

GSC Board – Chairperson’s Report 2017 – 2018

I have pleasure in presenting the Chairperson’s Report for 2017-18.

“The purpose of the Geraldton Senior High School Board (the Board) is to enable members representing our community to engage in activities that are in the best interests of students and will enhance the education provided by the school”.

This is a statement taken from our Terms of Reference built from direction provided in the ‘Western Australian School Education Act 1999’ and the ‘Western Australian School Education Regulations 2000’.

During the past fifteen months, the Board has developed and published its Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct. These provide guidance for what we do and how we engage at regular meetings, participate in the wider community and what we are accountable for as representatives.

To reach the situation where we can assure continuity of service, half the inaugural Board member group resigned during term one and a fresh election ensued. Some former members were re-elected, others took the opportunity to finish their duty and new members commenced. The Board has always had a full complement of members including four staff representatives, five parent representatives and five community representatives.

Board members have been dependent on reporting material and commentary provided by Principal Greg Kelly to be informed about how the school is strategically placed and operating, how students are performing and the extent to which resources are meeting current and possible future needs.

We have appreciated the thoroughness in preparation, completion of reporting documents and opportunity to question and discuss points of interest and concern. Communicating via the Connect platform is established and all members access documents through this medium, albeit somewhat differentially. Support for members has been available through Executive Officer, Andrea Ducas.

At this stage of the year and the lead in to our ‘modern day’ uncharted territory of transitioning to a Year 7-12 campus as an Independent Public School we must have confidence in the process being followed by staff to manage the change under principal Greg Kelly’s leadership.

The Board has been kept informed of the Transition Committee’s work and through the regular Principal Report component of our Board meetings we are aware of the preservation of the motto “The Seeker Finds”, changes to the crest and uniform, the structure of the school day and a fairer allocation of resources provided by the Department of Education to support the transition process.

The success of marketing the school to the community will largely be measured by enrolments and tested by co-operation between public school principals operating within a context of Local Intake Areas and public expectation about individual choice. This could be a contentious area as the year progresses and difficult to manage as numbers fluctuate through to the start of the new school year in 2019.

The Board endorsed the Charges and Contributions for 2018 by 1 December, Annual Report 2017, Business Plan 2017-19 and the 2018 Leavers' jacket as an additional item to school uniform. The 2018 Budget was ratified at the April meeting. Financial reports presented at each meeting have been received and accepted after appropriate levels of interrogation; and the school's management of an operational deficit approved by the DoE for 2018 has been outlined.

The school presents well in the public space. Recent open events such as the Founders' Assembly and the activities conducted during the National Science Week program promoted through the Goodness Festival were both credit to everyone involved and an effective demonstration of community partnership at work.

The school has had several name changes since commencing as Geraldton High School in 1939. Values and established traditions have endured the challenges of changing demographics over time and public support for an institution steeped in history prevails.

As a Board, we look forward to continuing our support by pursuing healthy debate, respecting difference and developing deeper understanding through responsible challenge.



Garry Simmons

Chairperson

21 August 2018