



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School Board Chair Report Monday 21 November 2016

Good evening and welcome fellow parents, teachers and Father Paul to our Annual Community Meeting for 2016. Thank you for taking the time to attend at what is traditionally a very busy time of the year for all of us.

In tonight's report, I will provide the Community with:

- A brief update on the schools financial position;
- The OLMC Strategic Plan 2016-2019;
- An overview of what's next for our Building Programme; and
- The School Board composition for 2017.

I will conclude this evening by acknowledging and recognising the contributions made by a number of community members.

School Finances

I am pleased to report that OLMC continues to be in a strong financial position. Having completed the first stage of the Building Programme in 2015, we consolidated our financial position during 2016 and have again managed to ensure that there is still enough money in the bank to cover costs into the New Year prior to the receipt of the next portion of Federal and State funding. This continuous ability to have enough in the bank to cover costs over the summer holiday period is something we are quite proud of. To put this into perspective, a large portion of Catholic schools go into debt at this time of the year by using their bank overdraft facilities to cover costs leading into the New Year.

I would like to thank Karen Collins for her continued efforts during the year as school bursar. It has been a difficult 12 months with OLMC being one of four pilot schools trialling a new accrual accounting system which has been less than user friendly. Despite this, Karen has continually been on top of the numbers and has managed to deliver the financial information required for the Board to make informed decisions.

The Board Treasurer, Ivan Jaksic, will shortly be presenting an overview of our financial standing, together with the approved increase in School Fees for 2017.

OLMC Strategic Plan 2016-2019

Towards the end of 2015 and early into 2016, the OLMC staff and Board were involved in the compilation and ratification of the new OLMC Strategic Plan for 2016-2019. The plan was based on Catholic Education WA's four main points of focus – Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship – better known as the acronym LEAD.

A copy of the new Strategic Plan was issued to all OLMC families. The document itself only provides a summary and framework of what we hope to achieve over the next three years with regards to Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship. The “fleshing out” of the framework will be done progressively by the OLMC staff as they help to deliver what we have set out to deliver in the Strategic Plan.

If you are keen to get an understanding of what OLMC is planning to achieve in the four key areas, please take the time to have a brief read of the Strategic Plan if you have not already done so. It is a document we are proud of and one that very much sets the course from now until 2019.

Building Programme

After a very busy 2015 where we saw quite a remarkable change to our Early Learning Centre, Administration and Staff facilities, 2016 gave us a chance to catch our breath. Whilst we have conducted general maintenance works around the school during the year, and dealt with the remaining defects from the 1st Stage of the Building Programme, we have used 2016 to consolidate our position both financially and from a construction point of view. In hind sight, this ended up being a good approach because our builder went into Liquidation during 2016. We were lucky that our works were effectively complete when this occurred. Other clients were not so lucky.

Now that we have had a break, we believe it is time to take the next step into 2017. We have just recently engaged a painting contractor on a long term contract where they will give the entire school a brand new coat of paint and then maintain this over the next few years. This will give the school a new and fresh appearance which will be maintained rather than waiting for it to look dreary and drab before we paint again.

We have also put the wheels in motion to have the school toilets refurbished. This has been an area of concern since we first commenced the Building Programme and I am happy to say that through good fiscal management, we are now in a position to tackle this problem in 2017. We are currently in discussions with our architect and a builder to see what we can get done with the budget we have. To date, the discussions have been very positive and it is my hope

that this can all be completed before the commencement of Term 2 next year (but I can't promise that).

It is important to note that this continual revitalisation of existing facilities will continue to improve the learning environment that we provide for our children and also the working environment we provide for our staff.

Before I get onto the School Board composition for 2017, I would like to acknowledge some of the contributions made by special individuals and groups in 2016:

OLMC Parish / Father Paul

Once again, Father Paul and our teaching staff have been instrumental in preparing our children for receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion and celebrating Community Masses. I would like to thank Father Paul for his tireless effort in continuing to enrich the lives of our children and for his continued guidance to the Board in ensuring that our decisions are inclusive of our Parish.

P&F Committee

The P&F Representatives have worked tirelessly to coordinate the various fundraising activities that continue to provide the school with the opportunity to purchase valuable resources for our children's education. To all the P&F Representatives, thank you for your continued effort and dedication.

The Board would like to acknowledge and thank the outgoing P&F President Natalie Giles for all of her efforts throughout 2016. We would also like to acknowledge and welcome the incoming P&F President Patrick Vereker and we wish him all the best in what is a very important role for the school community.

Our thanks and congratulations are extended to the P&F Executive for 2017 and we look forward to their ongoing contribution in the coming year.

Teachers

On behalf of the School Board, I would like to acknowledge the continued efforts of our talented teachers and staff at OLMC and thank them for the role they play in the development of our children.

I feel like I say this every year, but I genuinely believe that OLMC is that little bit different to most other schools as the teachers and staff are very much part of the OLMC community. It is always a pleasure to see the great relationships that the teachers and staff have with the children and families of OLMC. The dedication and professionalism you exhibit each and every day is a credit to you and the Leadership Group.

School Board

Finally, I would like to thank the School Board for their time, effort and contribution throughout 2016. Their continued commitment to good governance has been greatly appreciated by both Kevin and myself. I would like to present the Board members with a small gift to show our appreciation for their efforts over the last 12 months.

Can you please come forward:

Ivan Jaksic – Treasurer;

Karina Tedesco – Parish Representative;

Leo Surjan – Committee Member;

Nicholas Gvozdin – Committee Member;

Kevin Duffy – Principal.

Carmel Elkins – Secretary;

Natalie Giles – P&F Representative;

Samantha Kerlin – Committee Member;

Father Paul – Parish Priest; and

At this time I would also like to acknowledge Samantha Kerlin who will be leaving the Board after many years of service on both the P&F and the Board. Thank you for your commitment and valued input during your time on the OLMC Board. It has been greatly appreciated.

Board Composition for 2017

Firstly, Natalie Giles will be replaced as the P&F Representative by Patrick Vereker (or his delegated representative) but will remain on the Board as a Committee Member.

Secondly, Ivan Jaksic, Carmel Elkins and Karina Tedesco will remain in their respective roles of Treasurer, Secretary and Parish Representative. Leo Surjan will also remain on the Board as a Committee Member.

Thirdly, I would welcome anyone who may have an interest in nominating for a School Board position to contact Kevin Duffy. There will be 1-2 positions available for the 2017 season and we would like to welcome some new faces onto the team.

Finally, as I have now completed my 6 year term on the Board, it is time for me to move onto greener pastures and hand over the baton to a new Board Chair. I would like to thank you all for the support you have provided me over my 6 year tenure and particularly for the last 3 years as Board Chair. It has been a pleasure and an honour.

I would now like to congratulate Nicholas Gvozdin who will be taking on the role of Board Chair for 2017. Nick, if you could please come forward to introduce yourself.

Thank you all for attending this evening's Community Meeting and I wish you all a very safe and Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all again in 2017.