

ASPS School Council AGM: 27 March 2018

School Council President's Report

Welcome to our School Council AGM for 2018. My name is Mark Emney and I've had the privilege of being President of your School Council for the last 12 months.

School Council has an important role to play in helping set the future direction for our school, and maintaining oversight of its operation. Council is not there to run the school – that is the job of our Principal, Marcus, and the rest of the School Leadership Team together with our terrific group of teachers and support staff.

Council's focus is on supporting the School's Leadership Team to enable our school and students to flourish, but also to provide the appropriate level of governance that the community would expect. It's a balanced role which I believe Council does well through the diverse skills and active contribution of its members, parents and staff alike.

Participation on Council is a significant time investment for everyone involved and I'd like to thank all Members for their enthusiasm and commitment over the last 12 months.

I do believe over 2017 we have continued to positively harness the talents and energies of Members to create a robust Council that is focused on delivering positive outcomes for the School and our students. Strong governance, transparency of decision-making and open communication are all themes that Council place great importance in. While we continue to move forward in all three of these areas, our own end of year Council self-evaluation has highlighted opportunities to improve these still further, and I am confident that Council will act on these over the coming year.

Over the last 12 months, Council has monitored the development of, and approved, the School's Strategic Learning Plan for the next four years. This has been a major undertaking by the School's Leadership Team to identify and prioritise those initiatives that will drive the best possible learning outcomes and wellbeing for our students. Council has also monitored the execution of the school's Annual Implementation Plan for 2017 and development of the 2018 Plan, These Plans reflect what the school wants to achieve in the future and how it plans to get there. We will hear more on these from Marcus in his Principal's Report and Presentation of the 2017 Annual Report.

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

One of Council's key roles is to approve and maintain oversight of the school's annual financial budget. We are not a well-funded school and our finances require careful ongoing management. A Finance Sub-Committee performs the heavy lifting on this task and I'd like to recognise the strong progress that the team have made this year in lifting the quality and transparency of the school's financial reporting. I'll invite Simon McCarthy and John O'Callaghan, our two Co-Treasurers, to say a few words on the school's finances shortly.

Council has also established two Sub-Committees to support the financial and broader success of the school's two trading operations, our Uniform Shop and Canteen. I'd like to thank the parents who run, and volunteer for, Uniform Shop and Canteen.

The School's Healthy Eating Initiative has given rise to a fair amount of debate within our community. Following the end of year survey, which drew a very positive response from parents, Council remain committed to implementing the Initiative which reflects the community's desire to see our Canteen continue to thrive albeit with a healthier range of menu options.

Our proactive student, parent, staff and broader community, led by the wonderful Parents Association, have continued to work tirelessly to deliver community events and raise funds over 2017. Council deeply appreciate the hard work from everyone involved which has resulted in a number of good causes supported, and funding directed to tangible improvements to the school including new play areas and improved toilet facilities.

In closing I'd like to recognise the seven Staff and Parent Members stepping down from Council and thank them for their contribution. I would also like to welcome the seven new Staff and Parent Members who are joining Council this year. While there is always an inevitable period of transition with so many Members changing, I am very confident that our new Council will make great strides over the coming years and I wish them every success.

On a personal note, I am stepping down from Council after four years, three as President. It has been a privilege to serve in the role and a hugely rewarding experience, made easier by the calibre, character and commitment of my fellow Members so I thank all of them over the last three years who have provided such great support along the way.

That concludes my School Council President's Report for 2018.