

Board Treasurers Report 2019 AGM

Good evening to you all and thanks for attending the 2018 Annual General Meeting.

This year has been a challenging year for the school as we have undertaken one of the largest changes to financial management in the Catholic School system for many years, the change to accrual accounting.

Whilst this does not necessarily impact the day to day running of the school the changes to reporting, asset management and debtor management have imposed a significant workload on the school team. My thanks to the professionalism and dedication of everyone involved and particularly special thanks to Sue Haynes who has made my life as treasurer much easier.

If you recall 4 years ago we began a long term process to change from a 3 stream school to a 2 stream school and at that time we had projected this to be a challenging journey not only from a change perspective but from a financial perspective.

Historically the Board has taken a relatively conservative approach with a view to holding a solid cash reserve to be prepared for unexpected consequences. Our original financial forecasts painted a fairly bleak picture with a steady and rapidly increasing runoff of retained funds which would have left the school in the unenviable position that many other schools find themselves in where they need to borrow money each year just to fund January salaries.

The prudential management of the school and the board over these past four years has meant that the school has been able to maintain its cash reserves whilst still undertaking a number of capital works to improve the school and outcomes for the children.

The first graph here shows the source of funds as has been budgeted for next year and as you will see we still rely on Government Funding for the bulk of our income for the school. We continue to work with families to support them around tuition fees and this year we have seen significant improvement in this area.

The second graph displays how the school is budgeting to spend its income and as expected salaries for staff make up the bulk of where our funding is spent. What is pleasing to note is that the school has continued to refine how services to the students is being delivered and I know the Principal is going to share some details on improved service next year. The school and the board continue to review expenses on an ongoing basis and look to invest where it makes sense to provide better outcomes for the children.

The third slide shown here provides a snapshot of the expected cash movements for the rest of this year and as you can see we are looking to maintain our cash position coming into next year which is a fantastic position to be in once again.

Finally, I would like to touch on school fees and the approach taken this year by the school and supported by the board is to have a small increase of 1% which equates to 39c for primary and 29c for kindy per week to ensure that over time there are no large movements in fees required to cover past decisions to not raise fees. The impact on a weekly basis is relatively small and the Health Care Card benefit remains significant for those families in challenging circumstances.

Thank you and I welcome any questions from the floor.

Colin Schotte
Treasurer
MMCCPS