



Willoughby City Council

**NAREMBURN SCHOOL WORKING PARTY  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008**

---

Venue: Naremburn Community Centre, 7-9 Central Street, Naremburn

**PRESENT**

Clr Barry Thompson (Deputy Mayor and  
Acting Chair)  
Clr Stuart Coppock  
Marcia Waller  
Lyn Smith  
Kathryn Ridley  
Martin Ellis  
Gladys Berejiklian  
Anneliese Appleton  
Margo Shearwood  
Rachel Garratt  
Kevin Fitzpatrick  
David Turner  
Diann Hynes  
Robyn Matthews  
Elena Jeregui  
David Lendrum

**APOLOGIES**

Mayor, Pat Reilly  
Clr Kate Lamb  
Nick Tobin  
Karen Pearson  
Belinda Lewis  
Michael Slattery

**1. WELCOME**

Deputy Mayor, Clr Barry Thompson, welcomed participants to the meeting

**2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – Nil**

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

On page 3 of the minutes delete comment by Martin Ellis regarding North Sydney Demonstration School. In correct. Mr Ellis is not aware of capacity levels at that school.

*Moved: David Lendrum      Seconded: Anneliese Appleton*

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Marcia Waller confirmed that in regards to Item 5. the Department of Education (DET) and the Catholic Schools Office have been collaborating directly.

## **5. UPDATE FROM WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL**

Lyn Smith circulated a copy of the survey completed by Fran Kendricks, "Schools in the Willoughby Local Government Area". Also circulated was a summary sheet of findings. (Please see attached)

While the brief for the survey was for the whole LGA it was discussed that data specific to Naremburn would be useful for the purpose of this project. Discussion also took place regarding a) the Non-English Speaking student % figures and their accuracy and b) the possibility of conducting informal surveys of the community to gather data.

***ACTION: Social Planners from Willoughby City Council and North Sydney Council to liaise and prepare a brief summary sheet of relevant statistics and trends specific to the area.***

## **6. UPDATE FROM CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE & DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Diann Hynes from the Catholic Schools Office tabled a statement by Br Tony Whelan on behalf of the Catholic School Office (Please see attached). In short, initial investigations undertaken by the Catholic Schools Office suggest that the existing site size and building make the suggested site (the original Naremburn Primary School site) unsuitable for a school.

*Ms Gladys Berejiklian arrived and was welcomed by the Chair.*

Questions arose regarding;

- a) Why new schools must achieve certain standards when current schools can use demountables;
- b) The quoted costs involved per student and how these are determined i.e. are there existing benchmarks for determining costs? ;
- c) The minimum required standards and central planning issues relating to the proposal;
- d) The option for a private investment on the site and
- e) Issues pertaining to transport and access.

Discussions also highlighted the need for any new school to be sustainable and provide an optimal learning environment for the students. To this end standards should not be compromised. As a theory it was suggested that if the Naremburn School/Catholic Schools Office site was developed as a private "new" school what would be the minimum planning requirements (i.e. size & space requirements and how many students could be accommodated.)

David Lendrum tabled his comments regarding Assessment Requirements. (Please see attached). His email, as sent to Marcia Waller, outlines the purpose of assessment requirements and methodology. It also raised questions in regards to the scope of work required on the proposed site and applicable standards.

Marcia Waller tabled an email received that afternoon from Jane Simmons, Regional Director, Northern Sydney (DET). (Please see attached). The email supports the position of the Catholic Schools Office in that the site is unsuitable. It goes on to say there is limited land space in the area available for an additional school and that the DET's funds would be better expended on local schools that Naremburn residents are in the catchment area for.

Gladys Berejiklian updated the Working Party in regards to recent discussions she has had with principals of local schools and Jane Simmons from the DET. Gladys is happy to initiate a meeting between herself and nominated Working Party delegates, the DET, and the Minister for Education (Verity Firth) to discuss options. It was agreed that while the issue of improving transport to local schools is important it is not the critical issue in the discussion and should not distract from the primary objective of the Working Party.

The following actions were agreed to in response to the reports tabled:

***ACTION: Ms Gladys Berejiklian to request a meeting between Working Party delegates, Jane Simmons (DET) and Verity Firth (Minister for Education).***

***ACTION: The above Working Party delegates request the DET and Catholic Schools Office answer questions in regards to the critical issues not already addressed in the responses tabled.***

***(It was agreed that transport issues should be investigated separately and that the purpose of the meeting would be to highlight the critical issues of demand and how these can be met.)***

***ACTION: Willoughby City Council Officer's to investigate any central planning issues relating to the site.***

## **7. PUBLIC MEETING & WORKING PARTY MEETING**

It was agreed that the next Working Party would be scheduled for February 2009 at which point it is anticipated that any interim actions should be completed. In addition, the Working Party would be kept informed via email of any progress made in regards to the actions completed.

A Public Meeting date would be discussed at this meeting. In the meantime information will be posted on the Naremburn Progress Association website updating the community on progress to date.

***ACTION: Anneliese Appleton to prepare a brief report to be forwarded to Kevin Fitzpatrick for inclusion on the Naremburn Progress Association website.***

## **CLOSE**

Deputy Mayor, Cllr Barry Thompson thanked everyone for attending and their contribution.