



# Balcatta Senior High School Council

Minutes of Meeting - Wednesday 7 September, 2016		
<p><b>Attendees:</b>  <b>Community Members:</b> Margaret Banks, Chris Hatton MLA, Professor Ted Snell  <b>Parent Members:</b> Helen Notis, Svetlana Naumoski, Karen Paull  <b>Principal:</b> Lesley Street  <b>Staff:</b> Kevin Castensen, Stephen Pestana, Anna Sanzogni  <b>Students:</b> Matthew Milner  <b>Other:</b></p>		
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1.1	<p><b>Opening and Welcome</b>            The Chairperson Helen Notis opened the meeting at 6.00 pm. Ms Notis welcomed Council members to the sixth meeting for 2016. Ms Notis also introduced and welcomed the Council's newest community member Professor Snell, AM, CitWA, to his first meeting.</p> <p>Professor Snell is the Chief Cultural Officer at the University of Western Australia. Over the past two decades, he has contributed to the national arts agenda through roles such as Chair of the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council, Chair of Artbank, Chair of the Asialink Visual Arts Advisory Committee and as a Board member of the National Association for the Visual Arts. He is currently on the board of the UQ Art Museum, the ARC Advisory Council and is Chair of the Australian Experimental Arts Foundation (Adelaide) and Chair of University Art Museums Australia.</p> <p>Ms Notis thanked him for making the time in his busy schedule to join the Balcatta Senior High School Council. The school is delighted to have Professor Snell as a member of the Council and looks forward to his contribution to the ongoing development of the school as well as Balcatta Senior High School's Gifted and Talented Visual Arts Program.</p>	
1.2	<p><b>Apologies</b>            Sharon Beccarelli, Lara Broomfield, Trudie Dwyer, Shannon Muggeridge</p>	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Acceptance of Previous Minutes</b>	
	Helen Notis presented Council with the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10 August 2016 for approval. Council endorsed the minutes of the previous meeting as complete and accurate.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>	
	<p><i>Inward:</i> None  <i>Outward:</i> None</p>	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Actions Arising from Previous Meeting</b>	
4.1	<p><b>Draft letter of thanks to Ms Kristancic</b>            Ms Street circulated the draft letter of thanks written on behalf of Council to the former principal of Balcatta Senior High School, Ms Anna Kristancic who officially retired on 26 August 2016. Helen Notis moved and Kevin Castensen seconded the motion that: <i>Council endorses the content of the letter.</i> Council passed the motion unanimously.</p>	Ms Street to post letter to Ms Kristancic.
4.2	<p><b>Email to DET re: Upgrade of Facilities at Balcatta SHS</b>            Ms Street has contacted Milan Trifunovic, DoE Director of Infrastructure and Mal Parr, DoE Director of Strategic Planning, to discuss the further upgrade of facilities at the school. In 2015, a new roof was installed on the Science Department and the Home Economics and Textile rooms were gutted and refurbished. The staff room, administration areas and library were also refurbished.</p> <p>She has proposed that in addition to the much-needed upgrade of existing facilities such as basketball courts and science laboratories, the Department of Education should consider the construction of a new building to coincide with the school's 50th Anniversary in 2017. A purpose built Upper School Building including flexible e-learning spaces with break-out areas and a common room would be a great investment for the future and signal to the community that Balcatta SHS was moving forward. She also suggested that this building be located on excised land adjacent to Cedric Street so as to be visible from the road. Mr Trifunovic and Mr Parr are scheduled to visit the school for an inspection soon.</p>	Ms Street to advise council members of the outcome of the inspection visit by Department Facilities directors.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Finances</b>	
5.1	<p><b>Financial Statement</b>            Mr Pestana tabled and spoke to the <i>Operational One Line Budget for September 2016</i>. Mr Pestana drew Council's attention to the summary of the school's finances on page one. Mr Pestana noted that the budget is on track and that expenditure is as it should be for this time of year.</p> <p>He also drew council members' attention to the \$100,472 unspent amount for salaries. This figure would probably increase by the end of the year and would carry over to 2017. The school had effectively decided to bank this money as it was not in a position to hire the teachers that it wished to fill literacy positions. If the school achieved IPS status, it would be</p>	

