

## **Report of the Mount Lawley Senior High School Council 2009**

This report outlines the activities of the School Council from March 2009-March 2010 and should be read in conjunction with the School Council Terms of Reference.

2009 has once again been an extremely busy year for students, staff and parents.

The Principal during 2009, Milton Butcher, reported to Council on the school's objectives, priorities and general policy directions. At each Council meeting a full report was presented outlining the current position of the school. All major issues have been discussed, including staffing, finance and promotional activities of the special programs.

The financial position of the school has been provided by way of reports and explanation both by the Principal and Business Manager, Ms Yvonne Scott. The budget, charges and voluntary contributions have been approved after consideration by the Finance Committee.

Council is aware that the school's reserves are at a minimal level and that the GST debt of approximately \$40,000 is to be paid in 2010. Council has reviewed ways to implement cost effectiveness and has approved the appointment of a debt collection agency to recover outstanding charges and has also supported the removal of students from high cost subject options if charges from the previous year have not been paid. The Business Manager continues to work proactively towards passing a Departmental audit and Council appreciates her efforts and her presence at our meetings.

The "Half Cohort" and the number of Year 8 students enrolled at this school for 2010 was constantly monitored and with lower numbers it was acknowledged that a number of teachers would not be part of the 2010 FTE. The salary burden was presented as an updated report and continues to be a major factor affecting the finances of the school.

Graduation results and the school's 2009 academic performance were reported by Stephen Spice the current Principal. Whilst the results for Year 12 2009 were outstanding, a number of academic areas were underperforming and strategies must be implemented to ensure that the results of the "tail" of each cohort is monitored and improved upon in 2010.

The Uniform Review Committee with representation from Council, staff, parents and students met to discuss the current uniform and any amendments required.

Sponsorship guidelines for the school and projects are still to be determined.

Council has overseen the progress the Proactive Keep Active @ Lawley project funded by Healthy Active Australia, a Federal Government initiative. The Project Manager has reported to the Steering Committee, of which the Chair is a member. The project has been extended and the \$15,000 Family Partnership award funds were allocated to fund the Project Manager for a further term.

The Centre for Asian Languages was supported by Council and representation to both political parties, State and Federal has been made, including a meeting with the Minister for Education, Dr. Constable. Unfortunately, whilst support in principle has been given, no funding has been allocated and the project remains at an impasse.

The Building Fund received Council approval and it is anticipated that fundraising for major projects including the air conditioning of the school will be deposited to this fund.

Approval was given for the use of funds from the Innovation and Technology fund including the purchase of data projectors and smart boards. The Literacy and Numeracy fund allocation included the purchase of the Mathletic's licence. It is Council's intention that all funds donated in a year be used for the students of that year with minimal funds rolling over to the next year.

Other initiatives supported by Council included:

- The introduction of School Colours for students across The Arts, Services, Sport and Academic pursuits.
- The review of the GATE Language program and the rationalization of the languages offered.
- Time-table changes to see the "early rollover" from Year 10 to Year 11 in Term Four 2009 and the introduction in 2010 to also include Year 11 to Year 12.
- The Year 10 Working Party was established and the Terms of Reference are:
  - *Consider the academic outcomes achieved by the Year 10 cohort over time.*
  - *Consider the attendance and behaviour patterns of the group.*
  - *Consider the change from the Middle School environment to the Senior School and assess the implications for students.*
  - *Consider the impressions of Senior School teachers towards Year 10.*
  - *Consider the extent of the induction program.*
  - *Consider the range of programs that need to be available to suit the needs of the students.*
  - *Consider a method of identifying those Year 9 students who are at risk of underachieving in Year 10*

The inaugural Year 10 Barbecue was held on the 11.03.10 and was a great success. The Working Party continues to meet and discuss initiatives.

The establishment of Independent Public Schools (IPS) by the State Government saw consultation with Council, staff and the community where approval was given to submit an application for MLSHS to become an IPS. Unfortunately, this status was not approved in 2009. After the recent opening of 2010 IPS applications, consultation is currently being undertaken with staff and community to seek feedback from all parties as to whether an application for the 2010 allocation will be submitted.

I would like to thank our Community members, Ms Anne Griffiths, Mr. Kevin Pilkington and Mr. Ron Pearce, staff, students and parent representatives for their attendance and input at meetings and for attending other activities on behalf of Council. Without these volunteers, we would not be able to perform our extremely important role and advocate on behalf of Mount Lawley Senior High School.

Catherine Smith  
Chair MLSHS Council  
15.03.10