

ST PIUS X CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

29 NOVEMBER 2011

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome Ladies and Gentlemen to the 2011 Annual Meeting of St Pius X Catholic Primary School. On behalf of the School Board, I would like to thank you for attending, and for showing your continued support of this terrific school.

The board is really proud to be assisting both the community and teachers to further develop our school. 2011 has presented us with a number of milestones as well as some challenges, some of which I will outline for you now.

School Staff

We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team of teachers at St Pius. This year, however, the school has had to deal with the unexpected illness of our Principal, Rob Romeo. Not only are we very pleased to see Rob make a full recovery but we are also proud of the way the school was able to cope with the interruption and maintain the quality of education and care of the students.

In that sense I would like to make special mention of Mac Callisto and Nik Hofmeester. In Rob's absence Mac and Nik shared the Principal duties throughout Term 3 and their professionalism and devotion to the education and care of the students was outstanding. As a school we should be very proud and thankful that we have such competent and caring staff who can step up in times of need. I would like to mention that this is the first time the Catholic Education Office has allowed such a situation to occur, this is great endorsement of our school, Rob's leadership and his commitment to developing his staff as well as Mac and Nik's skills.

As a special thank you, I would also like to recognise the efforts of Margaret Tatasciore. Margaret is incredibly reliable and was a tremendous support to both Mac and Nik and the school community in Rob's absence.

School Board

Once again, the Members of our School Board have been a great support to our Principal, Rob Romeo, and myself.

Board Members, Stephen Kelly, Gavin Walton, Shelley Hill, Craig Spence, Sonia Nolan, Lee Stothard, Wendy Perrett, Brett Jones, Ubaldo Salvucci our P&F representative, Paul Chapman, and parish representatives, Monica and Eugene Kavanagh, have all contributed strongly and actively at Board level which has ensured robust and constructive discussions.

I would like to make special mention of Gavin Walton, Nik Hofmeester and the ICT Sub Committee who was charged with exploring the future technology needs of St Pius X, the outcome of which I will outline shortly.

Rob Romeo continues to be a strong and supportive leader. Rob at all times strives to achieve the best for our children and the school.

I would also like to acknowledge our Parish Priest Father Thomas, who continues to provide fine spiritual guidance and ensures a close relationship between the school and the Parish.

I would to acknowledge a retiring Board Member, Lee Stothard. Lee along with this entire family have been strong supporters of the school community over a number of years ranging from his role on the Board to working in the Tuckshop to his general contribution to the school, for this we thank them.

Information and Communications Technology

In order to address the future technology needs of St Pius, Gavin Walton, Nik Hofmeester and a sub committee made up of parents within our community were charged with the task of looking into our opportunities. I would like to thank the members of that sub committee: they are Paul Nolan, Gina and Neil Edwards and John Bougourd.

It is with great pride and excitement that I can inform you that the Board has passed a strategy to commence rolling out One-to-One iPads from 2013 for years 4, 5 and 6, more specific details will be circulated shortly. Our decision to delay the implementation until 2013 allows sufficient time for teachers to receive Professional Development and develop learning strategies to utilise the new technology as well as giving the school time to setup appropriate budgets and upgrade the IT infrastructure and associated support required.

In the interim from 2012 the school will purchase 6 iPads and a Mac Book per class for years 4- 6 and 4 iPads & 1 Mac Book per class for years K- 3. When One-to-One commences in 2013, iPad class sets in years 4-6 will be discontinued and a number of units will be dispersed to K-3 with some units being kept for spare or backup.

This is a big step forward into the future for the school community, the teachers and most importantly the students.

Building the Education Revolution

2011 will be long remembered as the year that St Pius X set itself up for the next decade and beyond. Over the past 6 months we have seen the school grow and whilst we experienced some short term pain in the process the benefits for our children's and the generation to come will be enduring.

Whilst the vast majority of the cost of construction has been borne by the Federal Government, a decision at Board level was made to cover a small number of over runs to ensure that the change is complete and interruptions are kept to a minimum in future years. As a result of these decisions we have been able complete tasks such as re roofing, extending the stage and a number of other important upgrades.

I would like to thank the parents and the school community for their patience during this period of change, I'm sure it will be all worthwhile when you walk through the doors to start 2012.

P&F

As with previous years the School Board is pleased to have been able to work so closely with the P&F. We would like to thank you for your continued efforts during the year because without this group of Parents, some of the many opportunities now available to our children would not be viable.

I would like to take the opportunity of also thanking the Uniform Shop and Canteen Coordinators who have done a sensational job operating these two important facilities within our school.

I would also like to acknowledge the financial contribution the P&F have made to the school. It is a credit to the P&F and the entire parent body and it is our children who are reaping the rewards.

Finances

I am pleased to confirm that St Pius X continues to be in a sound financial position. The school finances are managed very carefully by Rob and Margaret and supported from a Board perspective by Stephen Kelly. Through this careful and responsible management we have been able to contribute to the modernisation of our school as mentioned above as well as being able to invest in the necessary infrastructure next year to support our technology strategy.

Our School treasurer, Stephen Kelly will provide some more detail shortly when he hands down the Treasurer's Report.

I do need to inform you that the Board last week approved a 8% plus \$80 fee increase for next year, as per a recommendation to us from the Catholic Education Office with the usual discounts for 2nd and subsequent children.

Conclusion

In closing I would once again, on behalf of the School Board, like to thank everyone involved with the running of the school this year. I would also like to make a special mention to the students who continually strive to do their best and make this school such a wonderful place to be. It is a school we can be proud of and one that I believe is the envy of many other schools.

With the end of the year rapidly approaching I would like to wish everyone a very safe and happy Christmas and a great 2012.

Thank you.

Duncan McPherson

Chairman – St Pius X School Board