

Summary of comments from Beaumaris Campus Public Meeting

Em Hall

The Beaumaris Campus Public Meeting was held on the 8th March 2012 at the Beaumaris Campus. Community members were broken up into eight focus groups. Groups were nominated to staff in different rooms in order to gather feedback on the above questions. Staff members were clearly identified at the beginning of the group meetings. Each group was asked to provide comments regarding these three questions; staff members were then to email comments to Howard Kelly and Emily Hall. A summary was then taken and placed into a PowerPoint for further discussion by the meeting as a whole. An unedited full document containing each of the notes taken from the focus groups has already been compiled including documentation from the sticky notes. This document was emailed to Steve Pearce and forwarded to interested parties. This is a summary of the overall community comments.

Questions:

- 1) In the long term what is the best use of this campus? It is best as a co-ed school, a single sex boy's school? Are there other uses?
- 2) When it comes to governance, is it best to continue as a part of the overall Sandringham College, or is it best to be a standalone school?
- 3) Looking at the whole Sandringham College are there thoughts you have about the relationships, use of sites, future that you want to mention?

Summary:

- No selling of the land.
- Overall support for continued public education at Beaumaris Campus.
- Large support for a standalone school, thus allowing for community ownership and development of a Beaumaris identity.
- Need for demographics of the area to be researched.
- Strong support for an emphasis on Academic excellence.
- Large support for a standalone school with a 7-12 site, not just a 7-10 site.
- Strong support for Boys only school- question '*whether or not it already is?*'
- Strong support for a reimage of the school, new uniform etc.
- Need for rebuilding of facilities to support new image.
- Community perception is that the school is 'failing'.
- Single sex school would need to have support from Mentone Girls Secondary in parallel education.
- Lack of confidence in the current model of the Beaumaris Campus as a part of Sandringham College.
- There were many traditional feelings towards the school in terms of keeping it a part of Sandringham College.
- Many valued it as a small campus, students feel secure and cared for.
- Suggestions to offer subjects with a Trade; Sport, IT, Science or Environmental focus.
- Need to improve enrollments.
- Connection to Sandringham Senior is good for subject choices in VCE.
- Marketing and appearance of the school is poor.
- Beaumaris Campus has a lack of identity.
- Encourage links with local primary schools.
- Standalone School will need to be supported by local schools in order to be successful in the future, strong links will need to be developed in order to facilitate this. Such links include

the restructured Sandringham College in its possible new form and Mentone Girls' Secondary College.

- Local parents concerned as to where to send sons/daughters.
- Standalone School would need a significant increase of enrollments in order to offer a wide breadth of subjects.
- Quality of education at the campus is the most important focus.
- Suggestion as to being a specialized year 9 campus – like other schools.
- Question as to why local private schools are turning to co-ed?
- *'Parallel learning'*- need more thought to what this actually means for Beaumaris. *What model will be used?*
- School needs to reflect sense of community.
- Want to keep small in order to keep specialized approach to students- how this would operate, as a standalone school is undecided.
- Beaumaris is producing better outcomes than what the wider community perceives.
- Need for a bigger offering of VCE subjects to current year 10s.
- Albert Park College was seen as an example of a reimaged school, which appears to be working and attracting public support.
- Some conversation in reference to streaming of the school.
- The current site is under utilized.
- The campus under Sandringham College is not viable.
- Transport between the campuses is an issue.
- *'What will be the consequences of severing the relationship with Sandringham College?'*
- Needs a marketable difference in order to attract enrollments.
- A standalone boy's school could reduce opportunities for Beaumaris.
- Improve facilities; increase revenue from the community use.
- Skeptical about relationships with other schools.
- Primary schools should be linked more closely, need to have something to offer them at the campus.
- Some questioning - *"Who is supporting this 'standalone' idea? Parents or community members who do not have students here?"*
- Want for Private School style education at the Beaumaris.