100% Principal Support for The Rivers P-12 College Concept

Thirty two Principals (100% of The Wilson school education group) have signed a Memorandum of Support for the Key Directions described in the discussion paper published for public comment in November and December 2012.

This is a significant symbol of principals’ intention to work in new and what they believe will be improved ways to provide high quality education for our students.

The first key direction identified the formation of a college structure under which all public schools would work.

Other key directions include the recommendation for the appointment of an executive officer with line management authority over principals, formation of the Principal’s Executive Leadership Group, a Board of Management including broad community representation and the development of a College Strategic Plan.

Meeting with the Deputy Director General

Mark Youngblutt Acting Regional Director and I met with Deputy Director General, Greg Prior on March 25, 2013.

This meeting provided an opportunity for the DDG to discuss Lismore plans and to understand the level of support from principals for The Rivers P-12 College concept.

The proposals have some complex implications for the operation of member schools. The DDG agreed to carefully consider our proposed plans and further discussions have taken place since. He has agreed to visit Lismore to hear from the principals and community.

Background-2012 Consultation

During 2012 an extensive consultation process was undertaken in Lismore and within the Lismore school communities on the key question:
“What are the key elements for building the capacity of public education to deliver improved outcomes for our students in the 21st century?”

A discussion paper was prepared with input from the Lismore Education Advisory Group comprising of representatives from a broad cross-section of the community.

The paper recommended 14 Key Directions for building the capacity of public education in Lismore. The response to the discussion paper has been overwhelmingly positive.

Principals Executive Leadership Group

A process for identifying principal representatives is being devised. This group will be responsible for working with the Board of Management to set strategic directions for the college and for public schools in the wider Lismore community.

A request for input from principals with regard to this process will be distributed this week.

The Rivers P-12 College Board of Management

The Board will be established in 2013. This will be an advisory group comprising representatives from our Lismore community who will have input into the strategic directions of the college. The 2012 consultation identified the importance of developing ongoing significant relationships with our community partners.

Representation on this Board will be invited from Southern Cross University, North Coast Institute of TAFE, P&C, Primary and High School staff, Preschool staff, AECG, students and the Principals Executive Leadership Group.

A process for nominating members of the Board will be developed during the next phase of the project.

Strategic Directions Lismore 2013

In a recent meeting of all principals, initial work was conducted to determine the draft strategic directions for 2013 to 2015.

Work will continue to develop a detailed strategic plan and action plan in Term 2, 2013. Toni Hughes, retired School Education Director and consultation coordinator has agreed to lead the drafting and finalisation of the strategic plan.

The detailed plan will include Transition Arrangements, Alternative Curriculum, Gifted and Talented Programs, Employability Skills program as well as other areas identified through the consultation process.
Draft Strategic Directions:

1. Curriculum
   - NSW Syllabus Implementation (National Curriculum)
   - P-12 Continuums of Learning
   - High Quality Learning Experiences
   - Differentiated Curriculum
   - Broad Curriculum
   - Gifted and Talented Programs

2. Learning Environment
   - Aligned College P-12 Welfare and Discipline Policies
   - PBL - College-wide positive teaching of behaviour and expectations
   - Sharing of resources and expertise
   - Technology

3. Quality Teaching and Teacher Development
   - Professional Learning aligned to the college strategic directions
   - Effective and consistent performance feedback processes
   - Leadership Development

Lismore Community of Secondary Schools (LCoSS) Evaluation Term 2, 2013

LCoSS is the collaboration between the three Lismore public secondary schools which pre-dated our recent consultation process. In 2012, consultation identified a desire by some staff for the LCoSS concept to be evaluated, in particular the shared curriculum arrangements. Details of the evaluation process including dates and terms of reference will be developed in consultation with staff and community.

Experienced Principal for Lismore High

Mr Nigel Brito the newly appointed Principal for Lismore High will begin his role at the the school in Term 2, 2013. He is an experienced Principal and respected educational leader, his previous position was as School Development Officer, Armidale. He has previously been Principal of Wadalba School on the Central Coast and Bourke High School. We welcome Nigel to Lismore.

LCoSS Initiatives

Shared Timetable Lines: 2013 has seen strong collaboration between the high schools in Lismore. This year school timetables have been aligned and 2 curriculum lines shared to increase subject choice for students in Year 11 and 12. There are now 24 students involved in LCoSS subjects that they could not study at their own school. Subjects offered under LCoSS initiatives this year include Construction, Entertainment, Engineering Studies, Information Processing Technology, Yr 11 and Yr 12 Textiles, Modern History and PDHPE.

Transport: Many thanks to Wilson Park Public School for making their bus available to transport students between secondary schools to attend lessons at host schools in the shared curriculum lines.

Project Officer Role Completion

Thanks to Di Williamson for her outstanding work in coordinating the consultation phase of the project. She has also coordinated work on the alternative curriculum, developing industry links, aligning timetables, building relationships between schools and other agencies and planned the LCoSS evaluation. Di returns to her Deputy position next term.

Suggested Reading: Great Teaching Inspired Learning

John Lynch
School Education Director, Lismore