



## **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School Board Chair Report – Nick Gvozdin Monday 20 November 2017**

Good evening and welcome fellow parents, teachers and Father Greg to our Annual Community Meeting for 2017. Thank you for taking the time to attend at what is traditionally a very busy time of the year for all of us. Although we are required by our Constitution to have these annual meetings, in my view they provide a very valuable opportunity to find out about what has been happening in our school, understand and reflect in our achievements, and to find about our future plans.

Insofar as the agenda for this evening is concerned, we will commence with the P&F AGM, OLMC Parish Report, my report as board chair, the OLMC Treasurer Report, Kevin's Principal's Report and will conclude with a few presentations. There is a lot to get through, and I've set the rather ambitious aim of getting through it in under an hour. I don't propose to have any questions taken during the meeting but please come and see me afterwards if you would like to discuss anything.

- P&F AGM (Patrick Vereker)
- OLMC Parish Report  
(Karina Tedesco - provide the Parish Report on behalf of Father Paul Raj)

### **Board Chair Report**

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 2018.

### **School Finances**

I am pleased to report that OLMC continues to be in a strong financial position. Despite having completed substantial building and refurbishment works in recent times, we have still been able to consolidate our financial position during 2017 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 should all be proud of, and rightly so. To put this into perspective, many 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. However, due to a combination of factors such as fundraising and the careful management of our finances and our continual efforts to spend our income wisely and try and get maximum bang for our education buck, we are able to be in the fortunate position we are.

I would like to thank Karen Collins for her continued efforts during the year as school bursar. Karen took up a position in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year with the Catholic Education Office, but things haven't missed a beat with Gabby Delborello stepping in and doing a sterling job and quickly getting on top of the numbers, and Gabby together with our Board Treasurer, Ivan Jaksic, have managed to deliver the financial information required for the Board to make informed decisions, and most recently have been busy working on the school budget for next year, and you will see some of this financial information in the next presentation.

That presentation will give you an overview of our financial standing, together with the approved increase in School Fees for 2018. I also want to thank Ivan for the hard work and professionalism he has put into the treasurer job. I appreciate it can be a thankless task, and having to juggle his own work and family commitments, Ivan has done a tremendous job at surprisingly little cost to his sanity.

### **OLMC Strategic Plan 2016-2019**

What I say to it is very similar to what was said last year. 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**

In recent years we have funded and executed significant improvements to the school buildings and facilities. In 2015 we saw a remarkable change to our Early Learning Centre, Administration and Staff facilities. In 2016 we conducted general maintenance works and dealt with the remaining defects from the 1<sup>st</sup> Stage of the Building Programme and consolidated our position both financially and from a construction point of view.

In late 2016 we engaged a painting contractor on a long term contract who has given the entire school a brand new coat of paint and who will maintain this over the next few years. This has given the school a new and fresh appearance which will be maintained on a yearly basis.

The school toilets were refurbished earlier this year. This addressed an area of concern since we first commenced the Building Programme and we are all happy with the result. We are currently in the planning phase with respect to future class refurbishments going forward depending on our budget and ongoing costs of maintenance and repairs that we must meet.

Our plan for 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 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. For those of you who do not already know, Father Paul has been reappointed to OLMC Parish for the next 6 years, so congratulations to Father Paul in that respect. Father Paul is currently on sabbatical in the holy land and I thank Father Greg for stepping in at the Parish in Father Paul's absence.

#### **P&F Committee**

The P&F Representatives under the very able leadership of Patrick Vereker 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 Patrick and all the hardworking P&F Representatives, thank you for your continued effort and dedication, and we look forward to your ongoing contribution in the coming year.

#### **Teachers**

As for the teachers and the Leadership Group, late last month was World Teacher's Day and it is probably enough said if I just read out the message that I asked Kevin to pass to the teachers on behalf of the Board and the wider school community.

"On behalf of the Board and the wider school community, it is opportune on World Teacher's Day to acknowledge and give thanks for your efforts and contribution during the year in nurturing our children and in many instances going above and beyond to create a vibrant and creative environment for our children to grow and prosper whilst remaining true to their faith. Although it is a team effort of all relevant stakeholders, the integral role of educators can never be understated, and OLMC is indeed very fortunate to have such a great team of talented and caring educators and you should all be proud of your achievements during the year in making OLMC the place that it is, and I once again thank you for your efforts."

#### **School Board**

Finally, I would like to thank the School Board for their time, effort and contribution throughout 2017. Their continued commitment to good governance has been greatly appreciated by both Kevin and myself.

### **Board Composition for 2018**

I am pleased to say all board members are continuing on to next year. Ivan Jaksic, Carmel Elkins, Karina Tedesco and Patrick Vereker will remain in their respective roles of Treasurer, Secretary, Parish Representative and P&F Representative respectively. Leo Surjan, Natalie Giles and Jo Arnauphie will also remain on the Board as Committee Members.

I am also very pleased to welcome Randall Tapp onto the board from next year as a Board Member. Randall expressed an interest some time ago, attended our last Board meeting to get a feel for what we do and we are happy to welcome him onto the team.

I would welcome anyone who may have an interest in nominating for a School Board position to contact myself or Kevin Duffy. We are always looking to welcome some new faces onto the team and add to our skillset. We continue to let it be known that we are always on the lookout for expressions of interest in joining the Board, and we most recently again spread that message in the most recent newsletter so we are always on the lookout.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Carmel Elkins for her tireless efforts as our Board Secretary. I also want to acknowledge and thank Kevin Duffy, our Principal, for his support and assistance during this my final year as board chair. Kevin has gone out of his way to keep me apprised of all developments and is always happy to answer any questions (no matter how silly). The constant theme of feedback from board members has been that the board has had a really positive synergy this year, and that is in no small part due to the transparency, inclusiveness and assistance provided to us by Kevin.

- [OLMC Treasurer Report – Ivan Jaksic](#)
- [Principal’s Report – Kevin Duffy](#)

### Couple of presentations

Can you please come forward:

**Ivan Jaksic** – Treasurer

**Karina Tedesco** – Parish Representative

**Natalie Giles** – Committee Member

**Joe Arnauphie** – Committee Member

**Father Paul** – Parish Priest

**Carmel Elkins** – Secretary

**Patrick Vereker** – P&F Representative

**Leo Surjan** – Committee Member

**Nicholas Gvozdin** – Committee Member

**Kevin Duffy** – Principal

P&F Presentation

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 2018.

Declare the meeting closed.