiotherapy was not available to Catholic schools, Ms Winter expressed surprise and noted this. She said that the relevant organisations would be approached again.

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6. Integrated students: Ms Winter said that students with disabilities in State schools were reported on by Principals on a Special Information File and collated on Data Base. Mainstream teachers were being encouraged to develop special education skills. Children in integrated in to schools will have their own curriculum negotiated and be assisted to participate in the school overall curriculum as much as possible. Ms Winter could not offer any definite solution to the problems that can occur in the playground situation in an integrated school setting.
7. Finance: David Prince gave a brief financial background to the operation of the Catholic Special Schools using statistics from St. Ann's and alluding to the high amount of funding provided by the parents and Parents and Friends Association, among other things. In response to his question of when/if Government funding increase in dollar terms, Ms Winter could only indicate that the amounts fixed for the past two years will remain the same for the next year and at this stage there is no prospect of future increases. However there may be a little cause for optimism as the issue is now being reviewed in Canberra and the relative committee is headed by a South Australian Chairperson. The subject is now also on Commonwealth Government Agenda.

Ms. Winter was thanked by the Chairman, and after her departure the meeting continued.

Minutes: After amendment of the word 'reslly' to 'really', the Christian name of Ms. Winter from 'Chris' to 'Trish' and the 6th to last line to read 'Orana Centre will be making their debut, partnered by young adults from Adelaide Dancing Academy' the minutes as tabled were confirmed unanimously on the motion and seconding of Sr. Loreto and Claude Hamam.

Business Arising: It was agreed to defer further discussion on the Constitution until the next meeting.

Glenda Samuel reported on the forthcoming Debutante Ball which it appears will be a social and financial success.

Correspondence: Nil.

Reports : St. Patrick's School: 1. Sr. Merrilyn Brown from Josephite Congregational Leadership Team visited school this month and spent time with staff and students. She was very impressed with the school and the programmes we offer etc.

2. Badge Day was held on 9th August and \$6650 has been raised so far, after expenses paid! Wine and cheese evening this Wednesday to say "thanks" for everyone involved.

3. Netball - our St. Patrick's two netball teams did very well this season and the "I" Grade won the Grand Final!

4. Memorial Fund for Fred Torcutti established - \$1300 donated to the school.

5. David Fairbrother will be away on leave without pay for the past week of this term.

St. Ann's School: 1. Visit from HMAS Torrens has been cancelled as ship suddenly called to take part in exercises.

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2. Death of student, Kym Cuthbert. Memorial Service held at school.

3. Sporting teams are doing well in netball and basketball.

3. The Canadian Educator, Bruce Uditsky, will lecture on the Canadian System, which of course is diametrically opposed to our Special Education System on 28th August, 1991. The Seminar which will last from 9.15 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. will cost \$50 per person to attend. In view of need to ensure that Uditsky's views do not go unchallenged, it was moved David Prince, seconded Sr. Loreto that the Board approve reimbursement of \$50 each to two parents of each school to encourage representation at the seminar. Carried.

General Business: Nil

Meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

Next meeting at St. Patrick's on Monday, 16th September at 5.45 p.m.