

BOT TALK

St Patrick's Catholic School

Board of Trustees

TERM 3

PRIORITIES

- Monitoring progress against Strategic 2017 Annual Plan
- Recruitment for a new Principal
- Monitoring of Student Accounts

UPDATE ON RECRUITMENT FOR A NEW PRINCIPAL

The Board is on track with the recruitment process - which is vastly different from how things roll in the private sector, and a learning curve for those on the Appointments Committee! We started off by canvassing the school community for their thoughts on what type of Principal we should be seeking. The consultant who is helping us commented that our Student Voice feedback was the best he had seen - so well done to both teachers and students on this. Next came preparation of the application pack (our animation was viewed over 1,900 times!). Any potential applicants had to be accepted by the Bishop before being able to progress to formal application. We have shortlisted and are now down to the wire with visits to schools of prospective candidates carried out and interviews planned for 12 August. All going well we will agree on a preferred candidate - and will let you know as soon as any decision has been made.

THE BOT—ONE YEAR ON!

Reflection from Board Chair

As the anniversary of the Board's first meeting fell (22 June 2016), I took some time to reflect with the Board on what we had achieved in our first year together. The majority of board members were new and I think it's fair to say that probably everyone underestimated the amount of work that was required to discharge our responsibilities. However, all members have risen to the challenge with good humor and commitment to support the goal of taking St Patrick's on its "good to great" journey. Whilst there are some things we haven't achieved, considering the challenges we have been presented with; a departing Principal and administration staff, overall the Board has achieved an enormous amount.

There is still lots of work to do, but we are moving in the right direction, hopefully appointing a new Principal for the start of Term 4.

I ask you to support your school (in particular the Board looks forward to seeing the parents of Year 6 students at the senior school transition information evening on 23 August), communicate well with your children's teachers and lend a hand when you are able.

Here's some of the things that we have tackled:

- *Reset the Strategic Plan and Charter.*
- *Worked closely with the Acting Principal to ensure the smooth running of the school while we hunt for a new head.*
- *Reset the standards for property maintenance, managed to finally get all outstanding building work complete, along with installation of a new pool fence. Held a working bee and tidied up the senior classrooms. Put a new property maintenance contract in place.*
- *Reviewed and redesigned administration roles and successfully recruited to these positions.*
- *Undertook surveys (community, Principal) and developed the BOT Talk.*
- *Continued to develop policies as required.*
- *Completed the Health and Safety Manual, which is about to be rolled out.*
- *Put in place a new IT maintenance contract.*

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FEEDBACK FROM 2016 SCHOOL COMMUNITY SURVEY

What we have been up to?

You will remember that the Board carried out a survey at the end of last year to gauge what was going well and what needed attention. We fed back some initial high level results at the time. Whilst the recruitment of our new Principal has dominated the Board's work in recent months, the information received from the survey hasn't been ignored, and I wanted to feedback to you some of the themes that came through the survey and our response to these.

Comment	Response
Keen for school app, update website	We have signed an agreement with Cyclone, who will help us with our IT, including a revamp of our website. We will discuss the development and cost of a school app and report back.
Disappointment regarding the low attendance at community masses	The Board couldn't agree more! We will work with Father Joe to consider a Saturday evening time slot and the length of the service to encourage attendance. Attending mass once a term is hardly demanding, and the Board encourages all families to lock these dates in their diaries.
Charism Awards	There was some feeling that these are given to the same students all the time - this has been fed back to the teaching staff for their attention.
Criticism of the senior classrooms	A working bee in January went some way to freshening up these rooms. The Board is working with the Diocese Property Manager on a plan to further enhance the senior area.
More sports equipment available at break times	A recent stock take of sports equipment has been undertaken by the Sports Committee. We have heaps of stuff! Teaching staff will make sure this is available to keep our students active. It should also be noted that we have some generous parents who take sporting activities during lunch times and after school.
Sports to be more organised	The Sports Committee is currently working on its roles and responsibilities. We remain grateful to those parents offering their time.
Suggested that Facebook is used for celebrating our students' achievements	Great idea! We are getting better at using social media to communicate.
Annual awards based on students demonstrating the school values	This will certainly be considered. The senior leadership programme is based on this.
Improved organisation	We have recently gone through a process of reviewing and redesigning the administration roles, with the creation of the Executive Officer role and Receptionist. There will be a focus on streamlining of administration processes, and Dianne will be leading this exercise, with the assistance of Vicky.
Improved communication/welcome to school induction evenings.	The Board has spent a lot of time and effort on improving communication (making ourselves available, surveys and the BOT Talk, case in point); we will continue to work on this. What we need now is more families engaging with the school and attending information evenings and other school events.
There are lots of parents who want to help	This is great news, and we encourage families to offer their help - in particular help with our PTA would be really appreciated.
Education regarding National Standards needed	We included some website links in a previous BOT Talk - there is some great information on line, but your classroom teacher will always be happy to answer your questions on this.
A call for more camps from some, and less from others	This is a real balancing act. Outside the classroom experiences are really valuable, but this needs to be balanced with delivery of the overall curriculum and the cost to families. We'll keep working on this as we want to offer our students lots of interesting experiences.
More music opportunities	One of our parents, Sinead Buckley has very kindly offered to assist with a school choir. She has now had two sessions with interested children - we look forward to hearing them perform in due course.