



Minutes for 2023-08 26 July AGM

Castlemaine Steiner School & Kindergarten

Held at CSSK

26/07/2023 @ 18:30 PM – 19:30 PM AEST

Approved by Ian Cuming on 09 October 2023

No. Minutes

1. Acknowledgement of Country

Nerrida provided an acknowledgement of country

2. Opening Verse

Ian read the verse and the school vision as below:

A healthy social life is found when, in the mirror of each soul, the whole community finds its reflection, and when, in the whole community, the virtue of each one is living.

Through a contemporary Steiner education, we guide our students to step authentically into the world with a well-directed internal compass, creative and critical thinking and deep connections to Country. Our highest ambition for the students is that they learn to tread life's paths with courage, insight and an open heart motivated by a sense of service, discernment and a love of learning and life.

3. Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

Attendance: 20 members present, 6 proxies

75% vote needed so 19.5 rounded to 20.

Board members: Anna Campbell, Ian Cuming, Nanda Gasparini, Beatrice Varga, Amanda McDonald, Marian Goodman (n=6)

Other company members: Nerrida Johnson, Hayley Bridgwood, Keppell Cassidy, Katherine Freeman, Aleesha Hercus, Moya Maguire, Suzanne MArch, Fiona Mariposa, Sue Murphy, Kirsty Pearse, Joel Reynolds, Marty SHarples, Warwick Smith, Jane Staley (n=14)

Proxy forms sent from: Adrian Pearse, Sera Warson, William Camp, Donna Faircloth, Shelley Krape, Brandan Cossens. (n=6)

Others in attendance: Leanne Sarah (Acting finance coordinator), Andrew Wehrens, Nexia Austalia, Auditors)

Apology: Hilary Blackshaw, Donna Faircloth, Lyn Farrow, Hannes Mcnamara,

4. Minutes of the AGM held on 25th May 2022



Resolution 2023-08-R65: That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2022 are an accurate reflection of proceedings

Moved: Marian Goodman

5. Reports

5.1 Chair of the Board

Ian spoke to his report; the Board have focused on finalising the strategic plan and updating a lot of policies across the school (this work is ongoing). The financial situation and the need to rebuild community across the school has been a focus. Ian referred to and reminded us all of the vision of the school stated in the strategic plan that guides our decision making.

5.2 Principal

Nerrida reflected on the rigor of the Board and appreciated the support bring provided to her over the last year during which some hard decisions have been made, impacting the education part of the school and more recently the operational side. She was pleased to report that the enrolments are growing slowly and she feels well supported by the great body of staff. Nerrida reiterated that we are in a consolidation phase which requires setting the school up for future growth however at the current moment, we are holding onto our budget carefully following the outcome of the recent assessment by VRQA.

5.3 Finance

Leanne spoke to the financial report in her role as acting finance coordinator. There were no questions of Leanne's report.

Andrew Wehrens from Nexia Australia then spoke to the audited reports. the financial reports indicate that the entity is solvent and can continue given it has no or very little debts.

There was clarification of the valuation of the buildings of the school making the accounts look like a profit of 2 mil which is not the current situation.

Andrew recommended that Leanne prepare a statement of cashflow on a regular basis for the Board.

He was pleased to hear the enrolment numbers are going up given this is the key indicator of success for the school. and the key measure that should be monitored no matter what other changes are put in place.

Andrew noted the pressure of VRQA looking over the schools shoulders and that they are particularly looking at the governance. He noted there has been a lot of change and lack of consistency in the Board of Governance



and stressed the importance of laying foundations to move forward in the new Board.

No questions about any of the reports

6. Amendment of the CSSK constitution

Nanda Gasparini spoke to the new constitution and the realignment to the appropriate act. She outlined the process of updating the constitution and the engagement and legal advice from an experience lawyer.

The biggest change was that to the number of company members which was reduced from 600 to 60 plus up to 9 Board Directors. Company members would have a 2 year term after which they would reapply.

Warwick acknowledge that it reads better and more easily. He asked if the new constitution gives more power to the Board and if college automatically holds two company member positions. It was clarified that the aim was to ensure a balance of power between teachers and parents, as well as other community members, not giving one group undue weight, though if anything erring on the side of teachers/staff as they are the guardians of the school. This protects the school.

Resolution 2023-08-R66: “That the meeting adopt the proposed updated Castlemaine Steiner School and Kindergarten Limited Constitution as presented”

Company members were asked to vote: 25 yes votes and 1 against.

Motion carried

7. Reappointment of the auditors

Resolution 20-08-R67: To reappoint Nexia Australia as Auditors for the 2023 /2024 School year until the 2024 AGM.

Moved: majority vote, uncontested and carried all yes votes

8. Any other questions and close of meeting
Actions #8

(Closed) Review minutes for meeting 2023-08 26 July AGM Ian Cuming