

DAREBIN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes

Monday 17 November 2014

4.00pm-5.45pm

Darebin City Council

Preston Shire Hall



Chair: Jess Fraser, Community Wellbeing Team leader, DCC

Attendees:	
Bronwyn Stubbs	Principal, Distance Education Victoria and Chairperson of Darebin Principals' Network
Shanthi Antony	Head of Teaching & Learning, East Preston Islamic College
Mark Jessup	Principal, Reservoir High
Meri Ivanovska	Community Transition Support, Inner Northern LLEN
Andrew Horgan	Inner Northern LLEN
Catherine Hall	Our Children, Our Schools
Nicholas Abbey	Victorian Council of School Organisations, VICCSO
Cheryl Hermence	Manager, Children, Families and Community, DCC
Wendy Dinning	Coordinator, Business and Development Unit, DCC
Stuart McFarlane,	Aboriginal Affairs Officer, DCC
Peter Quested	Trainee
Yvonne Rust	Town Planner, DCC
Clinton Fullgrabe	Coordinator, Youth Services, DCC
Jackie Mansourian	Community Renewal Officer, DCC
Apologies:	
Cr Gaetano Greco	DCC
Allan Waterson	Principal, William Ruthven Primary
Kate Morris	Principal, Northcote High
Bev Fegan	Principal, Croxton School
Debbie Showers	Assistant Principal, Thornbury Primary
David Kilmartin	Senior Advisor, DEECD
Sally Jones	Manager, Darebin Libraries, DCC

Welcome : Jess Fraser, Community Wellbeing team leader introduced herself to the meeting and explained that Councillor Greco was an apology as he was on leave and she would be chairing the meeting, as the portfolio of education and ongoing implementation of the Darebin Education Inquiry report were under her responsibility.

The meeting was begun by an acknowledgement to country and recognition that the meeting was taking place on traditional lands of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes had been electronically distributed to the DEC members previously and available at the meeting.

Jackie Mansourian distributed and spoke to the report of follow-up actions arising from the previous DEC meeting, September 1, 2014.

See attached Report Appendix 1.

Discussion:

i) TOR of Darebin Education Committee:

All Advisory committees to Council have been reviewed. This will be further discussed as a matter on the agenda.

Members of the committee discussed the importance of inviting a Koorie Engagement Support Officer (KESO) to participate. It was clarified that KESOs work across various schools and work directly with families and schools. It may be more appropriate to invite the Koorie Education Coordinator from the Northern Metro Region. However it was also recognised that his attendance at DEC meetings may not be easy as his responsibilities are extensive.

The Darebin Aboriginal Affairs Officer, Stuart McFarlane, was invited to be part of the committee in recognition of the importance of having an Aboriginal perspective on education issues across Darebin.

It was also noted that representation from High School for Preston on the DEC was opportune and would be considered as part of the revised TOR.

Equity was an important lens and should remain a focus for the work of DEC.

ii) An Education Portal on Darebin Council's website

This was important. It was important for schools to have an accessible place in Council's website where resources and contacts of key departments and positions within Council could be posted and which were relevant to the needs/interests of schools. It was very important that people, whether educators or parents would not have to dig too deeply to access it and for resources to be kept current.

iii) Joint Darebin Education Committee and Darebin Principal's Network

Follow-up information: CR Officer met with members of the Exec of the Principal's Network on Nov 18 for a second discussion (day after DEC meeting).

The Network would welcome a presentation by CR Officer to the Principals' Network on the mapping and new Education portal on Council website. However, they were clear that they did not think it appropriate for a joint meeting between the DEC and the Principals' Network as this was not the core business of the network.

2. How and where is planning for housing development and school and education services taking place in Darebin? Reflections by one of Council's Strategic Planner - Yvonne Rust

There is a need for better coordination with DEECD at State and regional levels on new infrastructure and housing developments taking place. This is not happening effectively.

Example of proposed new development taking place South of Northland, with 6000 new houses.

The Planning process is bringing together Darebin Community Health and Banyule Community Health across the Darebin Creek (which has acted as a barrier for the services and communities).

All partners are sharing information, including defining what is the baseline information that all services/organisations locally need to be able to plan and develop based on a life-cycle analysis. The Census data does not pick up effectively on the significant demographic changes with new families and people moving into areas through housing property developments.

There is a need for development of new governance model, which brings together different levels of government with a life-cycle view of liveability.

It seems developers want ideas and to understand things from local perspectives – education and needs for local schools can be/is a significant contribution to the local discussion and planning.

