



SACRED HEART COLLEGE ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

Welcome to this first report from the School Advisory Council for the 2016 year.

The first semester of 2016 has been a very active one for Sacred Heart and the School Advisory Council has been kept busy with three main areas of focus throughout this period:

- The commencement of stage one building masterplan
- The latest Compliance Register and review of Council Governance
- Building on the membership of the Advisory Council

You will have noticed the demolition of the building at the George Street corner of the school, in preparation for the construction of Stage 1 of the Masterplan.

The tender process is underway and we look forward to construction work commencing in the coming months. The Council continues to monitor the project via the Planning and Facilities and the Finance Subcommittees to ensure the project remains on time and on budget.

The Advisory Council would like to thank the Planning and Facilities Subcommittee, led by Anthony Baldasso, for their time and effort in assisting with the key decisions on the project so far. It was also noted the great work the Grounds staff and College Timetabler did leading up to and over the break to have an uninterrupted start to the school year. The building project is ongoing and plans have already commenced for the next stage, which is scheduled to commence in April 2017.

At the meeting on Wednesday 23 April, the Advisory Council were very proud to receive the 2014 Compliance Register results, presented by our Principal Anna Negro. The register covers areas from OH & S obligations to security and safety. Our school was recognised as the highest performing Mercy school in terms of compliance and the school's employees at all levels should be congratulated on recognising the importance of these features of the school environment.

The compliance report result reflects the school's emphasis on governance, which is being applied at the School Advisory Council on an ongoing basis.

Four members of the Council attended a Governance workshop during the term and all attendees concluded the Council is in good shape with the structures we have in place.

During the semester the Council reviewed the outcomes from the Scholarship Committee workshop held last year and will continue to work with the Scholarship Committee to continue with their objective of assisting girls to access an education at the school regardless of their financial resources. We also signed off on the 2016 Budget prepared by the Finance Team.

The importance of policies as part of the governance process is acknowledged at each meeting, when we are briefed by Jenny Griffiths representing the Policy Subcommittee. The Policy Subcommittee always present well thought out and up to date policies and we thank them for their effort in this area.

The Council was also privileged to attend the presentation by Sr Mary Reynolds with the staff of the school. This was a great opportunity to emphasise the history of the Sisters of Mercy and the values the school and other Mercy associated organisations operate under.

Council members were also briefed by Sr Joan Wilson at the recent Council meeting as a follow up to Sr Mary Reynolds presentation, which confirmed that the school is 'walking the walk' with Mercy values within the school and at Council level.

The Advisory Council underwent change over the summer break with four members stepping down from the Council and three new members joining the Council.

Our thanks go to Cate Slattery for her work in improving the structure and direction of the Advisory Council as Chairperson last year and to Margaret Canaway for her input and link to Parent Power to the Council for many years.

Whilst Stephanie Reynolds will continue her fantastic work with the Alumni Committee, input at Council level will now be provided by the new Director of Development, Marketing and Communications Catherine Middlemiss and we wish Kath Walsh all the best in retirement from the school and the Advisory Council.

We welcome to the Advisory Council Jordon Beale, as Chair of the Finance Committee. Jordon is a Financial Reporting Manager at Barwon Health and was previously an external auditor of many schools in Victoria.

Jordon's insight will be invaluable to the Council and we have already seen this since Jordon joined the Finance Subcommittee in early 2015.

We also welcome Jason Doherty (Communications) to the Council, to assist with the schools internal and external communication. Jason is General Manager at Playgroup Victoria and has worked at the Geelong Advertiser, Cricket Australia, Geelong Football Club and Southern Cross Austereo.

A gap in the skill set of the Council identified over the break was health and well-being expertise. We are pleased that Monica Evans has joined the Council.

Monica is currently Team Leader at Healthy Workplaces and Children at Healthy Together Geelong. Her experience in working with nearly 150 schools/education centres as well as many other workplaces will improve this very important to the culture of the school.

Catherine Middlemiss will report to the Council in her role as Director of Development, Marketing and Communications, which includes reporting on the Alumni Association and Parent Power. It is an important time for the School with added demand on the schools finances during the construction of the Masterplan and we look forward to the school community's support in continuing to provide quality facilities for students.

We were impressed with the quality of candidates in the school community that applied for the vacant positions and we appreciated the input provided during the interview process by the candidates.

Whilst I have been a member of the Advisory Council for over a year now, I feel privileged to take on the role of Chairperson this year. I will endeavour to lead a cohesive and inclusive Advisory Council that will assist Anna with decisions on managing the school at an important time for the school with significant change and innovation in education.

The Advisory Council looks forward to working with Anna and the leadership team in developing the Strategic Plan for the school during the year, to position the school for the future. With major

investment being made in the STEAM disciplines, we look forward to using the momentum of the building projects to document the strategy moving forward.

I would like to finish by thanking the subcommittees for their work in providing their time and expertise to the school and keeping the Council up to date with key issues.

Without the support of the school community the education experience of the girls of the school would not be at the current high standard. The number of attendees at events so far this year (Beginning of Year Mass, Maguire Celebration and Open Day) reflects that we have an engaged community which is the result of the work of Anna and the leadership team.

The assistance from Parent Power and Alumni members is appreciated in making these key events and many more events have a welcoming feel and sense of community.

On behalf of the Advisory Council members, we look forward to continuing to assist Anna provide market leading education and facilitate students to enjoy a positive experience at Sacred Heart College.

Philip Anglin

Council Chair