

Chairman's report 2015

I'm pleased to report that, from a school board point of view, 2015 has been a good and steady year and we are hoping that we have things on track for more of the same next year. That might sound a bit dull for some, but given that our primary responsibility is the financial governance of the school, I like it.

Overall, we have in our sights two main processes. One is the change in the funding to schools that will be rolled out in 2017 and the other is planning for the necessary improvements to the school buildings and infrastructure. This of course is not to take away from essential functions such as being in a strong position to cover the necessary costs of educating our children, such as paying the teachers!

The impact of what was once known as the Gonski review and recommendations remains uncertain, even though the implementation date of 2017 draws closer. From the estimates and modelling we have from Catholic Education, it is likely that the funding we receive from State and Federal governments will decrease. We are looking at a range of revenue options, and unfortunately one of these is increasing school fees. As much as I would like to be paying less, we need to be well prepared for 2017.

Whilst paying our fabulous staff is clearly one of the key expenditure areas, we also need to keep in mind the physical resources of our school. These also need due attention. We have been developing an improvement plan for the years 1-3 classrooms and associated buildings and I'm sure all would agree that they are close to their use by date. Nothing is locked in yet, but we are making good progress with design and financial planning.

I must thank Steve Versteegen and Aleana Brennan for their leadership and contribution. I'm always happy to sing Steve's praises, but I think its Aleana who deserves the greatest praise for taking on the Assistant Principal position at short notice and doing an amazing job. Thanks must also go to Father Don, not for nicking off to the Emerald Isle, but for his steady support of the board over the years and for nurturing such a positive relationship between the parish and school. We wish him all the best. Welcome also to Father Emmanuel!

Lastly, thanks to all who have contributed to the life of this great school community.

Regards,

Simon Williams