

St Pius X Catholic Primary School

Annual General Meeting

21st November 2017

Chairman's Report

Welcome Ladies and Gentlemen to the 2017 St Pius X Catholic Primary School AGM. On behalf of the School Board, I would like to thank you all for attending and for your continued support of this fantastic school.

My name is Nick Sertis and I have the privilege of being the Chairman of the Board at St Pius X. I currently have my eldest son in Year 4 and my youngest son in Pre-Primary.

Firstly, I would like to introduce my fellow board members who are all very proud to be assisting the Community as well as the Teachers, AP s and Principal to further develop our school.

(Could each of you please stand for a few seconds when I call your name) – Nicole Ho (Secretary), Adam Sofoulis (Treasurer who was seconded onto the board last year – due to his acumen in the finance area), Steven Zaninovich, Paul Cartwright, Lidia Pino, Tara Pike, and our ex officio members Parish Priest, Father Blasco and Principal, Daine Burnett, also Assistant Principals Brett Wilkie & Stephanie Johnson who also attend as part of their leadership roles. Our P&F representative and President of the P&F, Navin Bhat and our Parish representative, Lawrence Pang.

Tonight, you will also hear from our Treasurer Adam who will deliver the Treasurer's report and Principal, Daine Burnett who will deliver the Principal's Report.

School Board

For our new parents to the school this year and for those of the school community that are unaware of the role of the board – I would like to briefly outline the role now.

The School Board is accountable to Catholic Education of WA (CEWA), and the Principal as an Ex Officio member is answerable to the School Board in the areas that are designated in the Constitution.

The general objective of the Board is to assist the School to fulfil its educational responsibilities in accordance with the Catholic School Board Constitution.

The School Board's primary responsibility is to provide financial management and strategic direction to the school via the leadership team who is ultimately charged with the operational responsibilities and day to day running of the school.

The financial governance of the school involves reviewing and monitoring operating budgets and also, the development and review of the Capital Expenditure Plan and Strategic Plan for the school over a 3-year term.

It also involves managing all of the finances related to the school with assistance from Margaret Tatasciore and of course our treasurer Adam Sofoulis.

In addition to Strategic and Capital planning and Financial Management, the board also helps with forming part of the selection panel for the employment of staff to the school and advising the Principal with respect to School Policy.

Furthermore, the board supports the Principal where required in relation to the running of the school. This support extends to providing advice and ensuring that the school operates within CEWA policies and guidelines.

To this end the obligations of the school board are contained in the Catholic School Board Constitution, a copy of which can be found on our school website.

2017

This year once again the Board along with Daine and the leadership team have been consistently focused on ensuring that St Pius X remains a Catholic School of choice by the local community.

Each year we strive to provide the best education and facilities we can to our students and teachers however we are mindful of the cost pressures involved in delivering this. As a board we are committed to providing increasing value to the children and the wider school community.

Having last year worked on the completion of the capital development plan, new Library works and 'Joshephite Learning Place' and the Nature Playground most of the major capital works had been taken care of, so this year our focus shifted to maintenance and improvements.

Basketball Courts

As most of you would be aware the school had undertaken the resurfacing of the basketball courts to provide a new even surface for the children to play on. The basketball rings were also lowered on one side so the younger kids could make better use of the area.

Before and After School Care

The School Board is continuing to work with the Parish to establish the long awaited Before and After School service. We have recently applied and had approved by the City of South Perth for the additional use of the Parish Hall for Before and After School care. This was subject to a number of conditions including an Acoustic test of the facility which has now

been submitted to the City of South Perth and is approved. There were a number of other conditions that need to be met prior to the operation of the Before and After School Care service around the maximum number of students and staff allowed at any one time, car park maintenance, operating hours amongst others.

We are also working with the Parish to establish a Memorandum of Understanding which will outline the terms of agreement between the school and parish for the use for the Parish Hall. Pending the appropriate conditions and documentation having met the approval of all relevant parties, it is anticipated that the BAASC service should commence in Term 3 of 2018.

The School will endeavor to keep the community updated as we progress.

Land

Over the past few years Daine with the support of myself and the School Board have tried on several occasions to purchase additional land, within close proximity to the School.

Given the very limited space we have currently, we have sought to increase the land space to provide additional opportunities for both play and classrooms.

Recently Daine and the Board became aware of a block of land in very close proximity coming up for sale. We subsequently investigated what opportunities existed to fund this capital purchase and in doing so Daine approached both CEWA and the Archdiocese.

However, despite the in-principle support of the initiative there was not enough available funds to fully assist us in a purchase of this site.

Sub-Committees

This year there have been a number of members from both the School Board and the P&F committee who have volunteered an additional amount of their time towards assisting the school further in the areas of I.T., Finance and Uniforms. In 2018, we may also establish a number of other subcommittees to assist the school in other developing areas.

I would like to thank all of those people who have volunteered their time to further the support the School.

2018

Fencing

In the Christmas holidays approaching we have committed to replace all of the fencing surrounding the school and repainting the poles that supports them. This replacement is to improve the façade and security surrounding the grounds.

Innovation Centre

I am also pleased to advise that prior to the AGM tonight the P&F held a special meeting and approved the funding of a proposed Innovation Centre which will be built in the Multi-Purpose room commencing in January. This will be providing our students with a 21st Century learning space to be able to further explore the growing areas of critical thinking and technology in an educational setting.

Virtual Reality Goggles

The school has also recently ordered 8 pairs of VR goggles which will be used for a number of year groups and provide additional learning opportunities for our children from next year.

Examples of this include:

Travel to and explore places all over the world without leaving the classroom.

Explore the depths of the ocean and the vastness of space.

Undercover Area

In 2018 the school is also looking to refurbish the undercover area, with an aim of making it more protected. This is likely to include some roofing changes and enclosing structures to make better use during of the space during Winter.

