

## **Kelston and van Asch Deaf Education Centres**

### **Minutes of the Combined Board of Trustees meeting held on 13 September, 2015, commencing at 12.00pm, van Asch Deaf Education Centre, Recreation Room**

<b>Present:</b>	Rachel Douglas (Chair) Bernie Mulcahy-Bouwman, David Foster, Glenn Dillon, Eric Coppage, Joy Creet, David McKee, Priyanka Raja, Madison Davy
<b>Apologies:</b>	Aileen Jones
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jill Le Prou
<b>Interpreters:</b>	Phillipa Shatford, Nichola Robertson
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Rose Drummond, Darryl Alexander, Oliver Ferguson, Brian Coffey, Jill Taylor

---

#### **WELCOME**

Rachel welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **Presentation – Darryl Alexander & Oliver Ferguson**

Darryl & Oliver have requested to film the presentation. It was agreed that the presentation can be filmed but not the question and answer part. The questions and answers will be recorded in the minutes.

#### **A Deaf School - Presentation**

Oliver and Darryl gave their presentation.

Questions:

Talked about the four schools having independent philosophies and being independent schools under one Board.

What did you mean by independent philosophies?

Van Asch and Kelston working towards developing a shared philosophy but think that is a wee way off. Two new schools could take on board philosophy you do have but maybe we could offer things from the philosophy that we would want to generate as well. Want to start fresh and set up by 2020. Only five years away. Not a very long time frame.

The Board could have a philosophy that governed all four schools? Do have bilingual approach now.

Would be governing board like there is now – want to keep that but we want to set this up asap so want the philosophy up and running asap as well.

Re the philosophy – we want to be able to work together. Have a mission statement and values – whether the same or different – not sure just yet. Just an idea. Board would be an umbrella over the four schools and we would want to work together culturally in a similar way. Could be some differences but under same umbrella.

Brian C – two things to bear in mind. Structurally and organisationally better under one board. Doesn't mean you can't develop something that is strongly deaf led. Doing it most efficiently – under a Board but that also means the Board thinking about how you would have deaf led and deaf influence. NZSL and deaf hood sits at the centre of this.

Oliver F – want it to be a positive experience. Overseas parents have been involved in it. Currently getting some real respect from hearing people re deaf community. Want to take advantage of that. Not necessarily deaf people only being involved. Just want success. Want to see success of NZSL as well. People from both sides of the fence qualified to be involved. Don't want to see numbers in deaf schools decline. Want this up and running by 2020. Don't want to criticise the philosophy the current DEC's run under.

David McK – Want to get deaf children together – just wondering about – when I first came to NZ from America – number of students at van Asch and KDEC. Started bilingual classrooms then suddenly the numbers dropped. What's happened is many deaf people are concerned that deaf people are isolated so better for them to get together. Dream to set up deaf school, share resources, etc, but what happened to KDEC and van Asch that the numbers declined at such a rate previously?

Brian C – Certainly a peak in deaf children due to rubella epidemic. That had an impact. Also parents were less likely to choose to send their children away at age 9-11 to another city to have their education. Emphasis on oralism in 60s-80s.

Bernie M-B – 1991 – not able to access Linwood High School as a Satellite Unit – no longer a choice of mixing with hearing students. Lost partnership with Sumner as well around 1994. Now have this with other schools.

David F – During the late 1990s and early 2000s there was a wave of population going through NZ schools. Net loss where the population in NZ schools shrunk. Another thing that happened at KDEC was the KDEC Board positioned themselves to support bilingualism and at same time Cochlear Implants were introduced. 1999-2000 MoE decisions to bring all RTDs under BOTs systematically closed units in several schools. Now saying – was that such a good idea.

Brian C – 1989 – Schools having own Boards. Suddenly 2,400 self-managing schools. MoE didn't have any organising role. Late 1990s Special Ed 2000 – ability for children to have resources at the school where they were enrolled. Didn't have to travel to Special Schools. Relevant because you only need to bring 6-10 students together who are deaf and ORS verified to start your new school or class. Every one extra child you add to that you get better resourcing. Better opportunity for sign language development when children are together in a class.

Oliver – For a long time different attitudes and deaf perspective hasn't been taken into consideration and now perspectives are very different. Can see things have changed. Could start small and aim high. We think we could aim upwards of 50 after certain period of time. Need to focus on what can happen. Think about the UN Rights and the Convention. People have been disappointed in the past with the outcomes from the DEC's. Understand that things are different now. If we had a deaf school on same land as hearing school and the Principal may change over time and the new Principal may not want Deaf school right there but if we can change attitudes it would be great. Think about idea of hubs, etc. Don't want to dismiss deaf coming in with a hearing school as well.

