

*Holy Rosary School – 2018 Annual Community Meeting*

**School Board Chair's Report – Jonathon Woolfrey**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of the Board of Holy Rosary School.

I often am asked by parents, what does the School Board do. And this is a good question.

And in a sign of, what I believe, is an increasing sense of engagement in the school, I've been asked that question more than ever this year!

And that's a great sign for our School – engaged parents are great for our children. And the increasing levels of engagement in our School are great for our community.

As I've reported at previous ACMs, a lot of the Board's work has been in trying to navigate a complicated planning pathway to ensure that we provide our children with the school they deserve. We do this in an increasingly complex school funding environment.

In addition to the ordinary duties of the Board, we have spent the best part of 3 years attempting to negotiate the framework for a Vision for the capital needs of our school. A vision that will set us up for the school we aspire for well into the future.

I am pleased to say that we have really started to gain some traction from the hard work required to bring this plan to fruition.

Beginning with an extraordinary Board strategic planning session in December last year, we have been mapping out that vision, and developing a School strategic plan that will really provide a living way to ensure we're on the same page of this journey.

Behind the scenes, the Board has put in an enormous effort to help bring this strategic plan to life. With a number of extra sessions this year, including meeting after hours every week for the past 3 weeks, we are in a position to launch a strategic plan at the beginning of 2019.

As you would probably be aware, we've had unprecedented engagement with our School community in our plan, and our families have shown their desire to be involved. We had 86 families provide comprehensive feedback by way of our community survey.

We've had all the staff involved helping design what makes our school unique, now and into the future.

We've had a significant amount of our children involved, and their voices in our strategic planning are genuinely being heard.

We've invited our Parish, and have had Fr. Peter there for every session, again, so our whole community can help make this school what it can be.

To this end, and as a big part of our strategic agenda, we have submitted our first Capital Development Plan in many years to the Catholic Education Commission for consideration in 2019.

Our strategic plan is nearing its end point, and will be authentic to our community in 2019.

And we've had tens of parents put their hand up to be part of that strategic journey.

As I mentioned, we do this within the context of a challenging funding environment. Our School needs to keep our focus clearly on making sure decisions are being made to put us in a sustainable situation, and we're doing that.

Given the wonderful foundation we have to base our strategic plan on, we are truly on a great pathway. Our engagement with the community has really demonstrated that.

I would like to conclude by thanking my fellow Board members for their generous time this year, which has been over and above what they would have otherwise expected. It can be a thankless role, and a role that welcomes a lot of feedback every time you go out, as I am sure they can attest!

In addition, Mark de Kluyver and Geordie Thuijs who are here until late many evenings as part of the School Board, on top of their tireless commitment during the day to our children.

Peta Berry, who has so ably stepped into the role of Treasurer this year, in addition to her ordinary school board responsibilities.

Debs Noblett, our Board secretary, who ensures the Board is accountable for its decisions, and ensures the governance and the transparency of the Board is taken care of.

And Fr. Peter, who has been a fantastic contributor during his first year as part of our community and School Board.

And finally thank you to all the staff at our school. We remain forever cognisant that the work of the Board is to support the staff who make the real difference in our children's time at the school. To each and every one of you, thank you for your contribution.

Thank you for your time tonight, and have a Happy and Safe Holy Season.