



North Morley Primary School Council

Annual Report 2015/2016

The North Morley Primary School Council consists of 6 members:

Lisa Gibson (Principal), Donna Reid (Deputy Principal), Martine Logue (Teacher), Natalie Thompson (Parent Representative), Mark Lynch (Parent Representative) and Helene Offer (Community Representative).

The last 18 months has seen a great change in how the school council functions and how it interacts with the activities of the school. The school council had 2 main aims, one to work collaboratively with the school and secondly to increase its profile amongst the school community. This report will detail all of the activities of the school council over the last 18 months.

Expert Review Group (ERG)

In July 2015 the Education Department identified that North Morley Primary School was a school whose performance had raised concerns. As a result the school was visited by the Expert Review Group who conducted a comprehensive review of the school. The Parent Representatives of the School Council as well as other parents of the school were interviewed. From that review a report was given to the school. The staff, in consultation with the School Council was then required to write a Prescribed Improvement Action Plan. Within that plan there were a number of strategies which included the conduct of the School Council.

Since February 2016 the School Council has been involved in the following strategies:

- Regular reports received from the Project Officer, Lisa Thomas outlining the activities of staff during the development phase and the implementation phase of the Prescribed Improvement Action Plan
- Development of a Yearly Calendar of Events for the School Council
- Development of a school 'Vision'
- Increasing the profile of the School Council amongst the school community by writing regular reports for the newsletter and attending assemblies to hand out merit rewards

School Council Terms of Reference

The council decided to revisit its Terms of Reference to reaffirm how the council conducts its business. From an Education Department document a draft was formed and over a period of 6 months the council considered the following details:

- The functions of the council
- The roles of office bearers and members
- The election and appointment of members
- The conduct of meetings and
- A Code of Conduct for members

The Council also reviewed an Education Department document entitled the 'Unincorporated Councils Information Package' which can be read in conjunction with the Terms of Reference. These documents will now be included in an Induction File for new members of the School Council. The School Council Terms of Reference are available for anyone to read. Please ask at the office for a copy.

Pathway to Becoming an Independent Public School (IPS)

Early in 2016 The Principal and Chairperson attended a briefing which outlined the philosophy, nature and requirements of autonomy in Independent Public Schools.

The School Council then provided parents with an information sheet on IPS and a voting slip asking parents whether or not they felt the school should continue down the pathway of becoming an IPS. The School Council also held an Information session at an assembly. The parents were supportive of becoming an IPS. However, after advice from the Expert Review Group the School Council reconsidered and decided that the school needed to place all of its resources into the Prescribed Improvement Action Plan and revisit the school becoming an IPS in 2017.

School Council Self-Audit

The school council undertook a self-audit to identify areas of improvement when considering the conduct of the school council. The audit was a very powerful tool which identified what the school council was already doing well and gave an indication of where improvements could be made. As the council was already in the process of reviewing their Terms of Reference they were already well on their way to making a number of changes in areas that were identified in the self-audit.

Finance

The School Council has a responsibility to take part in planning financial arrangements necessary to fund the objectives, priorities and directions of the school. The School council received regular reports on the budget and expenditure of the school. The Principal and Registrar have been able to explain items in these reports in a clear and concise manner.

The Chairperson co-signed the North Morley Primary School Funding Agreement for Schools 2016.

Principal Reports and Actions

At each meeting the Principal provided a written report detailing the current activities of the school and any matters that may be of interest or have some impact on the school community.

The Council reviewed the school Annual report and provided feedback to the Principal prior to it being lodged with the Education Department.

The Council recently formulated 2 questions, specific to the school council, for our schools National School Opinion Survey (NSOS) which was then placed online for parents to complete.

Review of School Policies

The School Council has reviewed and endorsed the following school policies:

- Attendance Policy
- Communication Policy
- SAER (Students at Educational Risk) Policy
- Bullying Policy
- Homework Policy

These school policies are available for anyone to read. Please ask at the office for a copy.

Voluntary Contributions and Charges Schedule

The School Council were consulted and gave their approval for the 2016 Contributions and Charges Schedule. The contributions and charges are a voluntary payment by parents and assist the school when purchasing items for Art and Craft, Science, Design and Technology.

Moving Forward into 2017 and Beyond

In the months to come the School Council will be reviewing the 2016 NAPLAN results.

The council will also be continuing in their efforts to meet their requirements as outlined in the Prescribed Improvement Plan and look forward to meeting with the ERG to review the outcomes of the actions undertaken by the school staff.

I wish to thank each member of the School Council on the work they have done these last 18 months. It has been a time of reflection and change in the way in which the school council conducts its business and they have spent many hours reading and attending meetings to facilitate the changes.

Natalie Thompson
Chairperson
North Morley Primary School Council