

Board report – 15 November 2016

In addition to the constitutional obligations as Chair of the School Board I set a very clear direction for this year 2016 and beyond. The priorities were:

1. To act in the now and plan for the future
2. Plan for stage seven of school capital development plan.
3. Canteen
4. Bursary

Achievements:

1. To review and implement school improvement plan for 2017.

Working with a consultant Mr Jeff Thorne, the Board with input from the teaching community, finalised a new vision statement for the school and school improvement plan. This plan provides the school with a clear direction for the next year. Work has also begun on the next three school strategic plan.

The results from the SRC Insight survey are excellent and reinforce the progress shown in NAPLAN and other data that we have been using within our Annual School Improvement Plan.

The challenge for the school is to maintain the improvement trajectory and not lose focus by trying to be everything to everyone.

The Board and staff are to be congratulated on your ongoing commitment to quality and improvement.

2. Planning for stage seven (and final) school building plan Capital Development Plan.

In 2013 the Board held a number of meetings with Catholic Education WA and the architects to design the best outcomes for stages six and seven i.e. a four-class room block with toilets, enclosed undercroft area, and a new administration building and covered court.

Stage six, the class room block has been completed and recently opened. No longer is it stage six, but the Bishop Don Sproxtton building.

Funding and plans have been approved for stage seven, the new administration building and covered court to be used for school assemblies. Building is commencing in 2017, with a completion date later in the year.

I am particularly pleased that we have secured funding for stage seven. As the numbers of teachers increase as a result of going two stream, we will finally be able to provide a

- better facilities for staff, including staff room, toilets, functional offices and a sick bay
- a new building with clearer controlled and safer entry onto the school premises

- a huge covered play area. This will allow for whole of school assemblies, child to play under cover during the cooler and wet months, and hot summer days.

3. Canteen

For a few years the school canteen has been making a financial loss. The Board, working with the Principal is endeavouring to minimise the annual losses to a breakeven point.

4. Bursary

The Board firmly believes that offering a Bursary presents an opportunity for the School, the Parish and the wider local community to work together closely to influence and enrich the spiritual, social and economic fabric of the school and wider community.

Work is progressing in finalising the documentation.

I am very proud to be a parent and the Board Chair of this school. Every year is challenging and exciting. In hindsight, we can all say what a great job we all have done. This is no more evident by all the wonderful compliments by guests and visitors that were bestowed on this school at the 80th celebrations of St Columba's.

This brings my report to an end. I would like to thank the parents of the year sixes who will not be returning next year. I hope that in part that this St Columba's community, our community, has assisted you in raising and educating your child and developing solid foundations for their graduation to high school; but more importantly, strengthening them as a young person to meet the challenges, joys and awes of life. I hope high school and the new phase of education is a fulfilling and fruitful as has been here at St Columba's.

On behalf of the School Board I would like to wish you happy and safe holidays, a holy festive Christmas, and a prosperous New Year 2017.