



BRIGHTON CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Annual School Community Meeting
Wednesday 27 November 2019

Board Chairperson's Report

My sincerest apologies for not being present at tonight's AGM, however, it is with great pleasure I have the opportunity to prepare for you another eventful and productive year's achievement on behalf of the whole school community of Brighton Catholic Primary School – the final report for the school under this name!

Janelle Prunster, Gerry McLaughlin, Kate Coorey and Stephenie Kunder completed formal induction protocols in March, joining existing Board Members Jo Richardson and Laura Hampson to support the Leadership Team at the school. At the start of the year, we farewelled Father Robert and welcomed the Salvatorian Order to our Parish, namely Father Dariusz Basiaga and Father Marian Brzozowski. We also formally farewelled Fiona Christie following her period of Long Service Leave in Term 1, after 8 years at the school.

It was then down to business, approving funds to supplement and develop our Information Technology programs, which continue to keep the students abreast of current trends and advancements in today's growing technological world. Funds were set aside for Robotics resources in line with our Digital Learning Strategic Plan. We also approved funding for literacy resources - Lexile Readers and Initial Lit and for an MHFA course to evaluate the current safety of students and staff while on-site.

We supported the establishment of a new formal Playgroup at the school with the assistance of Playgroup Australia and after much demand, we agreed to the implementation of EFTPOS facilities in Reception and the Uniform Shop.

Stage 7 of our Development Plan was initiated and we now have a fully functioning and much improved Administration Building. This proceeded the expansion of existing car park facilities.

There was also significant change amongst the Leadership Group throughout the year – following James' decision to take early retirement at the conclusion of 2019, he took his final period of LSL, leaving Jason Baker to assume the role as Acting Principal. Kris Bowden stepped up as Assistant Principal, working with existing AP Dee Campbell and together they did a stellar job in James' absence. I would like to thank all three for their diligence and professionalism during this time.

Interviews for James' replacement proved unsuccessful as a candidate befitting the ambition and development of our school did not materialise and I am delighted that Jason will lead us into 2020 as Acting Principal while a second phase of interviews are scheduled mid-year.

Our new name was finally confirmed and from 1st January 2020, we will be known as St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School. This will give us a stronger identity within the Parish and the larger Catholic Community.

I remain excited about the future of our school and look forward to working with equally passionate and dedicated colleagues as we support and develop existing and future strategies, which will undoubtedly add to the enrichment of our school.

However, it is important to finish my report by reflecting the genuine gratitude and admiration all Board members hold for the school community of Brighton Catholic / St Francis of Assisi, particularly for the teaching and non-teaching staff who continue to inspire and educate your children. I must end reflecting on the Principalship of James Danaher who has led the school magnificently over the last 8 years. I was involved in his original appointment following the retirement of our Foundation Principal, Anne Nolan, God rest her soul. James has been proactive in maintaining a school of high repute that parents want to send their children to and he constantly reminded us that no child should ever be denied a Catholic Education. In accordance with CEWA directives, his focus highlighted four key outcomes – Catholic Identity, Community Engagement,

Education and Stewardship. His passion remained undiminished throughout his tenure and his priority was to develop the academic, spiritual and social standing of the school while providing a physical environment capable of leading a double stream school into the 21st century – mission accomplished! James leaves behind a marvellous legacy and a healthy financial platform on which we will be able to continue building strong educational and appropriately resourced programs. On behalf of the School Board, I thank you James for your service to the community and for the leadership of your wonderful staff. We wish you a thoroughly well-deserved retirement although I am convinced we will be seeing you in some capacity at some stage in the future.

I wish you and your families a very happy, safe and blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year. As primary stakeholders, I thank you for your attendance this evening and for your continued support of the school community. I look forward to working alongside you all in the next exciting phase of St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School.

Tony Summers
Board Chairperson