Discussion:

- Plan Melbourne only has one line about school/education infrastructures. In the City of Banyule, 3 schools have been closed in the recent past and now there is significant new housing developments. Where is the planning process? There is a lack of transparency
- Important to work with the Municipal Planning Association and advocate for local educational needs/priorities.
- Even though the planning must happen at the State Government level, with DEECD, it is important that local schools be involved in the process, as they are often the ones, holding the changes, including increased demand.
- The East Preston Islamic College is based in the area where the new developments will take place, it is important that they be informed and engaged in an ongoing way about these changes.
- Council's Business Development Unit have some data about Educational needs/demand in the East Preston area – Follow-up –Wendy to make available to DEC.
- If we are needing a joined-up whole-of government approach to urban planning and development inclusive of educational needs and priorities, it

is important to understand what the obstacles are to this and to define a clear role for the Darebin Education Committee in this.

- There is a tension in local areas, where new schools are being built and yet there are existing schools, with less than ideal and out-dated infrastructures. We have to include existing resources and schools as part of the consideration in planning and development needs.



the place
to live

3. Darebin Youth Summit with young people from six Darebin schools – what happened, what were the priorities of young people, and what is next? Clinton Fullgrabe, Coordinator, Darebin Youth Services

Please find attached Clinton's presentation – Appendix 2.

Discussion:

- It is important to give long notices to schools about how Council will do the follow-up and new initiatives arising from the Youth Summit. Most schools have a two year planning cycle- and for example, for Reservoir High, our calendar is already almost full for our extracurricular programmes.
- Great Schools Network have a strong focus on personalised learning and it would be excellent to integrate health goals/plans for students as an integral part. Also it is important to understand what really works for students and young people in behaviour change and learning. Accessible digital resources are an important consideration to both processes.

4. Communication

Brief Review – Darebin Schools Brochure

A first draft of the 'Our Darebin Schools' brochure was circulated.

It is precinct /neighbourhood based and includes addresses, school contact and a brief description of the schools based on value statements found on websites.

It requires significant further development which will be completed before the end of 2014. It will be sent to all School principals for their approval/editing.

Discussion:

- Very positive feedback – it is an excellent beginning point and will be useful for the whole community, including businesses
- Important to integrate what parents want to know – including maps and photos
- It should have an online presence more than paper – perhaps a postcard could include the website where people can go on Darebin Council's website to the education portal/page
- Principals change, curriculum changes, new schools are built and some schools close – it is important that such a resource be updated regularly and maintained.

5. Review of Darebin Advisory Committees - DEC

Discussion: Priority themes for 2015 meetings and confirming dates and times

There has been an internal review of all of Council's advisory committees by Council.

In some Committees, direct Councillor representation will not continue because they are mostly operational matters. For the case of Darebin Education Committee, Councillor Gaetano Greco will continue in 2015.

The TOR will be reviewed which will include considerations of the recommendations from previous meetings.

Darebin Education Committee will meet quarterly (as per all other Advisory committees).

Discussion:

- What is Darebin Education Committee's role in contributing to Darebin's ongoing work in the development of the Darebin Lifelong Learning Strategy? Our Committee has a critical contribution to make in this development.
- The agenda of the meetings must align with the recommendations of the Inquiry Report.
- Continuity of attendance and participation in the Committee especially by School Principals is essential – perhaps Darebin Principals Network can nominate some key representatives for this Committee?
- Other potential representatives on the Committee: Melbourne Polytechnic, La trobe University, High School for Preston?
- Co-opting others when the Committee is working/discussing particular themes/matters.
- Meeting times for 2015: Mid tem of each term:
 - Mid- March
 - Mid- May
 - Mid- August
 - Mid- October

2015 Meeting Dates for Darebin Education Committee

Monday, March 16, 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Monday May 11, 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Monday August 10, 4.00pm – 6.00pm

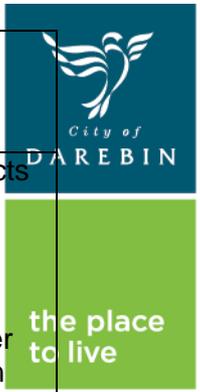
Monday October 19, 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Appendix 1

Darebin Education Committee (DEC) – Actions arising from meeting(s) September 1 and previous 2014 meetings requiring follow-up		
November 17, Darebin Education Committee meeting		
Action	Follow-up	Outcome
<p>Follow-up on the practical suggestions of How can Darebin Council (meaningfully and effectively) communicate with Darebin schools (Sep 1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to nominate a pivotal person that schools can liaise with. 	<p>There are several key people in Council in the development of relationships and collaboration with schools. CR Officer is one position and can facilitate further contacts</p>	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darebin Community News could highlight Darebin schools in each ward. Follow-up 	<p>Collaboration with Communications Team needs to happen.</p>	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darebin Council portal where schools can go to with key services and key contacts (although it was noted that this is not always successful e.g. schools do not readily use DEECD portal. 	<p>Positive feedback. Council will develop an Education link on its new website – To include Key contacts on different matters for schools and various resources including Full Inquiry Report and other links</p>	December-January

