



SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Annual Community Meeting

22nd February 2023

for the 2022 school year

Introduction

Good evening, everyone. For those of you that do not know me, my name is **Craig Bishop** and I have been with the Advisory Council of St Emilie's for several years, and have been Secretary as well as being fortunate enough to be Chair in 2022.

Before coming here tonight I was discussing what I would say with my wife, and she said to me: 'Don't try to be too charming, too witty or too intellectual, just be yourself'.

Why do we have this ACM, it is an accountability mechanism to CEWA and to the St Emilie's community. It is also an opportunity for the School Advisory Council to report on our work throughout the year and to thank key stakeholders.

St Emilie's school has much to celebrate and be proud of.

Firstly, I wish to acknowledge and thank the people whom I have worked alongside throughout the year.

Our 2022 serving **Advisory Council Members** were:

Council Members 2022

1. Craig Bishop - Chairperson
2. Stephanie Malelo - Secretary
3. Michael Andrews - Treasurer
4. Bec Tennant - P&F Representative
5. Melinda Curren – co-opted
6. Nicole Grima - active member
7. Beau Jose – co-opted October 2022

Ex Officio Members 2022

8. Father Jean-Noel Marie Parish Priest
9. Tania Thuijs - Principal (Semester 1)

10. Stuart Munro - Assistant Principal (Principal Semester 2)
11. Sara Tonkin - Assistant Principal
12. Gillian Norris - School Bursar

Thank You's

I sincerely **thank all Advisory Council members** for your presence at our meetings, for the contributions you have individually and collectively made and for your wise and considered deliberations when discussing the different issues and directions that have required our reflection and input as a team.

That is a bit of a mouthful, so what does all that actually mean, if you do not know what we do on the advisory council here is a sample:

- a. Support and sounding board for the Principal
- b. Advises on financial matters, i.e. funding, budget, sustainability
- c. Planning and development advice, i.e. construction activities
- d. Assessing present and future needs of the school

It was a pleasure welcoming **Melinda Curren** to the Advisory Council at the start of the year. Her passion as well as a calm presence and friendly engagement has been highly valued by us all.

Michael Andrews finished his term on the Advisory Council at the end of 2022. Michael, whilst serving as the treasurer, has been a wonderful person to work with, providing a very high level of expertise around financials. Thank you, Michael, for your wise, considered approach - your presence on the Council will be greatly missed, especially the quick-witted jokes.

The Secretary of the Advisory Council often sits in the background; however, performs an invaluable piece of getting everyone together, sending out all correspondence, and keeping us under the CEWA governance structure required. So, a thank you to **Stephanie Malelo** for taking this role in 2022 and beyond.

Thank you to Tania

A very special thank you is extended to Tania from the Advisory Council, for all her hard work and steady leadership over many years. Our Advisory Council will not be the same without Tania. Your planning (including a huge Principal's report for each meeting about the goings on in the school), hard work, agility and expertise were such valuable assets to our community and your pastoral care and concern for children, staff and families were so appreciated. The Council is now ready for a new chapter in 2023.

Thank you to our Staff

The Advisory Council takes this opportunity to **sincerely thank each and every individual staff member** here at St Emilee's for their incredible hard work, expertise and genuine pastoral care of students and families. It was a difficult year for the staff with the COVID isolation rules and delivering multiple modes of learning.

Post COVID restrictions in 2022, it is great to see the school getting back to what it does best, and engaging with the community, students and families.

The Work of the School Advisory Council in 2022

QCESR (Quality Catholic Education School Review) – It is CEWA’s strategic framework that identifies and outlines the key important elements that characterise who we are and how we operate in our Catholic schools. The Quality Catholic Education School Review (QCESR) has two key objectives.

1. The effectiveness of a school’s engagement with self-review,
2. School improvement and the future directions for the improvement that the school has identified.

At the heart of QCE is the foundation and vision for our Catholic schools where our work and purpose are always “Christ-centred and Child-focused.”

Covers four pillars of Catholic Leadership

- Catholic Identity (Inspiring Christ-Centres Leaders)
- Education (Catholic Schools of Excellence)
- Community (Catholic Pastoral Communities)
- Stewardship (Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable system of schools)
- As well as leading the management of the school.

School Improvement Plan

Following on from the QCE School review, the Council worked through the Strategic Intent document created by the school, 2022-2024. This document links back to the QCE (Quality Catholic Education) and works through the following:

- Improvement Goals
- Relevant Actions to achieve the goals.
- Timeframe
- Resources, i.e., key school-based personnel who will be engaged.
- Success Indicators, i.e., how will we know if we are accessible.
- Monitoring Process and Progress (How/who etc.)

