

# Riverina Deputy Principal's Association

## Minutes

November 5 2007

### Murrumbidgee Rural Studies Centre

- Session 1    Welfare and Discipline Policies  
*Presented by* John Burns, DP Deniliquin HS; Ron Anson, DP Griffith HS; Murray Campbell, DP Murray HS; Ruth Ernest, DP Coolamon CS
- John            showed an extensive document which is now on their school intranet with all policies hyperlinked. John also shared their Student Support checklist and outlined the link with Learning Support intervention. John finds their system of after school detention effective and well supported by the parent community.
- Ron             gave us a very entertaining insight into discipline and welfare at Griffith HS and made particular effort to point out the positive aspects of students in the school which unfortunately often get glossed over in preference to more sensational, newsworthy incidents. Of particular note was the Painting Project that had successfully operated at Griffith HS.
- Murray        explained that mobile phone usage has become their biggest issue and described instances where they had been used to rally groups for fights, taking videos and then having them posted on the Net. Murray has found Academy provides a good program for storing data that can be used to design a discipline and welfare system. Murray HS has a separate policy for senior students, whose biggest issue is attendance. Murray had copies of booklets that are provided to students and parents and kindly took orders with an offer to send out copies to those interested – he got several takers.
- Ruth            had many issues in common with the previous presenters but on a much smaller scale. A primary concern was getting teachers to take responsibility for the discipline in their own classrooms. This sentiment was shared by many other DPs in attendance.
- Julie Bowen, DP Billabong HS shared their new policy documents displaying their move toward the 'Corporate Look'. We were all very impressed at the professional quality.

Session 2    Fail Safe  
*Presented by Bob Brabin, DP Temora HS*

Bob outlined Temora's Fail Safe program which is essentially an independent study/learning program that operates for students in Year 11 and 12 at Temora. Similar programs are also operating at Junee HS and Coolamon CS based on Temora's model. The program requires flexible timetabling and a commitment from staff to operate effectively. Bob also stressed the need for a really strong selling effort to student and parents.

Session 3    President's Report  
*Anne-Marie Gill, DP Batlow CS*

- Anne-Marie outlined her role in attending the State DP Association meetings in Sydney once per term, Friday Week 7 and explained that a second representative is entitled to attend. Anne-Marie asked for expressions of interest and Ruth Ernest indicated she would like to be considered.
- At the previous state meeting, Greg Prior, Director School and Regional Operations presented a session on the effect of Quality Teaching on student outcomes, which Anne-Marie found very interesting.
- The 2008 State DP Conference will be at Star City. All Riverina DPs were encouraged to attend.
- 2008 planning for our association:
  - Week 7 Terms 1 & 2
  - (No meeting Term 3 due to State Conference)
  - Week 4 Term 4
- Suggestions for future meetings resulted in many good ideas for next year with several people offering to run, organise or coordinate.

Session 4    Early Conflict Resolution  
*Presented by Gaelle O'Neill, Support Officer Wagga Wagga;  
and Sandra Clifford, SED Riverina North*

Gaelle and Sandra introduced their presentation on Responding to Complaints and Allegations, with particular emphasis on *early* resolution. There is a new document coming soon which will have even greater emphasis on this aspect. All present found the scenarios interesting and agreed this would be a very worthwhile session to run with their staff when it is in its final form.

Minutes:    Ruth Ernest  
                  Deputy Principal  
                  Coolamon Central School

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