

Curriculum Review Committee Meeting

Cummins Library (quiet room) 17/6/2014

Present: Julie Crettenden, Mardi Green, Teleah Wilson, Cathy Sandland, Kirrily Dingwall, Suzie Millard, Amanda Hall, Tara Millard, Michelle Mahoney, James Travis, Lisa Richardson, Val Slater, Mick Broad, Kris Speed, Petrea Glover

Apologies: Gemma Pollard

Meeting opened by Teleah at 5:45pm

Business Arising

Omission from last minutes: There was discussion that we are not going to have the outcomes of this review in place for next year's Year 12's, however suitable ideas will be implemented ASAP if they are an improvement.

General Business

Key Stakeholders are identified as the students first & foremost. Learning outcomes and career pathways is the key driver behind the curriculum. The meeting noted **Tara Millard's** presence as a student representative, and we would like more student feedback, both through the meeting and reports coming in from student groups. We would welcome a younger student rep to this meeting also. Petrea is planning to attend SRC meetings and ask for feedback and direction from them when there is an opportunity.

Teleah noted that we need consistency in the members of this committee and regular attendance is required.

Reporting arrangements need to be regular, with **Val** to be senior staff liaison. **James & Lisa** are also liaisons with staff.

Petrea will be Governing Council liaison.

Petrea suggested we give a regular update of the curriculum meetings via facebook /newsletter

Val suggested the minutes of the curriculum meetings are publicly available through the website & facebook

Teleah & Tara will communicate with students

Meeting schedule is once a month with an effort to make sure we get the meetings done, even if they are only a few weeks apart, while avoiding school holidays.

Teleah presented the group the current curriculum handbook

Tara Millard presented some student feedback on subject choices, which included that there is too much science base (Chemistry/Physics/Biology), at the cost of humanities (Geography/History etc..) in the Year 12 class choices and some complimentary lessons on the same line, so students cannot choose to study them both at the same time. Eg Ag & Science where if a student was to study Ag, Science is also a relevant subject for further education, but they are not able to study both currently.

Cathy explained that currently all options are offered to the students, and then weight of numbers decides which options are offered and which cannot be.

Open access learning is currently utilised, but not widely. Staff availability and student motivation when studying on their own are some of the challenges with this concept.

In Year 11 a full year in English is compulsory, and a minimum of 1 semester of Maths . **Lisa** suggested for students not going into Year 12 with Math subjects that maybe they could just do 1 semester of Math in Year 11. **Cathy** said historically full year Maths worked best for all parties in Year 11. **Cathy** explained that in Year 12 a student must complete a minimum of 3 subjects to receive their SACE, and 4 to receive an ATAR, but most are completing 4 or 5 subjects.

General discussion of the Research Project which is currently completed in the second semester of Year 11 & first semester of Year 12. It was identified by many parties that there are issues with time spent on this project whenever it is. If they start at the beginning of Year 11 they have yet to acquire some skills that are required. In the current format if they do not pass, they have an opportunity to resubmit before the end of the year. **Petrea** said she is aware at other schools they do it in 1 semester of Year 12 which requires constant pressure time-frames and monitoring of progress, but it can be done.

Lisa suggested an opportunity for crossover between schools with their Trade Training Centres. In our region we have Ag at Cleve & Cummins but also Engineering, Food & Hospitality and Aquaculture.

Discussion around alternative delivery, community resources if we have suitable volunteers with skill sets. Use of technology as an interface between groups of students and teachers. Opportunity to offer teaching to external students – awareness of time spent v return – **Val's** experience of teaching in this fashion was that it took a lot of time to prepare and manage.

Our vision of excellence for curriculum – “Broad, individualised, flexible, alternative methods and utilises technology”

Restructuring of timetable is an option, big project but if it improves offering then worth the effort.

An identified gap is the breadth of Careers knowledge. We would like to offer this knowledge earlier with follow-up & guidance. Option to offer careers trip earlier to students perhaps in Year 10, then in Year 11 an opportunity to attend the university expo/open days in August.

Exposure to career info via outside speakers was also discussed. We would like to encourage this opportunity. Advantage SA program or local business people to promote careers and advise on skills required/preferred.

Work experience was something the group wanted to review. Attempt to add more value to this with career information and time-frame (is 4 weeks too much?)

Confidentiality is a growing issue with work experience roles, can we ask for more info from employers on what they can offer and if there is an opportunity to improve involvement for students on work experience

Cummins has recently had a Regional Industry Skills Manager based at the school, **Ebony Ransom** and she is 1 day a week on-site. We would like to utilise this resource where possible, for info on trades and career education.

Teleah to organise a focus group of students for us to combine with findings from others including SRC.

Need to look at staffing to accommodate the History/Geography conflict.

Teleah closed the meeting at 7:05pm

Next meeting July 22nd at the Library

(minute taker for June meeting Kris Speed)