ST MARY'S EDUCATION BOARD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BOARD MEMBER’S REPORT – MAY 2015

Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much - Helen Keller

Being a member of the St Mary’s Educational Board from April 2014 to April 2015 has been both a privilege and an honour. For a small investment of time to attend meetings after hours, the return has been extremely satisfying and leaves me with a feeling of 'community' in a school that I believe is a leader in the development of our children.

The Education Board is led by our Principal, Mr David Kelly and supported by Fr. Shabbin, with a member of the Parents & Friends Committee, Staff Member and Parent representatives.

A range of challenging topics were discussed during our meetings where everyone had an equal voice. Discussions were always open and all members were encouraged to offer an honest opinion to sometimes complex and emotional subjects that were raised. Whilst a high proportion of the issues discussed were strategic, fundamental day-to-day issues were also discussed, and confirmed to me just how hard both David and the staff strive to improve the environment for our children and their continued education. As important was the commitment to staff development which in any organisation, is an important component to achieving improvement and success.

We have discussed and provided input on a range of topics this year, including the Complaints Handling Procedure, NAPLAN 2014 results, the implementation of Google Apps for Education, and an introduction to the 'Change 2' process.

For those who have had the opportunity to review the NAPLAN 2014 results, it would only confirm the significant progress that has been made by David, Gwenda and the staff, and as a father of a child at St Mary's, I feel confident my own son's education is in good hands. Exposure to this information has enabled me to make this judgement and for that I am happy I accepted this opportunity. I congratulate David, Gwenda and the staff on their efforts and achieving a remarkable result.

On behalf of the St Mary's Education Board members, I would like to table this report to the Annual General Meeting of 26th May 2015. I thoroughly recommend that all parents consider this opportunity which for me, has been an enriching and rewarding experience.

Kind Regards,

Paul Moore