

Proposal to amalgamate the P&F and School Board into a single School Community Council

The P&F and School Board are proposing to amalgamate into a single entity to be known as the School Community Council (SCC). We recognise that many of us find it difficult to find time to attend all those activities we'd all like to. To this end, this initiative to combine the functions of the School Board and P&F into a single body will allow many to contribute without the overhead of the current structure.

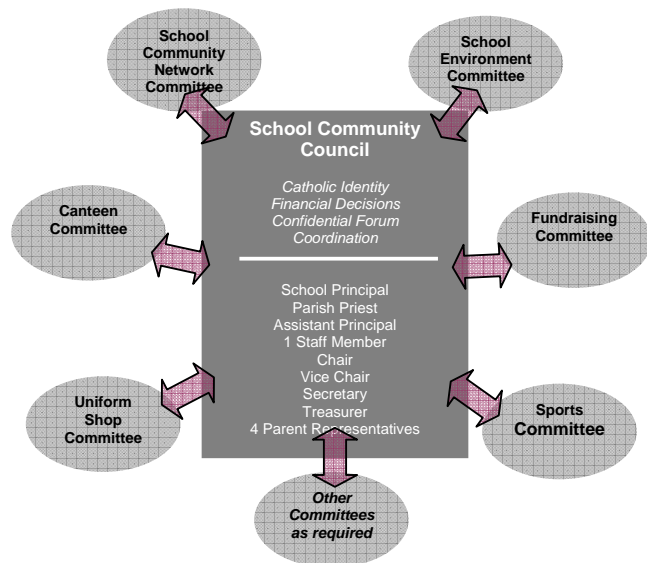


What will the new model offer?

A new School Community Council will offer our community 'one' body which would undertake many of the essential roles of the School's management.

The School Community Council will assume roles previously covered by both the School Board and the Parents and Friends Association. Their work will still be undertaken by parents on the Council and parents who become involved in associated committees.

This model offers a streamlined approach to school management, which will benefit members of the school and parish community who often find it difficult to attend numerous meetings, even though they may have an interest in their child's education, school management and special events.



What will be different?

The Council membership will be expanded to include new positions for parent representation - up to 12. The membership will include School Principal, Parish Priest, Assistant Principal and one other staff member. The positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and four parent representatives will be created as part of the Council.

The School will still rely on specialist committees to do a lot of the work at 'ground level' including School Community Network (currently Parent Network), Canteen, Uniform Shop, Environment (currently Maintenance and

Gardening Committees), Fundraising and Sport. Committees can be formed to accommodate special requirements or events such as School Discos etc.

Each committee will work in consultation with the Council and provide regular reports to the Council.

Your voice can and will still be heard! Instead of discussing and raising issues at general meetings like the traditional Parents and Friends meetings, parents will be able to inform the school or parent Council representatives of any concerns or events. These issues will be considered at the time or raised at the next School Community Council meeting.

How will I be able to raise an issue or be informed about events at school?

- Contact the Principal or a member of the school executive.
- Contact a parent representative of the School Community Council – in writing or via e-mail.
- Access the school website via a planned new parent link.
- Keep an eye out for relevant and up to date parent information in the School Newsletter.
- Join a School Committee.
- Have a discussion with a Council representative at a new 'meeting point' as per times and location to be set.
- Attend parent meetings on specific topics as they arise.

How can I contribute personally in our school community?

- Nominate yourself to become a member of the School Community Council, as vacancies exist.
- Volunteer to become a member on one of the many community committees at Sts Peter and Paul.
- Volunteer to help with special events as they arise, i.e. AucShine, Walkathon, Sports Carnivals and Competitions etc.
- Volunteer to help on school days in the classrooms, canteen or library.

When will these changes take place?

Following this community consultation process, the working party will meet early this term to consider feedback before preparing guidelines to be presented to the Archbishop/Catholic Education office for endorsement.

The current School Board is continuing to operate until the introduction of the new model, which is planned to begin in Term 1 2007.

The new School Community Council model will be an interim model (i.e. trial for 12-18 months) and operate with ongoing consultation and support from the Catholic Education Office.

Feedback Welcome

If you have any ideas of concerns simply email: scc@thatsmyschool.org or you can drop off a letter to the front office marked to the attention of "SCC Initiative Working Party". Your feedback by **DD MONTH 2006** can then be discussed at our next planning meeting.