Darryl – can learn from the past. Now that we have information and have done research – spoken to people about their experiences. We are now aware. Deaf people need to have the attitude that they can do things.

Eric C – Thinking about the big view – in the past at van Asch there was no sign language use at school and it was difficult – depended on the teacher of the time. 1970s-1980s. No NZSL – it was banned. Now people are teaching NZSL to students but there has been a real decrease in numbers attending as they are going to mainstream schools throughout NZ. Can deaf students communicate with other deaf students. Another thing – Last week I went to the Solomon Islands and went to a Deaf school there. Deaf children there (32) were a variety of ages – were all using sign language. Didn't matter if profoundly deaf or hearing – were all using sign language. They learnt very quickly and I could see NZ had technology whereas in the Solomon Islands they don't have access to that so using sign language. I watched two students reading a book and they were helping each other to read that book. Hearing and deaf students using sign language to communicate. The teacher was using sign language all the time to communicate with the students. For the cost of travelling – itinerants travelling – might be cheaper to have a school so they don't have to travel to see different children.

Brian C – from MoE point of view – have four options.

1. Deaf School – as a satellite of van Asch or KDEC
2. Not have KDEC or van Asch involved and just approach a school and say we want a class here for deaf children – choose any school.
3. Stand alone school. Difficult to do.
4. Or join up with another special school – regional health school.

MoE interested in Option 1 – the easiest to resource. To give real effect to what we have said. Board needs to think really differently about school and how they support deaf education. May have a Deaf Associate Principal. How we give effect to deaf leadership.

To make it work:

1. Needs promotion – parents would still have the choice.
2. Need enough numbers to make it sustainable - Need a school located in the right place – deaf friendly. If small numbers can run Year 1-8. Siblings coming and being part of the school. Hearing siblings or CODAs.
3. Deaf leadership and deaf cultural – what does that mean for the Board?
4. Deaf community having ownership as well as the deaf parents.

Don't think of this as an "Add-on" – this is not just another class somewhere – this is something really different.

Darryl – getting the word out there. Next step would be to do the presentation to the Parents Federation. As Brian said – promotion is going to be the key. Need to know who is on board.

David F – We have an important opportunity here. The concept that we are discussing about expanding and opening more school based facilities for deaf children goes completely against the trend world-wide. All over the World deaf schools are closing. Programmes are closing because there is no central coordination. Because they don't have meetings like we are having now. We need to keep working together.

Rachel thanked Oliver and Darryl for coming and presenting their idea.

**BREAK FOR LUNCH**

Darryl Alexander, Oliver Ferguson and Brian Coffey left the meeting at 2.00pm.

## **APOLOGIES**

Aileen Jones

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil

## **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

### **August Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held 1 August 2015 confirmed.

David Foster / David McKee

**CARRIED**

### **Matters Arising**

Page 5 Glenn has double 'n'.

Exit Interviews for Board members – Roisin has conducted two out of four exit interviews. Rachel to get in touch with Roisin for feedback.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Received Inwards and Outwards correspondence.

Inwards & Outwards

Joy Creet / Eric Coppage

**CARRIED**

## **FINANCE**

### **Resource Notice 2016**

Contact has been made with Brian and he has agreed we need to sit down face to face as there are approximately four things that need to be brought into the Resource Notice.

NZSL@School

Advisor Resource Teacher Funding (ASSIST Programme)

Wash-up issues around Resourcing Notice in terms of what we are being paid to do in that space.

ECE Funding

This meeting will take place early next term.

Issues around ASSIST Funding. Currently Board putting in more money than the Ministry is funding.

Also need to discuss Interpreter Funding (for Staff interpreting). Need to get this finalised with Brian.

Suggested that either Rachel Douglas or David McKee attend the meeting.

## July Financials

### KDEC

Received.

Key thing – we are in operational surplus year to date. The actual surplus is \$75,000. The budget was to have been in deficit by this time of year so we are about \$200,000 ahead, in real terms.

Balance sheet looking healthy.

**Moved:** That the July financials be adopted by the Board.

David Foster/Glenn Dillon  
**CARRIED**

### van Asch

Received

Looking different last month due to NZSL@School Project. The funding for this project is coming through van Asch.

Van Asch and Kelston have aligned their reports more so they are looking similar. Cost codes have been aligned.

**Moved:** That the July financials be adopted by the Board.

David McKee/Joy Creet  
**CARRIED**

Page 24 there is a code 999 with a loss of \$61,213. This is a wash-up from changing accounting systems over and changing the codes. This should be a one-off and should not happen again.

## Funding Applications

Auckland Council's Creative Communities Scheme.