Some examples specific to St Emilie’s include:

- Parents as Partners – supporting parents in their role as first educators of their children
- Creation of a St Emilie's Vision for Learning – looking at improvements to make the most positive difference to student learning and wellbeing
- Natural Environment - To continue promoting and fulfilling our Christian responsibility to care for the Earth as our common home.

Accountability For All Council Members (Annual Training)

CEWA required each Council member to register for Mandatory Reporting training. This happens on an annual basis. St Emilie’s, and all Catholic Schools need to meet registration standards and other compliance obligations, including Mandatory Reporting, Codes of Conduct for staff and students, protective behaviours curriculum, training for staff and students, and information for parents and carers. As such the Mandatory Reporting training undertaken was part of the Child Safe Framework encompassing child protection training and the School Code of Conduct for all Council Members.

School Maintenance & Improvement

Some of the great improvements we can see around the school and the capital works that were approved include:

Repair of sails and poles in the senior playground

Pergolas in Pre-Primary area were replaced with one large covered area.

New outside furniture for Year 1

Basketball & Netball rings for Yr 1 and 2

4 new air conditioners installed in Year 1 and Year 5

Recovering Year 4 furniture

Replacing plastic seats in Year 1 and 2 area

Advisory Council Moved to an Online Platform

The current CECWA Catholic School Board Constitution is under review to ensure that it meets the new governance requirements of Catholic Education Western Australia.

Governance encompasses the system by which an organisation is controlled and operates, and the mechanisms by which it, and its people, are held to account, i.e. compliance, risk management etc.

To help with this transition, and to maintain a level of governance, the School Advisory Council moved to Microsoft Teams for all meeting agendas, reports, induction documents, and any other advisory council important documents such as the Code of Conduct. It has also enabled maximum participation with advisory council members being able to log in remotely, a leftover from COVID.

Working with St Emilie's Parish

Father Jean-Noel Marie has continued to work very closely with the School Leadership Team throughout the 2022 school year. These meetings have involved being a pastoral support to each other, ensuring the smooth rollout of the parish-run, school supported Sacramental Program and seeking ways that parish and school can work more closely together, for the good of all.

Thank you Father Jean-Noel Marie for your presence, wisdom and support - especially of the Leadership Team throughout the year - it is very much appreciated. Your sermons at school and community masses throughout the year have inspired and comforted us, as individuals and as a community.

Thank you to Families

St Emilie's **families are sincerely thanked** for their cooperation throughout 2022, especially in the first half of the year with all the COVID restrictions.

Staff who left in 2022

Kerrie Cogger- has decided to only work at one school

Dan Naden - has accepted a position as Head of Year 7 at Kolbe Catholic College

Tania Thuijs - resigned her position

Simone Mckenzie - maternity leave

A sincere thank you to all the above staff for their considerable efforts throughout the year and all the very best for the years ahead.

Membership on the Advisory Council - 2023

CO-OPTING COUNCIL MEMBER

Mr **Beau Jose**, parent of two Year 2 children, has been co-opted onto the Council in late 2022. Beau expressed his interest in joining the council early in Term 3 of last year. We welcome Beau to the council.

Mrs **Melinda Curren** nominated for a position on the School Advisory Council. Due to the COVID situation we were unable to have a community vote. She was therefore co-opted for 2022 and her nomination presented again at this Annual Community Meeting.

We sincerely thank Beau and Mel for their willingness to serve our school in this way and for her generosity of time and talent.

Advisory Council membership conditions include:

- (a) a commitment and desire to promote Catholic education and give service to the Catholic School Community;
- (b) a commitment to the safety, wellbeing and pastoral care of all students and staff;
- (c) an ability to work cooperatively and constructively with the Principal, school leadership team and all other members of the Advisory Council;
- (d) the possession of skills, competencies and experience that are reflective of, relevant and beneficial to the Catholic School Community; and
- (e) a sufficiency of time to devote to Advisory Council duties.

Looking back over the 2022 school year, it is with much gratitude that I acknowledge the wonderful contribution of so many children, staff, families, leaders and parishioners to the ethos and culture of our beautiful school. I have thoroughly enjoyed working on the Advisory Council as a Chair and look forward to 2023.

I would strongly encourage other parents to consider joining the Council at some point in the future as it is a great way of serving the community, of understanding some of the broader issues that schools need to deal with, and of forging friendships with members.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to be able to stand here today and I wish everyone a very safe, happy and successful year ahead.

Kind regards

Craig Bishop

St Emilie's Advisory Council Chairperson