	better placed to hire staff of its own choosing. Ms Street also pointed out that if student numbers in 2017 were lower than expected, these funds could be used to retain teaching staff.	
<b>5.2</b>	<p><b>Finance Update</b></p> <p>Ms Street informed Council about the measures taken by the school to improve the school's collection rate over this year. Letters have been sent to Year 12 students with outstanding charges. These have resulted in a number of parents contacting the school and entering into an agreement to make regular payments to reduce the debt. Approximately \$4,000 was collected but \$12,000 is still outstanding in compulsory charges. A final letter will be sent to those who have not responded indicating one final chance to contact the school before a debt collector is engaged to recover this money. This week, letters were sent to parents of Year 11 students who owe approximately \$29,000 in charges. In total, the school is owed over \$50,000 in charges.</p>	
<b>6.0</b>	<p><b>Ratification of Contributions and Charges and Personal Items List 2017</b></p> <p>Ms Street presented the <i>Contributions and Charges and Personal Items List 2017</i> to Council for consideration and ratification. A special Finance Committee meeting was held on Wednesday 31 August to discuss the Contributions and Charges. These have been kept as low as possible and there are only a few changes from 2016. Some additional subjects have been added but until numbers are confirmed the school is uncertain which subjects will run.</p> <p>Margaret Banks moved and Ted Snell seconded the motion that: Balcatta Senior High School Council ratifies the <i>Contributions and Charges and Personal Items List 2017</i>. The motion was passed unanimously.</p>	
<b>7.0</b>	<p><b>NAPLAN Update</b></p> <p>Mr Pestana discussed the Year 7 and 9 NAPLAN results. He presented a comprehensive summary of the students' achievements. A summary document including graphs was tabled and discussed. The main themes which emerged from the discussion were that the performance of Year 7 and 9 students is quite distinct.</p> <p>Year 9 performance is in general as expected and over time has been relatively consistent. It is also within the expected range with some improvement in numeracy. Year 9 achievement in reading, writing and numeracy is similar or better than like-schools.</p> <p>Year 7 performance for writing is consistent and as expected in reading and numeracy, though at the lower end of performance. Year 7 performance is less than expected in spelling and grammar and at the lower end in reading and numeracy. The achievement in writing is similar to like schools.</p> <p>Year 7 performance gives cause for concern in a number of areas. As part of the Professional Learning Community (PLC) process, the NAPLAN results will be utilised to put in place interventions for students who have not met the required standards.</p>	
<b>8.0</b>	<p><b>Report from Student Council Members</b></p> <p>Student Council member Matthew Milner presented his report. He spoke about the following events and activities:</p> <p><b>Teen Mental Health Program – Year 10 Students</b></p> <p>All Year 10 students will be participating in a Mental Health program for the next few weeks. The first session was held on Thursday 26 August. In this session, students learnt about common mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression. They were also informed about the roles of various mental health professionals including school counselors, psychologists and psychiatrists.</p> <p><b>Courage to Care Excursion – Years 9 to 12</b></p> <p>On Wednesday 31 August 40 students attended the <i>Courage to Care</i> exhibition and workshop held at Edith Cowan University. The exhibition was sponsored by the Holocaust Institute of WA and examined the issues of prejudice, racism, intolerance and bullying as well as injustice. Matthew, who attended the excursion as part of his History class said that the main message he drew from the excursion was how important it was to stand up in the face of injustice and was inspired by those people throughout history who had the courage to do so despite great personal risk.</p> <p><b>Portrait Art Competition – Years 5 to 6</b></p> <p>Students from our local primary schools took part in an Art competition organised by Mrs Maitland and the Gifted and Talented Art Co-coordinator Mr Kimbar. The students' brief was "to create a portrait of excitement". Prizes were awarded for the best portraits from each school during an exhibition held on Tuesday 16 August at the Ron Murphy Art Gallery. The judges were really impressed by the high standard of the art work. It is hoped that this will be an annual event.</p> <p><b>River Cruise - Years 11 and 12</b></p> <p>Another enjoyable and successful river cruise was held on Wednesday 24 August.</p> <p><b>Whole School Athletics Carnival</b></p> <p>The carnival which took place on Thursday 1 September was a great success. The weather was perfect and student participation and behavior was fantastic. True to Balcatta tradition,</p>	