**Moved** That the Board resolves to support an application from Kelston Deaf Education Centre to Auckland Council's Creative Communities Scheme requesting financial assistance towards a 16 week programme of arts workshops involving Deaf and Hearing communities in the Maori Art Form of Tukutuku.

Proposed Amount: \$15,000

Glenn Dillon/Eric Coppage  
**CARRIED**

## **VAN ASCH QUARTERLY REPORT**

Revised version – to be accepted.

**Moved:** That the Quarterly Report be adopted.

Joy Creet/Priyanka Raja  
**CARRIED**

## **PRINCIPALS REPORTS**

### **KDEC**

Received

Joy Creet/Madison Davy  
**CARRIED**

Query around TOD Training Programme. This training is undertaken by University of Massey and Canterbury. This includes but is not limited to - Teacher of Vision, Specialist Teachers of Literacy, Teacher of Deaf, RTLBs. We have given feedback that there are some parts not well covered. This means that DEC's need to fund additional training before new graduates are able to start working. We are currently having discussions with them about including some of these issues in the training. MoE, Universities, DEC's have sat down and had a look at how this might work with the view to changes being made in time for the first semester in 2017.

Are there specific competency levels around sign language? Ten people trained in 2015 in Sign Language proficiency interviews to be able to do standardised assessments. Canterbury University were involved in the training. We do not have a NZ standard on adult sign language proficiency, but this is being worked towards.

It would be great to reach a stage where there is a prerequisite for teachers gaining access to this course of a certain level of sign language. Establishing base levels is part of that.

### **van Asch**

Received

Joy Creet/Priyanka Raja  
**CARRIED**

Bernie has added a summary that Roisin put together after the parent consultations.

Bernie is mindful that Keep In Touch (KIT) days vary a lot in nature and she is going to speak to senior leaders regarding this.

Key thing that came through for parents were the changes around ASSIST – lots of anxiety from parents around how this fits with current services. Also pathways throughout the Deaf education system.

Conversations are taking place with Roisin and Mark Douglas.

Roisin is speaking with Kate Whale regarding a flyer going out with the five most common questions parents are fretting about.

Bernie has also included the Residential Review update. An update around the 10 recommendations.

### **ICED Report – David Foster**

Received

David Foster / Madison Davy

**CARRIED**

If anyone wants copies of the other reports from the KDEC staff members that attended ICED please let Jill know. There are three others to be included also – two from WFD and one from World Association of Sign Language Interpreters Conference.

Next ICED conference is 2020 in Brisbane. Would be great to have more people attend. Need to think ahead in terms of budget.

Discussion took place around the number of staff that attended the ICED Conference from van Asch (1) compared to KDEC (6).

Van Asch have historically only sent the Principal.

KDEC had as one of their five priorities a year or so ago – Professional Learning and Development and wanting a clear and transparent process. KDEC asked for expressions of interest from staff who wanted to attend the ICED Conference. We have an open and clear way of informing staff regarding PL&D.

Staff at KDEC already know approximately how much funding KDEC will provide if they want to attend the ANZCED Conference in 2016 depending on whether they are presenting or just attending.

**ANZCED Conference** – Bernie gave a quick update. Two committees organising this.

One organising venue, etc.

One organising the Programme

Will be calling for papers this month.

### **ERO**

There is no further progress to report.

The dates for the proposed study tour to be a sample tour cut across the NCEA exams in the high schools and cut across our Xmas Assembly when none of our



children would have been at school. A decision was made to not put in a submission.

Jill Taylor left the meeting at 3.00pm

## **POLICY REVIEW**

### **NAG 6 Legislation**

**Moved:** That NAG 6 Legislation be ratified.

David Foster/Glenn Dillon  
**CARRIED**

## **TRUSTEES/CHAIRPERSON**

### **Chairperson Revised Roles**

Memo received.

### **Selection Update**

Have been through the process of By-Election and had no nominations.

Have received one expression of interest from a parent. This will be discussed "In-Committee".

### **By-Election – timeline and update**

Timeline for By-election received.

### **Student Trustee Elections – timeline and update**

Update received.

Each DEC received three nominations for the Student Trustee positions on the Board.

Rachel thanked the student trustees for their work on the Board over the past year.

## **ANNUAL PLAN SCHEDULED ITEMS**

### **NZSL@School Monthly Report**

Received

**Moved:** That the Report be received.

Priyanka Raja / Madison Davy  
**CARRIED**

Page 61 – David F wants to express to the Board that we need to strengthen how the board engages with this project. The MoE chaired the last meeting. We were asked by the MoE to set up the NZSL@School project. We acknowledged the speed at which this happened. David thinks this needs to be chaired by the combined board. As a consequence of us missing this detail David F is seeing influence of conversations between the project manager and the MoE rather than project manager and combined Board. Need to pay careful attention to NZSL@School at our strategic Planning meeting.