More information will be made available as we get closer to this work.

Specialist Areas

We once again have maintained a majority of the specialist areas that we have been able to provide to the students which is an impressive achievement given the size of the school – such as:

Science, Gifted and Talented, Italian, Music Classes / Instrumental Lessons and Phys Ed.
Thanks to Brett, Tiffany Tan, Zina and Linda for initiating and supporting these.

Finances

I am pleased to confirm that St Pius X continues to be in an extremely sound financial position. The school finances are managed very carefully by Daine, Margaret and Marni day-to-day and supported from a Board perspective by Adam Sofoulis. Our School Treasurer, Adam will provide some more detail shortly when he hands down the Treasurer's Report, however, I would like to update you on a number of financial matters.

At one of our recent Board meetings we approved the recommended fee increase by CEWA

of 10%. This increase is slightly higher than the 8% lift last year and whilst the Board is very conscience of the impact this may have on the broader community we need to balance this with the costs of educating our children given the current funding model which Adam will explain shortly. The recommended increase, typically takes into consideration St Pius X's position on the Socio Economic Index. St Pius X's fees still remains well below our comparable peer schools.

I would like to thank Adam our school board treasurer who has helped us focus on the important items in the budget this year with a very thorough approach to the school's finances. Thanks Adam!

I would also like to thank Margaret for her continued hard work and contribution in supporting the board and managing school finances on a day-to-day basis. Margaret could you please come forward to accept a small token of the Board's Appreciation.

Also to Marni Nichol who together with Margaret looks after our Front Office responsibilities - I would also like to recognise your contributions – could you please come forward and accept this small gift.

To Brett Wilke – what a fantastic contribution you have made to the school, St Pius Community and the leadership team over the past 5 years. You have been a wonderful member of the team here and we wish you and your family all the very best for your new role as Principal of St Joseph's in Pemberton.

Brett has worked extremely hard to achieve this new position and it is very well deserved as he takes his career to the next level and you will certainly be missed.

Please come forward to accept this Gift.

Parents & Friends

We have been privileged once again this year to have had an active and dedicated P&F team that has been led by Navin Bhat and Vice President Adam Nevin. Thanks to the P&F executive committee, Class Reps, and all the volunteers that helped out with P&F activities throughout the year.

The board and school sincerely appreciate all of your efforts for what you have been able to achieve this year. I would also like to formally acknowledge the contributions that the P&F have already made to the school this year.

Uniform Shop

Special thanks also goes to Antonella Zaninovich and the other Uniform Shop staff (Elly and Adele) for the tremendous and often difficult work of sustaining the Uniform Shop at the school. This has been greatly appreciated by the Board, P&F and school community.

As you may be aware Antonella has been running the uniform shop for over 6 years and with Antonella officially stepping down this year it was decided by the P&F committee in consultation with the Board to outsource this to Uniform Concepts.

Parish

Also thank you to Father Blasco who has provided the community with Spiritual guidance and a Parish connection to our school. Thank you, Father.

Teachers

On behalf of the board I would also like to thank our dedicated team of teachers for your commitment, hard work and contribution to the school and towards our children's development. Thank you!

A special mention must go out to Josephine Freeman who has been an outstanding teacher for a 20-year span at St Pius. Her dedication to helping children in their educational and emotional needs has been a very important asset for both the School and also our Community. As you may be aware Josephine is taking long service leave next year and looking to retire at the end of 2018.

Josephine can you please come up and get this small gift of appreciation.

Principal

Thank you to our school principal, Daine Burnett who is in his fifth year at the school and as you may be aware, was year before last appointed for a further 5-year term.

Daine is extremely determined in his pursuit of excellence for our school, that it is and continues to be a school of choice, its high achieving, progressive in its offerings and teaching, and that it continues to operate within the CEWA policy and guidelines.

Daine has more recently been acting on a number of Group Catholic Education projects which benefits not only our school but the wider Catholic Education system.

Eg. He has been asked to form part of the Early Years Advisory Group for CEWA, Principal School Audits, acting on the Peer Principal Review Panels, is a Catholic Primary Principals Association Executive nominee 2018 and also has been heavily involved with the Agile Schools WA Network that was formed by Dr Simon Breakspear. These additional initiatives that Daine pursues, to not only assist our school but the wider Catholic Education System, should be recognised.

At the forefront of all of this is our children's education.

Thanks Daine!

Assistant Principals

Thanks also goes to our Assistant Principals Brett Wilkie and Stephanie Johnson for their efforts this year and the support that they offer the children, teachers and Principal. Thank-you!

School Board Thanks

I would like to thank the Members of our School Board who have been a great support to me, the Principal and the leadership team. They have all made significant contributions at board and subcommittee levels and have gone above and beyond what was required of them.

Retiring Members

A special thank-you to our retiring board members – Steve Zaninovich for his contribution to the board and school over the last four years and also to Paul Cartwright for his support over the past two years – thanks very much.

Please come forward to accept this small token of our appreciation.

And to members who have re-nominated and our new nomination and elected unopposed for the board Deirdre Mulvaney, thanks very much.

Students

And I would like to make a special mention about the students who contribute to making St Pius such a wonderful place. I believe it is a school we can all be proud of and I think it's one that will continue to be envy of other schools in the region.

Parents

And finally, we would like to thank you the parents for your individual contributions to the school no matter how big or small they are and as a School Board we are honoured to represent you and should be called upon if you have any ideas or concerns.

Closing

In closing - On behalf of the Board I would like to thank everyone involved with the school throughout the year and wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and I hope 2018 will be a very safe and happy one.

Thank you

Nick Sertis

Chairman – St Pius X Catholic Primary School Board

21 November 2017