



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School

Board Chair Report – Nick Gvozdin

Monday, 25 November 2019

Good evening and welcome fellow parents, teachers and friends to our OLMC Annual School Community Meeting for 2019. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Nick Gvozdin and I am the board chair, this being my third year in that position but fifth year on the board. 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 out about our future plans.

Insofar as the agenda for this evening is concerned, we do have a list of matters to get through. We will commence with the P&F AGM, Parish Report, my report as Board Chair, the Treasurer's Report in which the 2020 budget will be presented, the 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 between an hour and an hour and half. 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 – Carmen Forde / Katherine Beeson
- OLMC Parish Report
(Father Paul Raj)
- Board Chair Report

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

- a brief update on the school's financial position;
- the OLMC Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019;
- an overview of what's next for our Building Program; and
- the School Board composition for 2019.

School Finances

I am pleased to report that OLMC continues to be in a strong financial position. Despite continuing to fund necessary maintenance works and some unforeseen repairs that have been required, we have still been able to consolidate our financial position during 2019 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 in 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 to 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 Gaby Del Borello for her continued efforts during the year as school Finance Officer. 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, and the financial picture for the next 12 months, including the approved increase in School Fees for 2019. I also want to thank Ivan for the hard work and professionalism he has put into the treasurer job. I know he puts a huge amount of effort and many hours of his time into the role and appreciate it can be a thankless task, this being despite his own work and family commitments. Ivan has done a tremendous job and managed to retain most of his sanity at the same time.

OLMC Strategic Plan 2016-2019

What I say about this is very similar to what was said last year. Towards the end of 2015 an 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.

Work has started in earnest on our next Strategic Plan and we will be seeking input from all relevant stakeholders as we start engaging in that process.

Building Program

In recent years we have funded and executed significant improvements to the school buildings and facilities. Following the works done to our Early Learning Centre, Administration and Staff facilities, we have focused mainly on maintenance works and dealing with unexpected latent problems such as issues with water pipes and termites.

We have a continuing contract with a painting contractor 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 refreshed and maintained on an annual basis.

The school toilets were refurbished a couple of years ago. This addressed an area of concern since we first commenced the Building Program and we are all happy with the result, and achieved it within budget. We are currently in the planning phase with respect to future class refurbishments going forward, in particular in redeveloping the outdoor area of Grade 6 and Science but this will depend on our budget and ongoing costs of maintenance and repairs that going forward. Once we are satisfied that we are in a position financially to proceed, then we will action that.

We are not content to rest on our laurels in this respect. We are constantly looking for ways to improve our buildings and facilities for the benefit of not just our children, but all stakeholders. In particular, 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 2020, I would like to acknowledge some of the contributions made by special individuals and groups in 2019:

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. We look forward to continuing working with Father Paul and the Parish in the future.

P&F Committee

The P&F is under the very able leadership of Carmen Forde and Katherine Beeson and the rest of the P&E Committee. The P&F 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 Carmen and Katherine and all the hardworking P&F Representatives, thank you for your continued effort, support and dedication, and we look forward to your ongoing contribution in the coming year. I also thank and acknowledge mention Patrick Vereker who stepped out of the position in Term 1 due to work commitments.

Teachers

As for the teachers and the Leadership Group, late last month was World Teacher's Day and as I did the year before I asked Kevin to pass to the teachers on behalf of the Board and the wider school community a message. It's probably enough for me to simply read out that message.

"World Teachers Day is this Friday 25 October 2019. To demonstrate our gratitude and appreciation for your efforts during the year I would like to pass on this message on behalf of the Board and the wider school community. We continually appreciate and acknowledge the tremendously talented group of educators at our school. Our educators are an integral part of our school fabric, and without your contribution during the year in all areas and aspects of our children's learning and development in a faith-based environment, we would not be able to provide the nurturing, support and education that makes OLMC such a special place for our children. The mixture of skillsets and experience you bring to the role and your dedication to the school are truly appreciated and enable our children to thrive not just in their learning in the classroom but also in all aspects of their development. We thank you sincerely for your contribution and your efforts, and hope that you find it as rewarding to see our children grow and develop under your tutelage as we the Board do. We would not have been able to achieve what we have without your support, and our children and the school are a credit to you all.

We are extremely proud of the talented and hard working team at OLMC and look forward to continuing to work together with you in our school."

School Board

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the School Board for their time, effort and their valuable contribution throughout 2019. We all have different skills and bring different things to the table, and everybody has made their own contribution. Their continued commitment to good governance has been greatly appreciated by both Kevin and myself.

Board Composition for 2020

Save for 2 exceptions which I'll speak about in a moment, I am pleased to say all present board members are continuing on to next year. Ivan Jaksic, Carmel Elkins, and the team of Carmen Forde and Katherine Beeson will remain in their respective roles of Treasurer, Secretary, Parish Representative and P&F Representative respectively. Natalie Giles, Jo Arnauphie and Karina Tedesco will remain on the Board as Committee Members.

There are 2 board members whose time on the board is coming to an end. Firstly, Randall Tap will not be continuing on the Board due to his family's time at this school coming to its natural end with Xavier being in grade 6 this year. I have personally thanked Randall for his valuable contribution to the Board, and I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say that we wish him and his family all the best for the future.

Secondly, Rachael Visser will not be continuing on the board next year due to family commitments. On behalf of the board I would also like to thank Rachael for her contributions to the board during the year. Finally, Patrick Vereker as P&F Rep stepped down early in the year as a result of resigning as president of the P&F. I'd also like to thank Patrick for all his contributions to the board in that role.

I am also very pleased to welcome Deanna Protich, Kelly Wigget and Clayton Pritchard onto the board from next year as Board Members. Both Deanna and Kelly attended our last Board meeting to get a feel for what we do, and we are more than pleased to have all 3 of you join the team for next year, so welcome aboard and we hope that you will find the experience as rewarding as we all do.

I would invite 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. Criteria for membership:

- (a) possession of special skills that will be an asset to the Board;
- (b) a deep interest in the welfare of all students and staff;
- (c) a desire to give service to the Catholic School Community;
- (d) a keenness to promote Catholic Schooling;
- (e) an ability to work cooperatively and constructively with all other members of the Board; and
- (f) a sufficiency of time to devote to Board duties.

We always have an eye on succession planning, so if you are interested please do not hesitate to contact me for a chat.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Carmel Elkins for her tireless efforts as our Board Secretary. Her supreme organisational skills are highly valued and she is a vital cog in the machine that keeps us as a Board chugging along. I also want to acknowledge and thank Kevin Duffy, our Principal, for his continued support and assistance during the last 12 months. Kevin has gone out of his way to keep me apprised of all developments and there has yet to be a question that Kevin has been unable to answer. Being a school principal is a tough gig, and with positions like that where there are competing pressures and interests its practically impossible to make everyone happy all of the time. I think I speak for all board members when I say that the board has had a really positive synergy this year and we always work together constructively and collaboratively, and the results speak for themselves.

- 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

Katherine Beeson – P&F Representative

Nicholas Gvozdin – Committee Member

Rachael Visser – Committee Member

Kevin Duffy – Principal

Randall Tapp – Committee Member

Patrick Vereker

Carmel Elkins – Secretary

Carmen Forde – P&F Representative

Natalie Giles – Committee Member

Joe Arnephie – Committee Member

Father Paul – Parish Priest

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 2020.

Declare the meeting closed.