

REPORT ON MEETINGS WITH KEN SANDILANDSJUNE 19TH AND JUNE 26TH

1. Two meetings were held with Ken Sandilands as a follow up to the need for counselling (refer letter DVS to KS September 4th 1991) and to discuss matters of concern.
2. Present at both meetings were Neil Rookes, Kerry Lovell, Simon Murray and Ken Sandilands.
3. Each meeting commenced and closed with prayer. There was a good interchange of ideas and openness throughout.
4. A list of specific concerns, summarising concerns expressed by parents over a period of time had been prepared by NR after input from KL and SM.
5. At the first meeting a few of the items on the list were covered but most of the time was spent in gaining reassurance that the perceived problems in the area of Sex Education and other areas involving sexuality had been addressed.

This was in the light of the recent events (on file) where KL had been approached to provide counselling to students who had been in Ken's class a few years ago.

KL, SM and NR were reasonably convinced that such concerns were of a historical nature and that present students were not receiving any instruction in this area that would be considered not in line with expectations of all staff at NCC.

KS said that as far as he was concerned he had "definitely not" given information that would lead to students having an unhealthy or negative aspect to sexuality. However, he does feel that, in retrospect he may have been too direct in answering children's questions in this area. He gave an undertaking that he would not discuss matters of a sexual nature at all in the future.

6. When asked about the stability of his eyesight, KS indicated that it should not be deteriorating but that it had been. He also mentioned that he was now learning Braille as another strategy to enable him to read at a higher level of proficiency.

7. Towards the end of the first meeting, we indicated that we would need to discuss the matters further and made arrangements for a continuation of the meeting the following week. In preparation for that, NR read out the list of all concerns and indicated that he would give a copy to KS in order for him to prepare a response.
8. Ken expressed considerable distress over the accusations and we made sure that he understood the need to bring our concerns out in the open so that they could be addressed.
9. At the second meeting, Ken indicated that he had agreed to modify his approach to Spelling and to play down the use of competition. With the use of Braille, he will now be able to employ a wider range of teacher resource material. eg. The QUOTA system of Spelling.
10. It was agreed that the cause of most of the concerns as listed could be attributed to the failing eyesight and that strategies would need to be employed to compensate for this and to ensure the safety of all children in the care of KS.
11. It was agreed that there was a need to provide a continuity of a second adult presence in Ken's classroom. KS was to discuss the matter with his wife and see if she could provide some input for a few mornings. (KS had not shared any of this with his wife due to the recent bereavement of her father.) KL is to co-ordinate the use of Margaret Bovey and additional parents to ensure that the full-time coverage is attained for the commencement of Term Three.

There will be a need to evaluate whether this will be successful to alleviate the concerns listed.
12. It was discovered that Ken had breached the guideline that male teachers would not be administering corporal punishment to female students. His explanation of ignorance (he had felt that the guideline was there only for matters of a sexual nature eg. lifting up one's skirt) was accepted although SM indicated that it was very clear in his mind that it was across the board and that had been the way it had been announced at the staff meeting last year.
13. SM expressed at the meeting that the area of sexuality and the many accusations in this area was still a strong concern and he encouraged Ken to deal with this matter thoroughly before the Lord.