Report from the Chair

NCSB Annual School Community Meeting

26 November 2013

It is once again my privilege and pleasure to present this report to the 2013 Annual School Community Meeting of the Northam Catholic School Board.

2013 has been a year of continued growth for the Northam Catholic School Board. We have been able to complete our strategic planning process, and have now moved to the implementation phase. Having a documented strategic plan has provided the Board with a better framework for decision making into the future, and enables new Board members to understand how the School seeks to grow and develop over the next 10 to 15 years.

We have sought to streamline the operation of Board meetings, with various sub-committees meeting between our monthly Board meetings. This again has provided the sub-committees, such as Finance and Property & Maintenance, with the opportunity to review the detail of the School’s operations, whilst our monthly Board meetings are able to focus on the ‘bigger picture’ issues for the school. I thank those Board and community members who are contributing to these sub-committees, and again look forward to opportunities to improve the operations of the Board as we progress with implementation of the strategic plan.

We wowed our partner schools when we hosted the Joint Catholic Secondary Schools Board dinner in early September. What a fantastic opportunity we had to showcase our wonderful school facilities, our fantastic past student Robert Haddrill, and the hard-working teaching staff who supported the caterers!

Earlier in the year our beautiful facilities in the Science & Language Centre at Secondary and our Performing Arts Centre at Primary were renamed to honour our founding orders, and we now meet in the St Emilie SLC and St Marcellin PAC. It is wonderful to see how these facilities are being utilised in the education of our students, and we continue to find ways in which we can innovate in their use.

We welcomed Father Pavol to the role of Parish Priest, and Father Emmanuel as Assistant Priest and have enjoyed the energy and philosophy that Fr Pavol has brought with him to his position on the School Board. We look forward to greater opportunities in the future for interactions with the St Joseph’s Parish to enhance the educational outcomes for the school.

I would again like to thank Kevin and the Leadership team for their leadership of the School and for enabling the staff to design the various learning opportunities that our children are able to engage in. The strategic planning process has provided fantastic opportunities for the staff and the Board to work together, and it has been great to see the relationship prosper. It is only in partnership that we will be able to achieve all that we seek for our school, St Joseph’s Northam. As we move further into the implementation phase in the medium
term, we expect there to be more exciting opportunities for growth of the staff, the students and the whole school community.

As we draw to a close on another school year, I feel it is important to recognise the opportunity that has been afforded to us as Board members to engage with the life of the School. During my time as a Board member, and especially as Chair, we have certainly been privileged to be involved to the extent we are. I believe this has led to a better understanding of the various demands placed on members of staff from both internal and external factors. I also believe that as a Board we are able to offer support to the staff in different ways as a result. Kevin, thank you for your willingness to engage with the Board to improve our understanding of the operations of the school, to develop our skills base, and hopefully to realise better outcomes for students, parents, staff and Parish. If I can use a quote to summarise:

The most valuable thing we all have is each other. Without collaboration, our growth is limited to our own perspectives.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of the people of the St Joseph’s School community. My fellow Board members, the Parents & Friends Association, Canteen staff and volunteers, parents, grandparents and carers who contribute to the classroom learning activities, members of the Parish – thankyou all for your contributions to the life of the School. Without you, our children’s educational experience would be the poorer. It is through the example of your acts of service that our children learn the value of service.

As some of our members move on, I would like to acknowledge their contribution to the work of the School Board. I would like to sincerely thank Raelenne Ashman for her sustained contribution to the school as the P&F representative for the past six years. I would also like to recognise the six years of service of Eddie Budas who retires as a general member at this meeting. I am sure that Eddie will agree that the past few years have offered him new insights.
into school life, and allowed opportunities for personal growth. Thank you both for your contributions.

Perhaps one of my most challenging roles during the year was participating in the selection process to appoint a new principal for 2014 and beyond. In a year that started out with a Principal Review, we were not expecting an appointment process as well! Kevin, thank you for the energy, passion and commitment you have shown in your time as Principal of St Joseph’s School Northam. We wish you well as you move on to your new role as Foundation Principal at Forrestdale Catholic College.

I would like to welcome Mrs Carmen Cox to the St Joseph’s School community. Carmen brings with her a wealth of educational experience, including upper school having served as Dean of Year 12. We trust that the transition to St Joseph’s is relatively painless, and we look forward to working together to continue to build St Joseph’s School Northam as an outstanding educational facility for our School community.

Finally, thank you again for your support of the School Board and the activities of the St Joseph’s School. I would like to wish you a safe and blessed Christmas, and see you all refreshed in 2014.

Yours in Christ,

Kathryn Egerton-Warburton

Board Chair 2013