

Media Release: Peninsula Grammar Dispute - 14 May

This morning our dispute with Peninsula Grammar regarding staff stand-downs and inadequate consultation around redundancies was heard in conciliation at the Fair Work Commission. We understand now that 63 staff of the school have been stood down. The day after we filed a dispute over these stand-downs, the school announced a restructure which would see at least 13 of these stood-down staff being made redundant.

In conciliation, the school agreed to extend what was a manifestly inadequate redundancy consultation period by one week until Friday 29 May. We will be meeting with the school on Monday to attempt to negotiate a satisfactory resolution to both the stand-downs and the restructure announcement.

At the same time that the staff were stood down, the school made a decision to decrease the school fee discount available to staff and also made it clear that staff were not to work anywhere else without the express permission of the school. This meant staff had to work out where to find thousands of dollars at a time that they were stood down on no pay and if they were to get work elsewhere, go cap in hand to their employer to seek permission.

Independent Education Union General Secretary Deb James said: “We maintain that these stand-downs are unlawful, as there has not been a genuine stoppage of work at the school. There is legitimate work for all staff to be undertaking, both during this period of remote learning and once students return to campus in less than two weeks. Peninsula Grammar is the only Victorian school that has persisted with the decision to stand down a large number of staff during this pandemic. I call on Peninsula Grammar to show the same decency and compassion as other schools and to provide employment security to hard-working staff.”

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