

Community Annual General Meeting - Monday 21 November 2016

Interim College Board Chair's Report

Today is very significant in the life of Salvado Catholic College. Not only is it our inaugural annual school community meeting, it marks the hand over of board responsibilities from the Interim College Board to a board elected by the school community.

You would be aware from information posted in our College newsletter that from the very early days of planning for the establishment of Salvado Catholic College, an Interim College Board was set up by Catholic Education WA. Over recent years the Interim Board has been involved in:

- Consultation regarding the selection of an architect, builder and quantity surveyor for our new school
- Discussions concerning the design, planning and building of our school
- Representation on the selection panel for our foundation Principal, Mr Santino Giancono
- Discussions and decisions surrounding a variety of matters relating to the establishment of our school (uniforms, marketing, tuition charges, enrolments etc), and
- Monitoring of College finances in this foundation year.

The initial Interim Board members responded to an invitation by Catholic Education WA and comprised a number of people with specific educational experience that was considered useful in the establishment of a new school, together with those having a particular vested interest in the school as prospective parents, parish priest etc.

The outgoing Interim Board comprises 9 members – Fr Kaz, Santino Giancono, Shaun Mayne, Keith Gilbert, John Keogh, Rob Romeo and I have been on the Interim Board for some time. In the middle part of this year we co-opted Kosoula Chase and Dillon McLeod to bring more parent representation to the group. I am most grateful to all of our board members for their generosity of spirit and willingness to be part of our Interim Board. I also extend a vote of thanks to other board members such as Lisa Brooks and Damian McDaid who have since retired from the board but have also made wonderful contributions. I particularly acknowledge Clem Mulcahy who was the foundation chair of our Interim Board, prior to my taking on this role just under two years ago. You will notice later in the meeting, when we elect our new Board, that Santino and Fr Kaz remain on the board as ex-officio members by virtue of their respective roles.

I believe this foundation year for students, staff and parents has been exceptional. We were able to move into our buildings on time, the year has progressed smoothly – especially for a new school, our enrolments are sound, as are our finances; and there is a lovely sense of community when you come to Salvado Catholic College. I know that there were moments last year when Santino and the Board were concerned that enrolment applications were coming in a little too slowly. In fact at this time last year we only had eighty something confirmed enrolments. I believe a large part of a successful year in 2016 has been the enthusiasm, passion and drive of our College Principal, Mr Santino Giancono. Santino gave up many hours of his time last year, promoting our school through visits to shopping centres and market days, letter drops to homes and a variety of other avenues through which to promote our school.

Thank you Santino for making this first year of Salvado Catholic College so special. You are passionate about our school, always trying to put as much positive spin as possible on everything that happens here. I would love a dollar for every time I have heard or read words from Santino such as awesome, amazing and happy days! Santino, I know that you use these words to describe happenings and other people at Salvado but we reckon you are pretty awesome and amazing yourself and we are blessed to have you as our Principal. Thank you for getting Salvado off to such a great start.

I know that I speak on behalf of the Board when I also acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our teaching and non-teaching staff members. It is always a huge task to get a new school up and running because many resources etc have to be developed from scratch, let alone establishing new policies and procedures to ensure a new school runs smoothly. So thank you to our teachers, teacher assistants, office personnel and others who make the school operate so effectively for the benefit of the children in our care. From a Board perspective, we would particularly like to acknowledge Sam Chapman for the time put into the provision of financial reports for the Board, which has been quite challenging given the shortcomings of a new financial software package that we and a few other schools have been trialling for the system.

A representative group of staff, together with planning and design professionals has been formed for the purposes of planning for the future development of a full K-12 campus for Salvado Catholic College. Our initial meetings have involved revisiting the master plan for our College to ensure that it will meet the needs of an evolving student population in the coming years.

In closing, it is with great anticipation that we, the Interim Board, hand over responsibility for our role to an elected Board comprising a broader representation of the current school community; and we wish the incoming Board all the very best for their future endeavours.

I wish all at Salvado a very happy and holy Christmas, a safe and enjoyable vacation period when it eventually arrives and I am sure that 2017 will bring much success for our school, as was the case in 2016.

John Aldous
Interim Board Chair
21st November, 2016