

# Black Rock Primary School

Thursday May 24 2012

Attendance about 30

1. McAuliffe, Principal of Sandringham College Introduced the evening and went through brief history and noted the achievements of Sandringham College
2. Allen McAuliffe introduced Howard Kelly, Independent consultant

Howard explained the Sandringham college decision –making time line; factors impacting on how decision will be based upon such as use of data; demographic data; links to the state government election processes and process for the school to seek further funding.

Howard Kelly gave a background to the process and spoke about the historical significance of the three sites and how they came about via district provision associated with VCE subject choice. Howard talked about VCE and subject choice and the challenges placed upon schools that led to school mergers and closures. This new configurations were designed to meet demands of VCE

Howard noted the model has not continued to be funded in the same manner as earlier days... Additional funds for staffing campus travel links, etc., are no longer there

Howard noted the communication process Beaumaris used at end of 2011 could have been better handled.

Howard stated that this year we have started the process again. In the beginning it looked like an issue about Beaumaris and have now demonstrated, in his view people see the agenda was not to close the school but to seek a model of education that is best for the next twenty years

The essential question is in the Long term future is the best option to be one school with three sites or best to break it up?

Howard also discussed that the models will be presented and feedback will be sought.. Howard outlined this process and possible models that may be put such as switching of sites; sharing of programs across sites to separating schools

Howard restated it was the intent of the process to make sure that people who have children in grade four or below have an opportunity for a view and it is recognized the school is serious about a dialogue. Some questions discussed the process in more detail

Howard stated Sandringham College has an initial six million and some additional funds for grounds for Beaumaris, but we need to make sure we receive assurances from both sides of parliament. He suggested we need to be mindful of the politics ... Need to see 2013 and 2014 budget in the election manifesto of both parties they will commit to funding for Sandringham college in next term of government. Further discussion followed as to how this may occur

Howard noted the exemplary work of lobby groups to fight for the interests of education in our communities. Howard noted the current school council of Sandringham college understands the serious of the issues and has found them to be responsive and informed and had full confidence

Howard opened the meeting to specific questions and concerns:

Topics covered

Financial implications of disaggregating were discussed such as type of staffing profile costs and costs of new facilities

Howard noted multi campus has been disadvantage by only having one number

Questions and comments were made about projected enrolments

The meeting agreed the need for us to have data to provide accurate demographic information on the surrounding information

Comments noted that the grade five enrolments are very high, sporting teams have record sporting enrolments ... Are they been taken into account?

Questions followed on about multi –campus sites. Howard discussed multi campus vs. single site and the best model. Comments were made about the need to reconnect the school to the community and that there are huge numbers of students coming but the community needs confidence in the school (s)

It was stated that we need to build confidence in the school and make things happen and show evidence that it will happen and the community can have confidence. Comments followed about the prior perceptions of Beaumaris and some continued concerns. However, a number of parents also spoke about these comments in light of other schools and also the know excellent work of current staff

Further comments about the need to get connectivity to others schools in the area

Howard noted some possibilities and if the school disaggregated what could happen... It was discussed that the new school could reconnect to Sandringham and Beaumaris in lots of ways. An example is Mentone Girls could enter into an agreement to deliver some specialist or unique subjects like specialist Maths or classics, or economic

Howard noted such schools as Eumemmering and Hallam campus that share programs.

Questions of funding such as Why do stand-alone schools get funded better were raised? Howard noted that Government priorities and policies have changed. Howard noted what has happened to schools such as areas as Caroline Springs.

Further question about whether or not a boys high school on the cards were discussed

Howard two stages of decision making processes. He asked the question would it be wise to disaggregate? And if so what is the nature of the two other Sandringham schools. More discussion followed, Will propose to make a higher order decision first then how it would look

Feedback was given about number of girls on the Beaumaris site and how the school offers programs .

Discussion about all boys school and whether or not they are appropriate. Noted there are some single sex classes at Black Rock and at Beaumaris Campus currently

Feedback from Blackrock re parallel education model operating in grade 5 and 6 Howard noted the role and contribution of this school would be invaluable to the new school model

Some question about school culture were discussed and some concerns about things about the Beaumaris site that concern some parents and the damage of the permeation of rumours

An open Invitation to attend the school to see the school....see how it operates was offered. Further comments about the need to work together and turn the school around... and focus on the positive and foster the ownership a of the school and the local community were made

Notices about the signs and communication to make it work... Show the interest ... Aligned to the primary schools

Comments about uniform and the pride in the school... Such as Mentone, some boys looking to schools outside the local area

Need to turn the perception.... Not necessarily the reality and Council needs to really consider the question of ownership and the disconnect with local community. It was suggested that the need to get professional marketing was evident

Comment the only asset is the good staff there

The meeting Closed at 8:40

Allen McAuliffe