



Board Chair's Report 2017

Annual School Community Meeting

2017 has been exciting as our first Year 12's graduate and is a fantastic achievement for all involved! Being able to offer education from pre kindy to year 12 has been a long term ambition that was finally realised in 2017. Earlier this year I was privileged to see some of our Year 12's deliver some talks to an audience of Catholic School leadership teams and School Boards. The students spoke exceptionally well and impressed the audience. We have also continued to see a number of our students having academic and sporting successes both locally and in Perth. It has been good to see that the level of achievement and education offered by St Joseph's is providing many opportunities for our students.

This year we commenced a new strategic plan. It has been focused on the Catholic LEAD framework, Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship. As a Board, our role is primarily in the oversight of the financial operations of the school. That said, we keep an active focus on the educational outcomes, in particular we continue to review our Naplan results and trends. In addition, in 2017 we have worked in the non-educational areas of:

- Developing a 20 year Capital Works Development Plan;
- Reviewing the need and opportunity for out of school care;
- Improving the communication and marketing of the school's educational offerings.

Capital Works: We are very conscious that there has been a strong interest in our school, particularly with the introduction of Year's 11 & 12. A new transportable classroom was installed at the secondary campus over the summer break to provide additional space. However, we will soon be in need of extra class space. As part of our capital development planning we have reviewed our facilities, including our classrooms, staff amenity, sporting, administration and meeting facilities. We have developed a long-term building vision and the architectural plans that provide the basis of a building program. The plan is ambitious and will require us to stage the build to stay within our financial capability. The first proposed stage (Stage 9 in our long-term building program) will be for additional classrooms.

Out of School Care: This is an area that we considered could be of value to the school community. We commenced investigations with a survey of parents to determine interest and need. There was a strong response providing sufficient interest for us to begin looking at options. In doing so, we conferred with the Catholic Education WA office who advised us that they are currently developing policies around provision of out of school care. The Board needs to wait for this policy for progress further.

Improving School communications and marketing: This year we took the step of contracting marketing skills to assist us in the areas of communication, website, social media and marketing. We want our website to be a primary source of knowledge of the school, school activities and related information. The website is currently being updated to make it more user friendly and relevant to students, parents and those considering sending their children to St Joseph's School.

Whilst not part of our strategic plan, the Board engaged in providing comment to the Parent Code of Conduct for the School. I would encourage all parents to not only read this but actively help promote the values and behaviours it seeks to support in our school.

The Board has continued to meet a on monthly schedule excluding school holiday periods, with the Finance Committee meeting prior to each meeting. I would like to thank all our Board members (including co-opted members) who have contributed their time and effort through the year.

Our finances remain in a strong position. A conservative approach to expenditure has given us the ability to support refurbishments and some capital investments this year, but will also provide the basis for supporting the major cost of the capital works that we are planning in the future. This year we have also compiled a comprehensive and updated assets register to meet new reporting requirements. I would thank our Business Manager Steve Johnson for his continued effort.

2018 will see another change in the parents who comprise our Board. I would like to thank Jaron Leask who is now retiring after contributing for 6 years to the Board. Jaron has been our Treasurer during this time.

As always, thank you to our Staff. We appreciate the effort that you continue put into our children to help them learn, grow and develop into wonderful young citizens well prepared for their future lives.

Finally to Carmen and her Leadership Team: On behalf of Board, I thank you for your contributions to the functions and the leadership of our school. The time and effort you contribute ensures that the school continues to grow as a school and as a provider of education.

This will be my last year on the Board of St Joseph's school however I am confident that the Board has a great selection of parents who will strongly contribute to the future of the school. I wish you all a safe and blessed Christmas, and a fantastic 2018.

Cec McConnell

Board Chair 2017