Good evening and welcome everyone. It is with great pleasure that I present to you the School Board Report for 2016.

As in previous years, 2016 has been an exceptionally busy year which provided many challenges with great rewards for the Whitford Catholic Primary School community. This report provides an overview of the year's activities and achievements.

In 2016 the school grew significantly with further growth expected in 2017 when student numbers will reach 638 throughout Kindergarten and Year 6. The Stage 7 build, scheduled for completion in January 2017, will aid in accommodating the increased student numbers. The staff list remained strong at 62 which includes both full and part-time members and 2017 will see an additional staff member added to the current list.

As Board members, we have the privilege of seeing some of the behind the scenes operations and the planning that takes place to ensure our children receive a quality Catholic Education.

The school Board plays a small but important role in assisting in the management of the school. Our role is primarily to act as a sounding mechanism for the Principal and the School Executive on matters of a financial and commercial nature. This can include such functions as:

- Oversee all aspects of the School, including its control and accountability systems, and approve the expenditure and capital budgets,
- Appoint and review staff,
- Develop and maintain healthy relationships with key stakeholders and develop effective communication channels,
- Ensure a strategic approach to the school's future by setting major goals, policy frameworks and strategies,
- Set the tone and the ethical standards of the school and monitor adherence to them,
- Review plans and budgets established by school management,
- Approve all material expenditure outside the budget,
- Anticipate problems as much as possible and act to diffuse issues,
- Be attentive to the matter of succession,
- Establish committees where appropriate,
- Monitor organisational performance, and
- Maintain the solvency of the school.

Over the past twelve months, the Board has assisted the School Executive in planning and implementing a number of initiatives for the future, these include:

- Upgrading of the School security system,
- Liaison with the City of Joondalup to mitigate our parking difficulties,
- Albion Park Shared Lease Agreement with the City of Joondalup,
- Collaborated with Parish on the future requirements of the Parish and School Communities,
- Maintenance and upgrades of the school facilities,
- Approved the annual budget for submission to the Catholic Education Office,
- Reviewed the requirements and longevity of the school bus, and
- Applied to the Catholic Education Office for funding assistance for the construction of new onsite parking and oval upgrades

On behalf of all the Parents, I extend my sincere gratitude to the staff of the Whitford Catholic Primary School for their dedication and devotion to our children and our school community. We have the grounds staff who provide the wonderfully manicured grounds that inspire the physical activities of our children. There is the administration staff who deal with the general administration of the school, the communications, the finance, the payroll and provide support to the Principal and Assistant Principals. Our teachers and teaching assistants are an outstanding group of people who are highly motivated and focused solely on the education and wellbeing of our children. We acknowledge and thank you all for your commitment, hard work and passion throughout this year.

To the Assistant Principals, Catherine and Andrew, I congratulate you both on another outstanding year of guidance and leadership. I thank you for the support you provide to Tamara and to the Board and your assistance is well respected and appreciated.

Many of you would be now aware that Tamara was reviewed under the Principal Review Process this year. The process has now been completed and Archbishop Timothy Costelloe has endorsed the appointment of Tamara as Principal of Whitford Catholic Primary School for, Craigie for a second contract period of five years. On behalf of the School Board and the Whitford Catholic Primary School Community, I congratulate Tamara and her achievements over the last contract period and look forward to her continued pursuit for catholic education excellence in the future.

The Board congratulates the P&F for their significant contributions throughout the year. The P&F has again made an exceptional contribution to the school from both financial and community involvement aspects. Nadine, the P&F President and the P&F committee have worked tirelessly on a number of functions and projects this year of which Nadine will share with you shortly. The P&F’s ability to provide funds for the benefit of our children and teachers is an important part of our school community. Again I sincerely thank you for your continued commitment and support.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and farewell two of our current Board members. After four years Melanie Cooper and Kellie-Ann Healey will stand down from their positions as they enter their final phase here at Whitford Catholic Primary School. During two consecutive terms, Melanie held the positions of a general Board member, assistant to the Board Chair and Secretary. Kellie-Ann has held the positions of a general Board member, Secretary and Parish representative. To you both I express my sincerer thanks. Your passion, loyalty and support will be sadly missed but I have no doubt you will find other ways to assist and support the school community in 2017.

To the returning Board members I thank you for your contribution this year and I look forward to your continued support. I wish the Board nominees good luck tonight and I look forward to welcoming the successful applicants onto the Board in 2017.
In closing, I’d like to note for the Annual Community Meeting that as it currently stands our school is in great shape. We have strong enrolments for 2017 and 2018, a positive financial position of which Dion will report on shortly and under the spiritual guidance of Father Joe, Father Renald and Father Mark, a cohesive Catholic Parish Community for our children to learn and grow in.

Thank you and I wish you all a safe and prosperous festive season.

Brendan Long

November 29, 2016