School of Special Education, Burnie

Extraordinary School Association Meeting - Minutes

23rd February 2010

Meeting started 3.15 p.m.

Present: Sandra French, Grace Brown, Michelle Cooney, Pam Rodwell, Sandra Cock, Cathy Bester, Patsy Cairns.


- Sandra and Grace produced information regarding the present state of play regarding transport options for 8 children who need to attend SoSE Burnie during 2010 and beyond.

A discussion ensued considering the option of Cars for Communities. This in effect involves sharing cars and conjuring up business for that vehicle to make it viable for the school. It would be the responsibility of the school to keep up this viability and be accountable for this bus through record keeping. Grace had already explored this option through discussions with the SEO of Penguin Primary, who have accepted this option.

Issues include:

- Insurance of driver
- Housing of the vehicle
- Maintenance of the vehicle
- Legislation of government in power
- Size of bus
- Bus driver training
- There will be a change in bus driver allowance in the near future.

- Comments from council members included:

  We are an educational facility, not a bus company. Why would we want to accept this option when we would be putting a bus service out of business? Why would we move away from an established business? This model is not appropriate. It is not our concern but the government and Education department’s jobs to sort this out and make decisions. Our parents are vulnerable and not in a position to bring their children to school.

Sandra French moved a formal motion to keep the status quo and continue to engage the services of Mr. Ian Walker on the basis that it is not in our best interests to damage an already existing business and that equal opportunity is the Department’s business.

Seconded by Pam Rodwell.
Sandra French will write a letter of explanation to Lynne James; Manager of State School Support, Greg Glass; DoE and Bernhard Carlington; DIRE and await their response.

Included in this letter will be a statement of Educational philosophy regarding the rights of our children based on the premise that every child has the right to an education and the right to attend school.

Members who did not attend need to be contacted by Sandra with an explanation of the content of the meeting. An approval of our decision needs to be gained from each member.

Meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.