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WONGAN HILLS DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

Vision: Pursuing excellence!

Subject	School Board Meeting
Time	6.30pm
Date	23 rd February 2026
Location	WHDHS Library
Present	Fiona Yeats, Nat Read, Sian Whitfield, Steve Whyte, Karen Marshall, Amy Carragher, Kim Walsh, Renae Millsted, Meg Capron, Ajit Chaurasia, Naomi Booth, Megan Pontifex
Apologies	Sara Betty, Dillan Elliott, Amanda Young

Time	Item	Documents/Info	Purpose	Led by	Recommendations
6.30pm	Welcome <i>Includes introductions, apologies and noting of minutes of last meeting. Correspondence in and out, conflicts of interest.</i>				
	Principals reports Student Census		Student Demographics and Enrollment Trends	Fiona	The school is adapting to a significant rise in students with English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD), which now makes up over 50% of new enrolments and 30% of the total student body - The increase in EALD students reflects many are Aboriginal or recent arrivals to Australia, posing unique teaching challenges across all year levels. - Most EALD students participate in an immersive English program, which supports conversation skills but struggles with comprehension and colloquial language. - Families of these students often have varying English proficiency, complicating homework support and parent communication. - The school is exploring additional support models for families new to Australia beyond the existing EALD program, acknowledging resource and supervision demands.
			School Bus Services		Bus transportation challenges have arisen due to capacity and routing issues, with two buses currently having waiting lists - Some students face long bus rides due to rerouted runs, and the possibility of alternating bus directions each term was discussed to balance travel times. - Bus service eligibility is limited by government policy for complimentary services, preventing some children from accessing the bus despite proximity. - School leadership actively communicates with bus contractors and parents to manage seating and advocate for route adjustments, but systemic contract and funding constraints limit flexibility.
	2026 Cash Budget				Fiona presented the 2026 budget highlighting areas of increase. The board noted the budget The school's finances are stable, boosted by an additional \$300,000 from increased senior secondary enrolments projected for 2025 The department is funding 50% of the cost for new fencing around two school areas, reducing the school's share to \$26,000.

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					- The air conditioning replacement program is progressing well, with priority spaces like kindy already upgraded and phase two halfway through (00:19). - The school is supplementing government funding by fundraising for ongoing infrastructure costs, such as air conditioning and minor works including acoustic improvements in staff areas. Voluntary contributions from parents have declined steadily, with secondary contributions notably lower despite government assistance programs. - In response, the school has made all secondary electives free to improve participation and reduce financial barriers, balancing budget impacts by providing funds on an as-needed basis. - A new policy enforces a “no pay, no participate” rule for camps starting with year six, aiming to improve collection and fairness.
			Curriculum and student support programs.	Fiona	The school is running about 1.7 days per week of intervention programs staffed by two teachers who manage small groups simultaneously - Intervention programs focus on students with additional needs, including EALD learners, and involve close monitoring and communication with parents. - A new Aboriginal cultural program called Young Yarns has been purchased to enhance engagement with Indigenous culture and language, supported by a grant and special visits for NAIDOC celebrations - The school has increased the student wellbeing budget significantly to fund incentives, rewards, and programs such as the pool pass initiative expected to benefit many students
			Additional days for Parent Teacher meetings.		New government directives add two non-student days annually for parent-teacher and case conference meetings to reduce teacher workload related to reporting - These days are separate from after-school meetings, which continue as required by enterprise agreements. - The school plans to trial using one of these days this year, focusing on multi-agency case conferences for students with complex needs. - There are concerns about parent attendance on pupil-free days due to childcare and work conflicts, with after-school sessions generally preferred for accessibility. - Staff see value in the additional days for preparing individual education plans and detailed discussions that are difficult to cover in standard 10-minute meetings. There is ongoing debate about the timing and number of parent meeting days, with suggestions to schedule one early in the year for introductions and one later for progress review and planning - The school board recommends starting with one day this year to assess impact before expanding. - Teachers expect varied demand for meetings across different staff, with some likely to have few appointments. - The school aims to use these meetings to improve communication, especially for vulnerable families and those involved with multiple support agencies.

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					There is recognition that these meetings help show students that their education is valued by their families, which influences engagement.
	Court Upgrades				Major upgrades to the school's outdoor courts are underway, including resurfacing and new line markings, funded at an estimated half a million dollars - The upgrades respond to health concerns after students developed rashes linked to the old court surface. - Construction is planned primarily for school holiday periods to minimize disruption, with contingency plans if delays occur. - The school appreciates that the upgrades will improve safety and usability for both primary and secondary students.
	Carnival Lunches				The P & C will be doing the lunch orders for the Interschool Swimming carnival as a fundraising event.
8.05pm	Meeting Evaluation			Chair	
8.15pm	Close				Meeting closed 7.40pm

Chairperson
Renae Millstead

Principal
Fiona Yeats