

JPC AWARDS NIGHT – SCHOOL BOARD REPORT 2019

Good evening and welcome students, staff, families and friends, Frs Renald Jeffrey & Brennan and distinguished guests, to the John Paul College Awards Night 2019. It has been my privilege to serve as the School Board Chairperson of John Paul College this year.

The role of the School Board is to represent the school community and actively promote and support the Catholic ethos of the school. The Board is entrusted with planning to meet the present and future needs of the school. The Board achieves this by overseeing the financial running of the school and to act in an advisory capacity to the Principal when required on financial and strategic matters.

This year we welcomed to the Board,

1. Steve Hogan - Vice Chair Person;
2. Rikki-Lee Rigby – representative on the Planning and Finance Sub-committees;
3. David Chapman and Daniel Hurrell – representative on the Planning Sub-Committee.

Our continuing members were

4. Kayleen King – Board Treasurer, P & F representative and representative on the Finance Sub- Committee
5. Sharon Henderson – Board Secretary
6. Rob Miller – representative on the Planning Sub-Committee and
7. Bradley Hall our school principal and Fr Renald Anthony acting as Ex-Officio members and Margaret Orazi – our minutes secretary which completes our Board.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the JPC Board for their contribution throughout 2019, giving up their time and providing their expertise and views to ensure JPC continues to be regarded as a strong and well-functioning school in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Your energy, passion and care is very much appreciated and I look forward to what 2020 brings us knowing that the students of this school must be at the centre of all our decision making.

Without doubt, 2019 has been a very progressive year in relation to the Capital Development Program at John Paul College. The focus on the current planning and provision of buildings and facilities has come to the completion of Stage 14 – the new Design and Technology Building and Trade Training Centre. This impressive building has been installed with solar panels, air conditioning and has all of the relevant industry standards for safety, machinery use and other workplace practices. The build is at the practical completion stage and occupancy will occur when a certificate of “occupation” from the council is received. Once this is finalised, students will be able to use the facility.

The completion of Stage 14 is a reminder of how fortunate we are as a school community to have classrooms, specialist areas and purpose built buildings that are state of the art and house the latest and up to date resources that can enhance our student's education and learning. I recently had a tour of the building and it is without doubt an incredible facility, built to the highest quality and safety standards. There is a definite "wow" factor the minute you walk into the building which will stimulate and motivate our students to perform at their very best.

Continuing on with the Capital Development Programme, the tender for Stage 15 has been awarded and is currently being signed off so work can commence in the next few weeks. Stage 15 is expected to take approx. 46 weeks to complete.

Stage 15 will begin with, the conversion of the current canteen to a self-service operation. Following on the current Design and Technology facility will be refurbished to accommodate Textiles, Robotics and Education Support. Covered walkways, to link buildings providing protection for the weather will be also erected. Finally, the MacKillop block will be remodelled to include an internal learning space which will make that area of the school more appealing and engaging. Renewables are a key ingredient to the building as they are planned to be used in these new building facilities also.

John Paul College has invested \$4.4 million towards the Stage 14 development. The contract price for Stage 15 is \$3.8 million. The operations of the college are funded by Federal and State Government grants and family contributions. As John Paul College is part of a State Catholic system, the funding that is sourced from the government is carefully managed so that all Catholic schools can benefit according to their needs. Thank you to Mrs Marg Orazi for her continued commitment as College Bursar and Business manager.

There were a few key events during the year that the Board were involved in.

In August this year, the Board received a letter from Dr Debra Sayce, the Executive Director of CEWA, outlining the Bishops of WA decision to incorporate Catholic Education in WA. Now, in line with the recommendations following an extensive consultation process, our system will be incorporated as CEWA Limited from the beginning of 2020. The Bishops of Broome, Bunbury and Geraldton and the Archbishop of Perth will be the shareholders in this public company, and will appoint a board of commissioners.

In practice the incorporation will have minimal impact on the day-to-day operation of Catholic schools. What it will mean is that the Catholic Education system will be able to operate at a governance level with greater efficiency and transparency, with improved clarity around processes in legal, risk and financial consideration.

During the month of September, a school audit took place at John Paul College. This was a new style audit where information was collected to garner a comprehensive picture of what is happening in the school. As school Board Chair, I was involved in the process as were other members of the Board. The process was very thorough providing careful analysis and reflection assisting the school in future planning and goal setting.

On Friday 20th September, I had the opportunity to attend the biannual Catholic Schools Board Chair Conference. It was really invigorating to be amongst 100 Catholic School Board chairs and Board representatives discussing the important place of School Boards, considering how Boards strengthen our schools and system, and how they can best be involved in the current and future needs of school communities. Board chairs and representatives had opportunities throughout various workshops to discuss, ask questions, and have their say on what makes a good Catholic school. I found the conference a great opportunity to network with fellow board chairs and was inspired and encouraged with the direction Catholic education and School Boards are taking in our state.

To our P & F, Sharon Henderson – P & F President, Paige Chinnery – P & F Secretary, Rikki-Lee Rigby P & F Treasurer, Kayleen King Board P & F representative and the whole Executive Committee, thank you for the tireless work you do. Each year the P&F pledges money to the purchase of additional resources for the students of John Paul College. I would particularly like to acknowledge the very generous pledge of \$100 000 from the P & F towards Stage 15 in the provision of shade cloths for the newly refurbished Canteen area. We are grateful for the financial contribution made by the P & F, but more importantly the sense of belonging and community spirit which is fostered by bringing people together and working for a common cause. We look forward to your ongoing support in 2020.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend a sincere thanks to the dedicated and committed teaching staff of JPC. The tireless hours spent both inside and outside the classroom is noted and appreciated. The work you do for our students has a long term impact on them, shaping future generations and preparing them for the road in life. Wishing you all a successful end to the school year and restful break over the summer holidays.

A special thanks to Fr Renald Anthony our College Chaplain, our office administration staff, canteen staff and grounds staff of JPC, you fulfil vital roles in the operation and appearance of our school.

To Mrs Denise Franklyn Dean of Students, Mr Keith Nicholas Vice Principal and Mr Bradley Hall our Principal thank you for your ongoing leadership, dedication to our school community and our children. We look forward to you leading us into an exciting and a continued productive 2020.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge our incoming school leaders for 2020, may you aim high in all that you do to be exemplary role models and strive for unity through cooperation with staff and other students.

The Board extends its warmest congratulations to the Graduating class of 2019 and wishes you well for your next adventure as you leave the school one last time. As Dr Sues said "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose."

In conclusion as we look towards 2020, I encourage anyone who is interested in a role on the Board or P & F to make a contribution to these organisations. Your time and energy will be much appreciated and it's a chance to make a difference in our school community.

On behalf of the 2019 John Paul College Board, I wish everyone an enjoyable evening. Thank you and God Bless.

Ann Spence

JPC SCHOOL

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