

Mount Lawley Senior High School

School Council Report 2008

This brief report is in the context of the School Council's powers and duties.

*The Council has the following powers and duties:
to take part in:*

- ❑ *establishing and reviewing from time to time, the school's objectives, priorities and general policy directions;*

The Principal brought a number of strategic issues to the Council for its input including:

- Review of the LOTE GATE program
- Review of Year 11 performance (mid-year)
- School Review process
- Financial Management
- School Plan 2009 – 2011
- Options for a Centre for Asian Languages based at MLSHS

- ❑ *the planning of financial arrangements necessary to fund those objectives, priorities and directions;*

Financial reporting framework

Work on the financial reporting framework was finalised with the assistance of DET staff and the Acting Business Manager, leading to the preparation of regular reports showing income and expenditure at an aggregated level. There is still considerable system work required by DET to the RM Finance System to fully automate the process and make it easily applicable to all other schools. The School Council has received these reports on a monthly basis since mid-year.

The Principal advised members of the comprehensive audit report undertaken in 2008 and has kept members informed of the remediation action taken since the review.

The governance cycle for financial decisions has been reviewed, with the intent that in 2009 that Finance Committee will meet in the week prior to School Council meeting and its recommendations will then be forwarded to Council for endorsement.

- ❑ *evaluating the school's performance in achieving them; and*

The Principal has provided comprehensive performance information to School Council. This has included end of year data (2007) as well as a thorough review of Year 11 results in mid-2008. Members of Council met with the Director of Schools in the annual school review in 2008.

- ❑ *formulating codes of conduct for students at the school;*

Nil 2008

to determine in consultation with students, their parents and staff a dress code for students when they are attending or representing the school;

A minor review of the school uniform was carried out in 2008 with the aim of identifying additional items or providing substitute items (eg a non-woollen school jumper). Thank you to Jo Furness for leading that review process.

to promote the school in the community;

Members of School Council have participated in functions ranging from a welcome to Chinese visitors following the very successful China tour, to a meeting with the newly elected Member for Mount Lawley (Mr Michael Sutherland) and participation in the School Review process. The School Council has developed a web page associated with the MLSHS P&C website.

Council was delighted when advised of the School's success in being allocated full funding of \$195,000 for the Proactive Keep Active @Lawley proposal submitted to 'Healthy Active Australia' in 2007.

This project will augment the current Health & Physical Exercise (HPE) curriculum and provide a broader array of opportunities for students to improve their physical fitness through school-based activities. It will have 2 key areas of focus:

- Help a 'low activity' at-risk group of Year 10 students change their lifestyle by increasing their level of physical activity and improving their physical fitness.
- Enhance the physical education curriculum for Years 8 & 9 students to sustain their interest in physical activity into the senior years of secondary schooling.

A key element of the project will be the purchase and installation of physical fitness equipment on the School grounds; its incorporation into the Health & Physical Education curriculum and its subsequent availability for fitness training during breaks, in HPE classes and after-school.

This project will be a natural extension to the School's very successful healthy eating initiatives and its implementation will involve the School, parents through the MLSHS Parents & Citizens Committee and Edith Cowan University (ECU) through their School of Education and their Health & Fitness Centre. Both organisations are strong supporters of this project and have agreed to partner the School in this application.

Members of Council assisted in the preparation of submissions for several awards for staff and/ or programs within the School. (ie Richard Meagher for Science teacher of the Year; nomination for Science School of the Year).

to approve:

- ❑ *charges and contributions for the provision of certain materials, services and facilities under section 99(4) of the School Education Act;*
- ❑ *extra cost optional components of educational programmes, under section 100(3) of the School Education Act;*
- ❑ *items to be supplied by a student for use in an educational programme, under section 108(2) of the School Education Act; and*
- ❑ *any agreements or arrangements for advertising or sponsorship in relation to the school under section 216(5) of the School Education Act;*

There has been an extensive process during 2008 to ensure that all charges levied on parents (as above) have met the intent of the DET regulations and that approved charges have been confirmed to be charged to parents. Ms Yvonne Scott, Business Manager is thanked for the extensive work undertaken to update the contributions and charges and to ensure that the charges would be implemented for 2009.

with the approval of the Minister or the Director General, as the Minister's delegate, to:

- ❑ *take part in the selection of, but not the appointment of, the school principal or any other member of the teaching staff under section 129(2) of the School Education Act; and*

The Chair of School Council was involved in the placement process for the position of Principal, with Milton Butcher taking up the position at the start of 2008. Members of School Council have been included in the selection processes for all Level 3 positions during 2008 (HOLA English; HOLA LOTE; Head, Student Services) and for the Project Manager for the Healthy Active Australia project.

to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the carrying out of its functions.

Council members have actively pursued opportunities for the development of a Centre for Asian Languages.

Christine Richardson
Chair, School Council
9 March 2009