

P & F AGM Monday 2nd March, 2020 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Good Afternoon and Welcome the St Ursula's P & F AGM for 2020,

I would like to thank my fellow committee members, *Megan Weinert, Jo Couper, Majella Keilly and Nat Salisbury* for their hard work over the last year and the small but energetic group of parents who regularly attended the P & F meetings throughout 2019. The new committee has had big shoes to fill as we farewelled Alison Craggs after 5 years as President and Juanita Weston after 5 years as Treasurer. Their commitment to St Ursula's has been outstanding and they have been tireless in their efforts.

The committee's first objective is to make decisions about how the P&F Levy is spent and in recent years we have saved and focused on large capital works. In 2019, our contribution facilitated the completion of the air-conditioning of the Ballygriffin Centre, a very cool achievement.

Our second objective is parent engagement. It is a sad but true reflection of our busy lifestyles and a "sign of the times" that we have very poor attendance at P & F meetings and sometimes we wonder if Parent Engagement is a realistic goal. I have learned and come to accept that the best we can hope for is a few new members each year and we were very excited to see some fresh faces at our first meeting in 2020. In September, we hosted the Inaugural Jazz and Shiraz night. It was a highly successful evening and those in attendance had a great time. The calibre and style of the Music Department's contribution was outstanding, and we are grateful for their support. We are hoping to make this an annual event so please consider coming and bringing your friends this year. The proceeds of the bar went to the All Schools Touch Team in 2019 and will be offered to another group in 2020. Otherwise it is a not for profit event to encourage parent engagement within our school and to connect with the local community. The date has been set in the school calendar, August 29th, which should help us to advertise more proactively and see larger numbers at the event this year.

The final objective of our committee is Education. To this end, we funded the visit of Project ROCKIT whose experts presented to both students and parents in October 2019. Feedback was very positive, and I am sure you will all agree it was an important topic to feature as we all negotiate the cyber safety and social media minefield with our children. Unfortunately, attendance at the parent evening was poor and the committee have already entered into discussions about the cost to benefit ratio of utilising funds on activities that are not well supported by the target audience.

As president, I am mindful, that it is a huge responsibility spend money that is collected from ALL families when so few parents attend meetings and/or participate in this decision making process. I would like to ensure the St Ursula's community that this is not a job the committee takes lightly and we will continue to budget wisely and ensure that funds are allocated in areas that serve the needs of the majority and are aligned with the master plan and/or objectives of the School Board. Thank you to those who stepped in and gave a welcome address or attended a functions when I was unavailable last year. I believe it is important to maintain a presence and try to continue to encourage involvement where we can.

On behalf of the parents and friends of St Ursula's college we would like to thank the staff and volunteers in our school community who work together to educate and nurture our children. May we continue to be watchful and mindful of the responsibilities we hold and yet joyful in the privilege.

Jane Walsh

P & F President 2019