

School Board Report

December 2nd 2016

The Board Chair, Claudia Renner, opened the meeting, acknowledging the two community members who were in attendance. Claudia also welcomed Debbie Humphrey (Manager Corporate Services) who replaced Trudy Lees this term.

School Finance Report: Debbie Humphrey gave an overview of the school's finances as of the end of 2016 and highlighted some changes in 2017. Families have been provided with a new Voluntary Contributions and Charges Schedule for the New Year, outlining the distribution of funds collected. Statements of unpaid items will be sent to parents as reminders in 2017 as only 54% of these had been recouped in 2016. A new EFTPOS machine is being used by the Front Office and parents will pay via this method for excursions etc. from now on. The Board thanked Debbie for her presentation.

The Agenda included a review of our Priorities from the Carine PS Business Plan.

Priority 1: Differentiated Curriculum: Naplan Targeted Areas, Students at Educational Risk, PEAC and Early Years Extension:

Deputy Robert Adams led a discussion outlining the whole school process of targeting individual students and groups for improvement through incorporating triangulated data, staff analysis of NAPLAN results and identifying individual concepts and questions needing consolidation from year group assessments (MCJ). These then form the targets in the School Operational Plan. Deputy Leanne Vardy explained the Students at Educational Risk (SAER) process and how this closely aligns with the target areas. The school works with parents and all outside agencies to address individual student needs.

Teacher Kylie Box received a grant for the **Reflex** Maths Program, enabling her to have free use of the program with her class for the next 12 months. This program is being effectively used in the US to boost knowledge and fluency of basic facts. Parents can purchase the program for home use for \$35.

In PEAC, ten students were identified through the PEAC testing in Year 4 this year and seven will be attending in Round One. In 2017, the mandated On-Entry assessment for PP students will be conducted in Weeks 3 to 6. Through this, student strengths and weaknesses are identified and those students who demonstrate a high level of achievements across the district may be offered a place in the Early Years Extension (EYE) program. Students can also be nominated by their teachers in Year One.

Priorities 2,4& 5: Digital Technologies and STEM Community Partnerships Enhancing Student Opportunities – Review and Directions 2017

Anne Fraser led a discussion on Science Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). The National STEM Strategy 2016 -2026 was implemented to negate the cultural norm of it being OK to be "not good at Maths" and not continue with higher Maths (and Science) in secondary schools. The school's vision and focus in STEM includes critical and creative thinking to promote problem solving skills and innovative thinking with the aim to increase student engagement and participation in STEM subjects. CPS has a Coding Club and RAD classes and critical and creative thinking is woven into all areas of the Operational Plan. Teachers will be required to formally report on Digital and Design Technologies in 2018 and in implementing these initiatives now, CPS will be well placed to address this requirement when the time comes.

Priority 3. Learning Environment – School Surveys, Student Behaviour and Attendance:

School Surveys: Robert informed the Board of the latest School Survey results conducted this term for parents, students and staff. There was a comparison between the 2014 and 2016 results with all areas being positive and most areas ranked very high. Of the 668 emails sent out to parents, 100 responses were received with one item "The school takes parents' opinions seriously" ranked slightly lower than the rest. A Board member commented that survey data can be easily skewed if the numbers of responders are a small part of the whole and it was also acknowledged that this statement encompasses the opinion of "Neither agree or disagree". However the Principal stated that the school will work to improve this perception and she is already targeting the parents of the early years, particularly in reminding them to come in directly to resolve issues rather than using social media to amplify and complicate a resolution. Staff reps discussed that the school does take the opinion of its parents seriously however there are diverse opinions and not all opinions are in the best interest of the school or its students. The school is at capacity and is turning away parents requesting

to enrol their students. Staff reps also commented on the amount of positive parent feedback received all throughout the year. The student ratings in the survey conveyed very positive feedback. They viewed their school as a supportive, happy learning environment and that their teachers were here to assist them to learn and cared for them. Similarly, the staff survey results were also very positive with a focus on strong teamwork a clear purpose and working for the best interests of their students.

Attendance and Behaviour: Leanne showed Board members the Semester 1 Attendance data, reflecting that the percentage of students who attend school regularly is slightly down on previous years. Attendance remains a focus for the school along with students coming late to class. Student behaviour data at CPS revealed that very few students needed to be counselled in the Admin Office but it was the same students who were the repeat visitors. It was noted that generally, in any altercation, students involved would be happy to resolve the issues, acknowledge their accountability and move forward as "Carine Kids".

Digital Technologies –Practical Demonstration:

Rebecca Rick, who has taken over the Robotics And Digital Technology (RAD) class, gave the Board a brief overview of the coding and digital programming she is doing with the students. Board members were given a demonstration of programming a Sphero. Rebecca integrates Design and Digital Technologies with Literacy, Numeracy and Science because the digital technologies are such an integral part of these core learning areas. Parents were invited into the Coding Club classes for a "Show and Tell" session and were fully engaged in the activity. Students are being challenged and finding a great deal of success in the complexity of programming the Edison Robots and Spheros. The Board thanked Rebecca for her time and effort in providing an interesting overview of her role in the school.

Successes 2016:

There have been many successes in 2016 including;

- Encouraging NAPLAN results
- Success in the Early Years Speech Therapy initiative
- ICAS Competition achievements
- Maths Olympiad,
- NAIDOC Week Competition winner
- CPS reaching the Top 100 Schools League Ladder in the Australian Newspaper
- Conceptualising the STEM initiatives
- Maintaining a high profile in the district where parents are continually looking to enrol their children in the school.
- Athletics achievements
- Individual Sporting achievements

Parent Involvement: Staff explained that there will always be occasions throughout the year which are only in-school events and not practical for parents to watch eg. Student Councillor speeches where individual students would be overwhelmed in having to speak in front of parents as well as their peers. It was acknowledged that there have been occasions recently where individual parents have sent text messages to other parents from school, causing a lot of unnecessary angst, upset and miscommunication. There are a great number of school events throughout the year where parents are welcome and these are publicised on the school website calendar, in the Newsletter and on the school App. Teachers also use the DoE's 'Connect' tool to communicate information to parents of their class and for the K, PP parents coming through, this will be a major information source for school events. It was suggested that the importance of using the school App be publicised in the Newsletter so that all parents have ready access to school information and this will go in the next newsletter. At the beginning of 2017, the school will produce a flier for teachers to give parents in the Parent/ Teacher meetings so that all parents are aware of the various ways they can communicate with the school eg. downloading the school app, using Connect, reading the newsletters, coming in directly etc.

Closure: Leanne Carville brought some of her students in to show the Board their artwork linked with HASS. The Board members were impressed with their decorated Chinese paper umbrellas which would have been used by the Chinese immigrants during the gold rushes. Board Chair Claudia wished all Board members a Merry Christmas and safe holiday. Anne thanked Claudia for her efforts this year in the role of Board Chair. The next meeting will be 31st March 2017.