



Amalgamation Update 10

Week ending 22 July 2011

The amalgamation of Moreton Bay College (MBC) and Moreton Bay Boys' College (MBBC) is a dynamic move for the future of education on the bayside. In an effort to keep our school community informed every step of the way, we discuss a variety of topics relating to the amalgamation in an email to parents every Friday.

Latest news

Getting to know each other

The process of amalgamation is complex. The challenge has been in operationalising the responsibilities of the Principal and Head of College at each school. This is progressing well and the foundations are now laid. Of course, they will be in a state of continual refinement as we work through the remainder of the year. We will communicate the procedural changes as they may affect you in the respective newsletters e.g. at MBC, parents should request absence longer than one day for their daughter in writing from the Head of College, Mrs Jan Howatson.

There are also internal changes to which staff members are adjusting. I thank them for their patience.

I am not yet at MBBC as much as I want to be, having to work with the established meeting time in several instances at each school. I have been very pleased to attend this week's three year level Chapels and Primary Assembly. I look forward to seeing some sport tomorrow. I have been able to attend all but the Primary Chapels this week at MBC.

Executive team meetings will take place from next week and my meetings with the Heads of College are moving from being ad hoc to permanently placed. My thanks again to the senior staff for their positive approach to the changes in reporting and processes at each school, particularly Mrs Howatson and Mrs Patchett. Thanks too, to the staff at each school for their positive and encouraging attitude to these changes.

Amalgamation Feedback

Feedback received about the amalgamation from parents, former students and staff continues to be extremely positive. Below is another recent example:

"Having a child at each school and juggling different timetables has been difficult in the past so even closer alignment of the calendar, policies, holidays and pupil free days will certainly make my life easier."

Emerging Issues

MBC & MBBC are financially independent

Although Moreton Bay College and Moreton Bay Boys' College were officially amalgamated on 1 July, it is important to reiterate that both schools remain financially independent of each other.

The two Colleges will continue to operate as separate financial entities, each with their own set of accounts and their own audited financial statements.



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There will be no increase in tuition fees as result of amalgamation, nor will the quality of the education standards at either school be compromised.

Beyond financial efficiencies, the amalgamation is about creating twin schools, stronger together through a shared vision, mutual resources and an absolute commitment to single sex education. Coming together under this new structure will benefit both present and future students and only strengthen their educational outcomes.

Coming up

First official meeting of the board

Following confirmation of the membership of each College Board by the Uniting Church, endorsed membership of the reconstituted Boards will be at the first meeting on Tuesday 26 July.

While meetings will be held concurrently, there will be a separate agenda for each Board with the relevant topics listed and separate minutes will be kept.

For practical purposes at the meeting, topics of mutual relevance to the College will be dealt with concurrently enhancing the alignment of process as appropriate, and providing a context for financial and resource management and planning.

Board Member Profiles

Geoffrey Diehm SC (Board Chairman)

Geoffrey is a Senior Counsel in practice at the private bar in Brisbane. He holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of Laws. He has been involved in school governance for 10 years.

Peter Davey

Peter is a retired electrical engineer, following a professional career spanning almost 30 years as an engineering practitioner, engineering manager, project manager and program manager within government departments and government business enterprises. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering and a Master of Engineering Studies from the University of Queensland. Peter has 30 years' experience in school governance.

John Eisenmenger

John holds a Bachelor of Engineering (MECH) (Hons), a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Queensland and a MBA from Deakin University. He has been a professional engineer for 30 years working with major mining companies and is currently employed in the Major Projects Group of Rio Tinto Alcan. John has three years' experience in school governance.

Ken Freer

Ken holds tertiary qualifications in pharmacy and marketing. He has extensive experience in business having been the Chief Executive Officer of several large public companies and organisations. His experience as such has been diverse across the pharmaceutical, snack food and beverage industries as well as the sports field. Ken is currently CEO of an organization called Forward Brisbane Leadership which controls the finance and fundraising activities for the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Graham Quirk's campaign team. Ken has six years' experience in school governance.

Professor Stephen Gray

Stephen is a Professor of Finance at the University of Queensland Business School and a director of SFG Consulting. He has honours degrees in Commerce and Law from the University of Queensland and a PhD in Financial Economics from the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University. In his university role, he



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teaches a range of award and executive education courses in financial management, asset valuation, and corporate finance. Stephen is also an active consultant to industry on issues relating to valuation, cost of capital, and corporate financial strategy. He has acted as a consultant to many of Australia's leading companies, government owned corporations and regulatory bodies. Stephen has eight years' experience in governance in schools.

Sylvia Grigg

Sylvia is a retired chartered accountant with a professional career in public practice as a partner in a regional firm in the New England area of New South Wales. During that time Sylvia had extensive experience in board positions at two schools as well as a university in the New England region. Sylvia has a particular interest in governance, management and strategic planning in the education sector, reflected in her more than a decade of involvement as a school governor.

Kerry Harding

Kerry is a solicitor and also has an editing, writing and training consultancy. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Majors in Public Administration and French) and Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from the University of Queensland. Kerry is currently undertaking post graduate studies in linguistics. Kerry has been involved in school governance for three years.

Mike Millard

Mike retired in 2008 after serving 19 years as a Principal of two schools, Calvary Christian College and Leighland Christian School. He is a member of the Uniting Church Schools Commission and also chairs the Education and Building Committee of the Queensland Independent Schools Block Grant Authority. Mike has otherwise been engaged in school governance since the time of his retirement and also currently chairs the Board of the Lakes College.

Samantha O'Brien

Samantha holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the Queensland University of Technology. She is a solicitor of some 20 years standing and is a partner in the international law firm DLA Piper where she specialises in insurance law. Samantha has been involved in school governance for four years.

Matt Sheerin

Matt holds a Bachelor of Business from the Western Sydney University. He is a Fellow Chartered Accountant and a registered company auditor. He is a partner in the global accounting firm Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. He leads the external audit practice of Deloitte in Queensland. He is on the Deloitte Queensland Executive, the Deloitte National Executive for Audit and is the Queensland leader of Deloitte's real estate group. He was recently recognised as one of Deloitte's top 25 lead client service partners nationally. Matt was appointed by the Prime Minister to the National Reconstruction Inspectorate in March of 2011 and currently serves on this body which is responsible for overseeing the Federal Government's funding of flood and cyclone reconstruction in Queensland and Victoria. Matt has three years' experience in school governance.

Col Sutcliffe

Col, prior to retirement, was a teacher and a Principal in primary and secondary state and independent schools and has also held several senior positions at regional and state level in the Queensland Department of Education. During his career in education he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study distance education in Canada and the USA. He holds fellowships of several national education associations, councils and colleges. He has post graduate degrees in education and educational leadership. He is currently involved in the implementation of emergent literacy resources in a number of ATSI communities and refugee and community organisations throughout Queensland. He has been a Vice Chair and director of the Uniting Care Board, the chair of BlueCare Queensland and the Chair and Director of Educang Ltd as part of his many years of experience in school governance.



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How to keep up to date

Contact Us

If you have any additional concerns or questions, please email feedback@mbc.qld.edu.au or feedback@mbbc.qld.edu.au and we will endeavour to respond to you as quickly as possible.

Also refer to the detailed [Q&A document](#) on our websites.

Ms Jennifer Haynes
MBC Principal
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