

Annual Report

Chair of St. Michael's School Board

The role of School Board is to work in collaboration with the School Leadership team to provide advice and expertise to ensure the smooth running of the School. More specifically, the School Board carries out the functions of: 1) planning for the present and future operations of the School; 2) providing membership on selection panels for new staff; 3) managing the finances associated with the School, and 4) supporting the Principal with respect to School policy. However, one of the best aspects of being a part of the School Board is being able to hear about the broad range of activities that occur across the School. While 2020 certainly provided the School community with a number of challenges, it was so pleasing to see the commitment, resilience and adaptability of the School community to face these challenges head-on.

Despite the year being significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the School weathered the journey well. From a financial perspective, the School is in a sound position, built off prudent and strategic decision-making throughout the year. Dr Galos, Mr Powles and Mrs Saunders have demonstrated exceptional leadership across the four pillars of Catholic identity, education, community and stewardship throughout the year, continuing to act in the best interests of the School, its staff and our children. I would like to express a special shout out to Mr Powles who stepped into the Acting Principal role in Term 2. No doubt when Mr Powles agreed to take on the role while Dr Galos was on long-service leave, he was not expecting to do so under such trying circumstances. The fantastic communication and the personal, consultative and authentic approach he took throughout this period truly espouses the values of the School.

I would like to personally thank all of the Board members for their contribution to the St. Michael's School Board for 2020. The Board members for 2020 were: Siobhan Galos (School Principal), Father Son (Parish Priest), Ryan Powles (Deputy Principal), Jemima Saunders (Deputy Principal), Amanda Versace (Secretary), Elliot Brannan (Treasurer), Sue Crinti, Daniel Stefanelli, Jac Wilson (P&F Rep) and Emma Walke. The School Board is undoubtedly greater than the sum of its parts, and the unique perspectives and skills that each member brought to our meetings contributed to the broader goal of delivering high-quality education to the children at St. Michael's.

I would also like to sincerely thank all parents for contributing to the St. Michael's community in their own way, whether that be through commitments to the Board or P&F, engaging in class and school events, or supporting many of the other activities that are run throughout the year. We all live very busy lives, however, the contributions that parents make are such a necessary and valuable contribution to our school community. Thank you all so very much!

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to all of the staff at St. Michael's for their efforts throughout the year. The COVID-19 pandemic affected each and every one of us in a unique way, but it is safe to say that the disruption to teaching and education was profound. The move from face-to-face instruction to home learning, and back to face-to-face again in the space of a few weeks was stressful for all involved. The teaching and support staff were the consummate professionals, and, despite what was no doubt a highly stressful situation, ensured to the best of their capacity that our children received the high-quality education and support we all value at St. Michael's.

Dr Dave Parsons

Chair

St. Michael's School Board