The Board need to decide where we see this project going.

**Recommendations:**

1. Nominate a Deaf person to become a member of the NZSL@School Steering Committee. Recommendations of Deaf person to be brought back to November meeting.

David McKee/David Foster  
**CARRIED**

2. Note the NZSL@School student needs indicators (which will be released in October 2015)
3. Approve the 14/15 budget underspend of \$450K be transferred to NZSL@School 15/16 budget.

NZSL@School project was put in place in a hurry. Project Manager and Team set up in a hurry. We are now 18 months into this process and we need to take stock and make strategic decisions about where our priorities lie. Eventually NZSL@School should become business as usual, and it will change the way we work with kids.

Thinking about other DEC funds, if there was a surplus at the end of the year, it would be up to the Board to assign the funds to a particular purpose. Managers would bring forward a budget and let the Board know what they would do if they were to receive the surplus

We are unable to support this recommendation until a plan has been provided. Need clearer information and data

\$150,000 of the \$450,000 was Project money from the MoE and \$300,000 was money the Board funded.

**Moved:** Recommendation 3 from the Report is not approved.

Glenn Dillon / Joy Creet  
**CARRIED**

4. Note that the 15/16 budget will be submitted for Board approval 2 November 2015. This will include consideration of any decisions made at the Strategic Planning Meeting on 14 September.

Glenn Dillon / David Foster

**CARRIED**

5. Approve the extension of NZSL@School Project team from 30 September until 30 November, 2015 and the Project Manager and Project Co-ordinator from 30 September to 24 December 2015.

David Foster/David McKee

**CARRIED**

**Moved:** The draft summative report (page 62(d)) should be viewed by the Principals of the DEC's and David McKee as the Chair of the Steering Committee prior to publication to the rest of the Steering Committee and the Board.

Glenn Dillon / Bernie Mulcahy-Bouwman

**CARRIED**

### **ASSIST Update**

We are rolling out the final stage of the ASSIST work.

Have received feedback from parents that there is some anxiety in the community.

Working with Parents Federation to give reassurance around this work.

Working with Bernie to set up three meetings:

- MoE around ages 3-8 – still an area of shared responsibility.
- MoE around quantum of resource – how much money are they paying us to do the work.
- How are we capturing this understanding.

### **Sector Advisory Group - Update**

The presentation given earlier to the Board by Oliver and Darryl was shown at the Sector Advisory Group.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **Xmas Recognition**

Principals discussed this with the Board Chair. It was decided that the Board would subsidise a Xmas function for staff at each DEC to the value of \$30 per head. Funding would come from the Happiness Fund.

#### **Board Dates 2016 - Revised**

As read.

## **School Dates - 2016**

van Asch tabled their start dates and term dates for 2016.

KDEC will adhere to the 2016 term dates as per Ministry of Education guidelines.

**Moved:** That the Board approve start dates for van Asch and Kelston as per above.

David Foster/Glenn Dillon  
**CARRIED**

Rose left the meeting at 4.45pm

IN COMMITTEE at 4.45pm

Joy Creet/Priyanka Raja  
**CARRIED**

OUT OF COMMITTEE at 5.21pm

Glenn Dillon/David Foster  
**CARRIED**

**Next Meeting: Monday 2 November – Wellington Airport Conference Centre**

**Karakia**

Meeting finished at 5.21pm

## **ACTIONS:**

### **FINANCE**

**Resource Notice** – meeting with Brian early next term.

### **ANNUAL PLAN SCHEDULED ITEMS**

#### **NZSL@School Monthly Report**

#### **Recommendations:**

Nominate a Deaf person to become a member of the NZSL@School Steering Committee. Recommendations of Deaf person to be brought back to November meeting.

Approve the extension of NZSL@School Project team from 30 September until 30 November, 2015 and the Project Manager and Project Co-ordinator from 30 September to 24 December 2015.

**Moved:** The draft summative report (page 62(d)) should be viewed by the Principals of the DECs and David McKee as the Chair of the Steering Committee prior to publication to the rest of the Steering Committee and the Board.

## ASSIST UPDATE

Working with Bernie to set up three meetings:

- MoE around ages 3-8 – still an area of shared responsibility.
- MoE around quantum of resource – how much money are they paying us to do the work.
- How are we capturing this understanding.



2/11/2015

.....  
Rachel Douglas

DAVID MCKEE

Chairperson

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.

Board of Trustees