

# Beaumaris North Primary School Community Meeting

Unedited as presented to Sandringham College

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Em Hall

# Summary of proceedings:

A positive community meeting was held successfully at Beaumaris North Primary School on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of March.

Again attendees were broken up into groups and asked the same questions about the future of the Beaumaris Campus.

From the meeting and the notes below, there is a strong support for fundamental change within the campus. This comes from a massive need to improve the facilities and the image of the campus.

No clear position as to whether or not the Beaumaris Campus should become a single sex or remain a co-educational facility. However developing opinion for a standalone school in either a 7-10 or a 7-12 model was came from each of the groups. A strong support for an independent Beaumaris High School.

Regardless of the eventual format of the campus, strong links with local primary schools and secondary colleges will need to be developed in order to support a standalone school.

~ **Howard Kelly**, Independent Consultant.

## Beaumaris North Primary School

### **Question One - Should the Beaumaris Campus remain part of the Sandringham College or become a standalone school?**

- Standalone = 8  
Remain with Sandy = 2
- Separate standalone - move forward easier.
- Demographics unknown - decline up
- Attendance hard to know whether funding would continue. Unknown issues on the face of it being part of the larger campus would be better. \$6 million not enough to change. Need about 12 million. Stay together.
- Russell- remain amalgamated be better academically would keep VCE strong via one campus.
- Like the idea of it remaining amalgamated and sharing resources. On the other hand, if a school can manage its own resources it would be better off. Best standalone with connections to Mentone Girls Secondary with other connections to primary.
- Mathew - separate from Sandy- the community's vibe is missing at the moment, doesn't have what BNPS has. Really wants to see links with Mentone Girls Secondary.
- Stewart - Favors standalone model. Doubts the school will get \$6 million if it released and there is a scope for a boy 'Mentone Secondary'.
- Steve- Favors standalone school. School has currently lost its connection with the local community and needs to be back in the hands of the local community. Links with Mentone Girls and Sandringham 10-12. So there is a choice.
- Shaun- Favors standalone school. New to area. Obvious lack of good schools for the boys in the area. Loves BNPS and the culture. Link to MGSC.

- Belinda- in favor of Standalone School.
- Standalone – 7 people
- Not to remain part of the Sandringham College but unsure whether or not it can standalone
- Funding?
- Murray Thompson’s support?
- Commitment to numbers will determine the future of the campus.
- 10 out of 10 voted for the Standalone School.
- Need to have quality choice for the community
- Continuity is very important. 7-12 standalone
- Start to shed ‘bad reputation’ and start fresh with the rebranding, that pushes the positives that exist.
- Numbers at the Beaumaris Campus (girls) cannot sustain – Mentone Girls a strong pull. Sandringham 11-12 campus diverse attractions.
- Needs a special attraction for Beaumaris Campus. Specialist niche?
- Standalone – system in place currently not working. To sustain 3 campuses is a big call. All resources spread thinly. One school number = one set of funds spread three ways. Need to link partnership. New admin, philosophy. Think agenda from Sandringham.
- Prefer standalone = links to MGHS. Unsure re: practicalities.
- Standalone. Own identity = links to MGHS
- Sit on fence
- Does it have its own school number is standalone?
- Standalone. Start fresh.
- Standalone. Not working – fresh start. Choice of subjects depends on numbers.
- Sit on fence. Pro’s and con’s both sides
- 5 for standalone
- 3 for abstain – aware of need for change
- 2 really don’t know
- 5 remain part of Sandringham.
- 5 standalone.
- 1 undecided.
- Underfunding of the Beaumaris Campus
- We do not want to see ‘ANY’ of the Beaumaris sold off for ‘alternate development.’
- There is an impression that the Beaumaris Campus has no funding – due to low enrolment – due to poor reputation
- Possibility of aligning Beaumaris Campus with Mentone Girls
- Question of a number of students necessary to make standalone school, viable – demographic trends etc.
- Question of sustainability of standalone school with full range of VCE subjects, whether co-ed or single sex.
- Benefit of small class sizes at Beaumaris Campus currently
- IB middle years program to boost reputation and gain support. All of us agree. Continuing to senior if numbers.

**Question Two – If it were to be a standalone school, should it cater for years 7-10 or years 7-12?**

- 7-12 unanimous
- Social reasons
- Continuity
- Funding dependent on VCE without it won't get enough.
  
- 7-12 – 10 people
  
- 7-10 - 2 people
- 7-12 – 6 people
- Undecided – 2 people
- 7-10 – focus efforts on middle years to get best use of funding. (short term aim).  
11/12 other options are available in area. Similar set up to St James in Bentleigh.
  
- 7-12
- 7-12 due to continuity. Want options for learning.
- 7-12 it standalone
- 7-12
- 7-12
- 7-12
- 7-12 too soon, 7-10 to aspire and achieve
- 7-12 ideal
- Not bothered
- 7-12
  
- 7-10 6 people
- 7-12 1 person
- Undecided – 4people

**Question Three – Should it be a single sex school or remain a co-educational institution?**

- Boys based on pragmatism
- Co-ed if it had enough support from community.
- We all prefer co-ed
  
- Co-educational – 8 people
- Unsure – 2 people
- Uniforms to be improved/ upgraded. Taking pride in their students' presentation.
- PYP to IB (continuity)
- To promote the school as an academic and sporty, as well as arty.
- Requires a culture change
  
- Single sex- 2
- Co-ed parallel – 8
- Need to market to make attractive for parents of girls if you go co-ed.
- Single sex classes within a co-ed school
- Parallel learning
- Education changes in future – why cant classes be split based on gender as well as learning ability.

- Parallel learning could be started with core subjects (English/Maths/Science) and then build to have the parallel option through class streams.
  - How do we get parents to commit that this will be their school of choice?
  - Is there an option to have a building fund where a financial commitment is made by the families to ensure student enrollments?
  - What happens to the current G5/6 kids and do you engage those parents to commit to the school when the form it will take isn't known as yet?
  - There needs to be a push to get the positive statements from existing parents out into the public forum.
  - There are still myths/ gossip around the community about what's going to happen. E.g. it is going to close anyway.
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- Single sex
  - Single. Girls going elsewhere. If bold moves, standalone 7-12, boys
  - Boys but will consider best model for boys. Should be thought to specialist school. Niche market science, sports, co-ed parallel learning
  - Boys. Need a big change.
  - Likes parallel learning. Depends on what is offered.
  - Co-ed
  - On fence
  - Co-ed for her boys
  - Co-ed and single sex boys niche as an option.
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- Single sex male – 0 people
  - Co-ed – 10 people
  - Parallel learning – i.e. some classes apart
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- Our vision would be to offer viable secondary college option to Beaumaris P.S and the Beau N. P.S students, using the IB model. – i.e. that's 1100 students looking for education.
  - Would love a high quality/great/good rep/good standard 'local' secondary college.

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<http://www.sandringhamc.wordpress.com>