

## Chairman's Report 2017

On behalf of the school board it gives me great pleasure to provide the 2017 Chairman's report. It is about now I wish I had listened to Darren Cutri's reports the last 4 years, and then I would know what I'm doing!! But here we go for my first attempt.

After losing a wealth of experience last year the Board has transitioned very well this year. While we as a board feel it has been a busy year I feel that as a group we have taken some significant steps forward.

Our primary role as board members is to act as a sounding board for the Principal and the Executive on matters of a financial and commercial nature. The perception within the community at times sometimes feels that we have a greater power than that. Board members will be consulted on the following issues

- Planning for the present and the future operations of the school
- Assisting in the recruitment of staff
- Ensuring information about the School and about Catholic Education is communicated to the school community
- Liaising in all matters relating to the financial management of the school; and
- Advising the Principal with respect to school Policy within the confines of the Catholic Education Policy and Procedures.

Generally speaking, the Board acts as an advisory group and an avenue of consultation for the Principal and the leadership team at the school. The board has two sub-committees working with the school at present. Our Finance Sub-committee, led by Brad Pymont, our Board Treasurer and our Capital Development Sub-committee, led by Luke Zammit. Both of these wonderful gentlemen will be proving you with information very shortly.

Throughout the year the Board has also assisted the School Executive with a number of financial and commercial projects. Some of the examples include

- Review of the School's Strategic Plan
- Establishment of Capital Development Sub-committee
- Attended Catholic Education Office meetings on board requirements
- Approved Operational and Capital Budgets
- Painting/Maintenance of the Community Centre
- Participation in Principals Kalat's review
- Ongoing consultation between Cockburn Council in relation to shared use agreement of the active open space located next to our school, i.e. the Oval.

While this is not an exhaustive list it hopefully provides you with an overview of what does happen at our monthly meetings and the role we play as a board.

One of the privileges as Chairperson of the board is being invited onto the interview panels for new staff. The teaching staffs here at Mater Christi College, are of the highest quality. We give witness to this, as some are moving into promotional positions at other Catholic Primary Schools next year. In every recruitment discussion the focus has been on continuing to employ highly skilled and passionate educators who want the best for every student in their classroom. The board would like to acknowledge the strong contribution of all our teaching and support staff that make every day a wonderful learning experience for our children.

To the School Executive, lead by our wonderful Principal Toni Kalat, and supported by her amazing Assistant Principals, Courtney Dunsire and Nicole Woodhouse. Managing a three-stream school is no easy task and the Board would like to thank you all for your dedication and commitment to the school community. The way in which the three of you work together to make things happen so effortless makes it appear you are here having fun rather than working!!

To the support Admin staff and huge thank you from the Board.

Firstly, Amanda Burke, the efficient way in which you organise everything is amazing. You keep us all on track and make sure we all have the information required. We thank you for your support.

Secondly, Robin Giles, the school Finance Officer. Thank you for providing clarity in what has been a year of financial change as we have moved from one accounting system to the other. Your efforts in making sure the Board understands the transition have been greatly appreciated.

Thirdly, the wonderful office staff, Paula Nichols and Wendy O'Dea, who always have a smile for you no matter what time of day or week. It is so wonderful to know our children great treated some well anytime they walk into the admin building.

Lastly, and I will say it, most importantly, Sister Em. I could go on for hours about what you offer our school community both in the Parish, as the face at the front desk or the friendly voice on the phone. Your caring and loving personality leaves a mark on everyone that interacts with you, so thank you.

A huge thank you to Father Dat who has now completed his first full year at our Parish. He has worked tirelessly in filling the big shoes left by father Bryan and I know your energy and enthusiasm has been infectious with the Parish community.

Every year the Board is amazed by the generosity of the P&F and their contributions to the school. Our community is extremely lucky to have a committed and passionate group of parent volunteers who continually strive to make Mater Christi a wonderful place for both staff and students. Thanks to the President, Teresa Lawson and Vice President, Marina Hayward and the whole executive who have contributed to the success of the P&F in 2017.

Unfortunately we are losing many members from our community this year. Any community goes through periods of transition and change. The Board would like to acknowledge all those individuals who have contributed to the Mater Christi community in the visit be it 1 year or 30 years. To the staff, both teaching and support, who will be continuing your professional journeys in other locations we wish you all the very best for the future. To the exiting P&F members thank you for your end hours of volunteer work. To departing Board members I will speak about you later.

In closing, I'd like to thank the 2017 Board members for their dedication and commitment to making Mater Christi the school of choice in this area. As a group we have worked hard on not only making sure the 2018 year provides a great learning environment for our current students but I appreciate your support in making sure the 2030 students who attend this great school also have the best education. The school is again in a very strong position spiritually with the strong partnership we have with the Parish, educationally, with great staff and high student enrolment levels, and financially with money in the bank. I hope to continue this in the future.

Thank you

Mark Clayden  
Board Chairperson 2017