	<p>the Year 12 students dressed up in fantastic costumes. Matthew expressed his thanks to Mr Birkett and his team for their superb organisation and hard work.</p> <p><b>Debating Team</b> Following their success in the recent debating competition, members of the Year 10 debating team are working with students from Tuart Hill PS to pass on their skills and knowledge. In a series of lessons, they are teaching the younger students the fine art of debating. One of the members of the team, Alicia Gregg commented that "not only are we having great fun but the process of teaching others is making us much better debaters."</p>																																					
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Principal's Report</b>																																					
	<p><b>School Numbers</b></p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">August 2016</th> <th colspan="2">September 2016</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Year 7</td> <td>80</td> <td>Year 7</td> <td>80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 8</td> <td>114</td> <td>Year 8</td> <td>111</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 9</td> <td>111</td> <td>Year 9</td> <td>110</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 10</td> <td>116</td> <td>Year 10</td> <td>111</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 11</td> <td>121</td> <td>Year 11</td> <td>119</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 12</td> <td>95</td> <td>Year 12</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><hr/></td> <td colspan="2"><hr/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>637</b></td> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>624</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Events and Activities:</b> As usual the school has been very busy since the last meeting. The following are just some of the events which have been organised for students and parents. The report by student council members covers most but other events included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TISC Applications for Year 12 students.</li> <li>• OLNA Testing.</li> <li>• Transition Program activities and assemblies.</li> <li>• Year 10 subject selection interviews. Three staff members have conducted 116 personal interviews with students and their parents/guardians.</li> <li>• Young Originals exhibition.</li> </ul> <p><b>Communications Update</b> The new Website is now active. The school is trying to ensure that new events are put up on the website as soon after they are held as possible. Information about the School Council is already on the website although individual photos still need to be uploaded. Some pages are being 'tweaked' and additional information still needs to be sourced. Ms Street urged School Council members to email any suggestions for improvement to her.</p> <p>The September Update is ready and will be distributed via email, placed on the website and for the moment, distributed via hard copy.</p> <p>The Term 3 Balcatta Bulletin is being put together and will be posted out during the holidays.</p> <p><b>Other Matters</b> Ms Street expressed her concern that school numbers are not increasing as quickly as she would like, especially those from the local intake primary schools. She also shared with council members her desire to raise expectations and change the culture of the school. Although this is not a simple matter, the school has been trying to do this through a number of initiatives including: the branding refresh, pastoral care initiatives, more regular communication with parents, the new website, the strengthened Transition Program and a focus on working with individual students and families. Ms Street acknowledged that there was still much to do and suggestions from council members were welcome.</p> <p><b>Balcatta Senior High School Year 7 Transition Update</b> Mrs Maitland gave an update on the Transition Plan that has been developed in consultation with Principals from local intake primary schools. This plan differs significantly from past transition programs at Balcatta SHS in that rather than a 'one size fits all' approach it is tailor made to fit the requirements of each school. Although in its infancy, the plan seems to be on track to achieve its purpose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Balcatta SHS as the school of first choice with our local intake primary schools.</li> <li>• Increase out of area enrolments by promoting specialist programs more widely and effectively.</li> <li>• Ensure Year 7 students are equipped with the necessary skills so that they can achieve their "personal best".</li> </ul> <p>Council members were impressed with the depth and breadth of activities which have taken place so far as well as those planned for Term 4. Ms Street congratulated Mrs Maitland on her hard work in bringing this important program to fruition.</p>	August 2016		September 2016		Year 7	80	Year 7	80	Year 8	114	Year 8	111	Year 9	111	Year 9	110	Year 10	116	Year 10	111	Year 11	121	Year 11	119	Year 12	95	Year 12	93	<hr/>		<hr/>		<b>Total</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>624</b>	
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	<p>In response to Professor Snell's question as to the ramifications for the school of achieving IPS status, Ms Street explained that, as an Independent Public School, Balcatta SHS would have the opportunity to restructure its staff profile and course offerings to better meet the needs of the school now and in the future. It would also have greater control over its staffing to ensure that the most suitable and able candidates were selected for each available position – both</p>	<p>Ms Street to advise all council members of the outcome of Balcatta's IPS application.</p>																																				

	<p>teaching and non-teaching. Achieving IPS status would also lift the profile of the school in the community as it moves into its sixth decade.</p> <p>Professor Snell concluded his first meeting by commenting on how impressed he was by the spirit and energy of the meeting and the obvious commitment of council members to the well-being of the school and its students.</p>	
<b>11.0</b>	<b>Meeting Close</b>	
	The meeting was closed by Helen Notis at 7.15 pm.	

***Next Meeting Wednesday 2 November 2016***

Minutes accepted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Chair): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Principal): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_