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping of what is happening between Council and schools will help clarify how communication can better take place. This is essential. It will clarify the breadth of what is already happening and will surprise many. This may be a significant presentation for a joint DEC/Principals' Network meeting. <p>The development of a simple paper and online pamphlet and or postcard style that can be placed in new Resident's kits and distributed through preschools/MCH centres etc that lists all Darebin schools, with addresses, websites and motto (May 10, DEC)</p>	<p>Has initiated with 5 areas of Council covered – Community Wellbeing; Youth Services; Best Start; Immunisation; Transport . Need technical support for how to present. Need other areas of Council to be included.</p> <p>CR Officer and Coordinator of Children and Community Development met with Exec of Darebin Principals' Network in Sep.</p> <p>A draft has been developed. Captures key statements from school websites, includes Principal's name, contact and general email address.</p> <p>Developed on Precinct level – defined by Council for household survey research etc</p> <p>Needs further editing for consistency</p> <p>Needs direct feedback from schools</p>	<p>February 2015</p> <p>November Network meeting is not appropriate for joint meeting, but meeting again to plan for early 2015.</p> <p>Jan/Feb 2015</p>
<p>Public and Community Launch of Darebin Education Report and Showcase of Darebin schools – September 2014</p> <p>Themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration between schools Equity and inclusive practice Transitions – School/Work 	<p>Took place September 1, at the Pavilion School</p> <p>50 - 70 people</p> <p>11 schools presenting in a rotating marketplace of presentation and interaction</p> <p>Have circulated Evaluation</p>	<p>Evaluation - very positive</p> <p>September 2015? Or another strategic time in the education calendar?</p> <p>Thematic?</p> <p>Ideas from the</p>

		Committee?
<p>Terms of Reference(ToR) of the Darebin Education Committee (July 21, DEC)</p> <p>In November, when there is a review and change of Council positions (including Mayor) it will be opportune to review the membership of DEC to be able to include all people in the meeting.</p>	<p>To be considered in November</p> <p>To Note : There is an overall review of Terms of Reference of all Darebin Council Advisory Committees currently taking place</p> <p><i>ANH Mai 13/11 email: Council to formally consider as part of its review of the role and terms of reference of the committee making us(High School for Preston) a permanent community rep.</i></p>	<p>Overall aspects of TOR of all advisory Committees have taken Place(Further discussion on agenda)</p>
<p>It is important that DEC meetings integrate into the agenda the recommendations rising from the Inquiry Report(July 21, DEC)</p>	<p>This has not been followed up as yet. However, when we discuss the TOR we could consider format of meetings and integrate this observation.</p>	



DAREBIN YOUTH SUMMIT 2014

- Brings together young people to share, discuss and learn about specific topics that have been identified by young people affecting young people

- The Youth summit is a major youth engagement and participation activity undertaken by youth services annually

- Each summit has a specific aim and purpose this years (2014) the themes was 'Healthy Lifestyle'

PARTNERS, SCHOOLS AND DETAILS

- Darebin Community Health – Youth Team's '*Engage Program*'

- 6 Participating Schools/ Education Providers;

- Reservoir High

- Thornbury High

- NCAT

- NMIT Work Education

- William Ruthven

- St John's College

- 52 Young People from years 9 and 10

HEALTH TOPICS & DISCUSSIONS

- Pre-summit Survey with all schools across Darebin was undertaken to identify key health topics.

- 6 priority topics identified from 11 health related statements these included;

- **Sleep**
- **Drugs & Alcohol**
- **Health Relationships**
- **Emotional wellbeing**
- **Healthy food choices**
- **Smoking**

YOUTH HEALTH DATA COLLECTION

- 67% rated their health as ok – fabulous **Health Knowledge**

- 30% requested more information on all topics

- While 50% would like to talk about and learn more about emotional Wellbeing, 57% on Bullying and 50% on Friendships and support **Need & Use of Health Services**

- 63% needed the service of a doctor, while 60% and 30% would like to access dental services and counselling

SUMMIT OUTCOMES & DIRECTION

- 86% of young found the summit enjoyable but more importantly they also acknowledge that they had learnt something about health

- Positive feedback was also provided regarding the ability to have conversation and share own thoughts on health issues

- Interestingly 26% wasn't sure if council would enact any of the finding, discussions and recommendations from the summit

WHERE TO NOW?

- Summit Report – Currently being completed

- Conversations with stakeholders – Young people, School, Community Organisations

- Action and Projects 2015 – Placed based and Program Based

- Existing and new initiatives to be delivered with stakeholders over 2015

