

JOHN PAUL COLLEGE

BOARD TALK: April/May, 2012

With three Board of Trustees meetings already over the 2012 year seems to be fast disappearing. At our April Board meeting we welcomed back Patrick Walsh after his sabbatical. During his absence Peter Sinclair very ably took on the Principal role and we particularly wish to thank him for his Term I management and leadership of the school. Sadly, however, we also farewelled one of our Board members, Jared Dawson, who has resigned from the Board to take up a Senior Financial Management position in Australia. Jared's knowledge and wealth of experience in financial matters were very much appreciated and will be missed. We wish him all the very best in his new endeavour.

Casual Vacancy:

This means we have a 'casual vacancy' for a parent representative on our Board and given that there are more than six months until elections in April next year the Board has two options which we must soon decide upon: whether to hold a by-election or whether to fill it by 'selection' which requires formal public notification. We will keep you posted on developments.

Technology Block and Art Department Redevelopment:

Earlier this year in February/ March the draft concept plan to redevelop and refurbish the Technology Block and the Art Department drawn up by the architects was reviewed by the Diocese. When the cost of a refurbish combined with the potential difficulties and associated costs of modernising an 'old' space were examined the Diocese considered that a rebuild would make better sense and would future proof the school. Draft concept plans have been drawn up for a new two storied building with technology on the ground floor and art, graphics and photography on the second floor. On the 24 April, at their meeting in Hamilton, the Diocesan Schools' Council approved, in principle, a rebuild. We hope to be reviewing the detailed costings on the concept plan, that the architect has been commissioned to complete, very soon.

This is exciting news but as we are all aware the reality is in the detail. What this detour in direction does mean, however, is that building would not be starting until the second term of 2013. We will keep you posted and when there are agreed architectural drawings we will make those available.

School Finances:

- **Executive Officer Position**

At the end of last year our Executive Officer Mary Bennett retired after 28 years of dedicated service and we have had a new EO, Rolf Drost, since the beginning of the year. Rolf, apart from the learning curve required to familiarise himself with the workings of the Education environment and the school, will be introducing our own financial management system that will enable the school to keep a much closer watch on our finances.

- **Auditor's Report for 2011:**

The auditors have completed the 2011 audit of John Paul College and their report is due by 31 May, 2012. Unfortunately the 2011 year end result has shown a significant deficit. Part of this was beyond our control – for example International Student income below budget and a number of one-off costs that could not have been anticipated. As a response to this situation the Board and Management have immediately put a strategy in place to better manage expenditure and to prevent and mitigate future losses.

- **School Donations:**

As parents and caregivers we are very reliant on your voluntary financial contributions to help resource and staff the college adequately. The vast majority of families do contribute financially for which we are very appreciative. The operations grant from the Ministry of Education is insufficient to fund curricular and extra-curricular resources as well as necessary support staffing. This year for example we are planning to become wireless and will be looking at provisioning the new Technology and Art block. With the announced changes from the Minister of Education on the ratio of teachers to students for years 7 to 10 and subsequent pressure on maintaining smaller class sizes our staffing will be under even more pressure.

As a consequence we are signalling an increase in the school contribution for 2013 and we are currently investigating what other similar schools request of their parents/ caregivers and what the quantum of that increase should be so it is still manageable for most families.

NCEA Results:

NZQA has recently produced its national results for NCEA exams in 2011. JPC is well above the national average for levels 1 - 3 (yrs 11 - 13) and in particular is above the National average percentage for all Decile 7 schools in New Zealand for levels 1 - 3 (yrs 11 - 13). It is the best performing school in Rotorua. All our students and staff are to be congratulated.

Track Suits:

At the last BOT meeting it was resolved that students in top sports teams will purchase their own tracksuits. To date this has not been the practice and the cost to the school in lost and unreturned gear has been significant. This is the normal practice in a lot of schools and will be implemented in 2013.

MacKillop Campus:

The Hamilton Diocese has, in principle, agreed to the MacKillop site becoming integrated with John Paul College. This would give access to the facilities and rooms on the site but of course comes with a cost. It is still early days and much negotiation and discussion is yet to be had.

Technology Matters:

Later this year we will be converting our internet connection to a John Paul College wireless network which will be secure and safe and will not have public access. This involves installing some 30 access points around the school and a 'controller'. We are currently revising our policies around the use of technology and e-learning devices at school in conjunction with cyber safety policies and rules.

We wish you and your families God's blessing. Ma te pono me te aroha.

John Paul College
Board of Trustees