



Sandringham College

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Council response to Marshall Report

Council was briefed by Mr. Marshall (Independent consult employed by council) on Monday 20th of February. It was an extensive briefing and the findings are posted on this College Website.

Council was pleased to receive this detailed response by Mr. Marshall and his analysis of issue of curriculum provision at Sandringham College, the impact of patterns of student enrollment, and other factors that impact on provision.

The report touched on many of the issues that lead the council last year to reflect on how best to create a sustainable future for the College.

His findings basically suggested, that the current patterns of finances and curriculum provision were not sustainable.

In particular his report acknowledged that there were specific campus issues that needed to be addressed. He made the key point that what the College needed was a long-term strategy that was committed to growth for each of the campuses. In his report, he made the point that “the existing arrangements have not assisted in the development of long term solutions, to the different challenges faced by different parts of the College.”

Council was tremendously encouraged by the key themes in the report. It made it clear that there are short term and long term issues that need addressing.

In relation to short-term issues raised by Mr. Marshall, Council is determined to work with our three communities under our new Leadership Team, in order to stabilize the situation for students and their families. Above all else, we want the message to be quite clear, that no site is closing.

The Principal Class Team is working hard at issues that Mr. Marshall raised to use our teaching resources to give equitable access to key programs across the two Year 7-10 campuses.

In relation to Specialist Mathematics (despite the smallness of numbers this year in comparison to previous years) the subject is being delivered on the Senior Campus. It has also been possible to continue to deliver LOTE.

Long-term

Mr. Marshall's report puts strong emphasis on the different needs and issues for each Campus. Council concurs with his analysis and understands the need to respond to these different needs in different ways. Indeed Council has been tremendously encouraged by the energy that we have seen from parents and members of the broader community to be willing to be engaged in discussions.

The work endorsed by Council (led by Howard Kelly) is completely focused on working with the community to answer to key issues.

1. What is best taught where?
2. How is it best governed?

Council is aware that there are strongly held views on both of these matters. It wishes to make clear in the work ahead that the whole spectrum of options including structural arrangements, (as referred to by Mr. Marshall) are on the table for detailed work, reflection and response in the months ahead.

We welcome 'The Marshall Report' and its challenges. We are keen interest; reflection and debate continue to take place about the best way forward.

Council is only interested in two issues;

1. How do we achieve a long-term sustainable future?
2. How do we achieve significant capital investment from both State and Federal Governments, for our three communities to thrive and deliver excellence?

Ron Wakefield
Council President

Allen McAuliffe
Principal and Executive Officer