

ASPS School Council AGM

21 March 2017

School Council President's Report

Welcome everyone to the School Council AGM. My name is Mark Emney and I've had the privilege of being the President of your School Council for the last 12 months.

2016 was another big year for our school. I'd like to share with you some of the key areas where Council has been involved over the last 12 months, as well as acknowledge the many people across our community who contribute to the running and success of our school.

Your School Council has an important role to play in helping set the long-term future for the school, and maintaining oversight of the school's operation. It is not about running the school though – that is the job of the School Principal, Marcus, and his team.

Participation on Council is a big time investment for everyone involved and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Members - parents and school staff alike - for their enthusiasm and commitment.

There are a number of Members stepping down and I'd like to recognise all of them for their contribution. I would particularly like to thank our outgoing Vice President Suzie Bratuskins and outgoing Treasurer Peter Wilmshurst for their commitment and also wise counsel they have provided to me over the last 2 years.

I do believe over 2016 we have continued to harness the diverse talents and energies of Members to create a Council that is cohesive, effective, and action-oriented. This is an area of continual improvement and with the broad number of nominations for Council this year, and new people coming on board, I am confident we can do this even better in 2017.

As a Council we have, and will continue to be, focussed on creating the best possible school for all of our children, and supporting Marcus and his team to achieve this, with the appropriate positive challenge and guidance.

Over the last 12 months, Council has monitored the implementation of the school's three-year Strategic Plan and engaged in the development

of the Annual Implementation Plan for 2017. These Plans reflect what the school wants to achieve in the future and how it plans to get there, particularly around improving student outcomes. We will hear more on progress on these from Marcus in his Principal's Annual Report.

Council's Education Sub-committee has also continued to work diligently to develop a comprehensive series of high quality policies for the school and I thank them for their contribution.

One of Council's most important roles is to approve and maintain oversight of the school's annual financial budget. A Finance sub-Committee performs the heavy lifting on this task. In the absence of Peter Wilmshurst, its Treasurer, I'll invite Filippa Shub to say a few words on the state of the school's finances shortly. A particular highlight this year has been the heightened commercial focus on a number of the school's more significant expenditure areas, such as after-care and cleaning, which has resulted in new contracts being executed with material improvements in financial benefits and/or quality.

On the subject of finances, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognise our proactive student, parent, staff and broader community for their continued fundraising efforts over 2016 culminating in another successful School Fair which raised close to \$90,000 profit. We deeply appreciate the hard work from everyone involved, and as a Council we place the utmost importance on ensuring these monies are deployed effectively.

To this regard, a major focus of School Council in 2016 has been the establishment of a more robust framework and process for how monies from major fund raising activities get managed and spent, to ensure value for money and improved transparency to community stakeholders. Taking the School Fair as an example, it is recognised there is a degree of frustration when the community is unable to easily understand how much money was raised and where it has, or is being, spent. Marcus will deal with this specifically in his Principal's Annual Report.

To help provide a clear direction for future fundraising, Council undertook an extensive survey in 2016 seeking community input around priority initiatives where monies raised should be deployed. This received a very positive number of responses - just under 200 - and Council has subsequently shortlisted a prioritized set of initiatives, based on community feedback. These have either been actioned, are

currently being actioned or being further evaluated due to the potential cost involved.

We look forward to sharing more on these initiatives throughout the year as further progress is made.

In closing, I'd like to acknowledge a number of people who contribute so much to our school.

- Firstly, parents and carers. I truly believe Auburn South is blessed to have such a passionate, supportive and engaged parent community. I'd like to recognise and thank the many parents and carers who have contributed their time and energy across every facet of the school. We cannot afford to take volunteering, or our volunteers, for granted, however, and I believe there is more we can do as School Council to continue to foster, promote and celebrate a vibrant volunteering culture across our community.
- Secondly, teachers and support staff at every level of ASPS, thank you. Their dedication, kindness and caring for our children is the reason we see our kids grow and thrive through their journeys at the school.
- In closing, I'd like to thank Marcus for his continued leadership of the school. It's a tough job being a School Principal and you are constantly in the spotlight. You lead visibly from the front while also putting in a huge amount of work behind the scenes, and you should feel proud of everything the school has achieved over the last 12 months, particularly while you juggle a young family of your own.

That concludes my School Council President's Report for 2016. Thank you.