

CSHS School Council 2015 Annual Report

2015 was a year of significant change for CSHS, with Year 7 students attending the school for the first time, and new Independent Public School status. The School Council continued to carry out its key function of guiding the broad strategic direction of the school, with the objective of improving student learning outcomes for CSHS students. As a key part of meeting this objective CSHS School Council, which is representative of school staff, students and parents: monitored and reviewed the school's strategic direction; approved/endorsed strategic documents, plans and policies including the annual budget; and advised the principal about strategic matters.

The ongoing International Accreditation process was a focus for school administration and teaching staff, and also for the School Council. The completion of IA Governance documentation required priority attention, and took up considerable Council meeting time. During 2015 Council endorsed and monitored school policies and considered important school issues such as strategic planning, student leadership, parent and community involvement and internationalism. Council endorsed and monitored the 2015 School Priorities and Annual Implementation Plan, including teaching and learning strategies (ASoT) and data refinement and adoption. Council endorsed the 2015 Great Results Guarantee Agreement, monitored NAPLAN strategies and outcomes, and reviewed 2014 senior outcomes.

With CSHS's shift to Independent Public School status, Council undertook a timely review and streamline of its processes, examining the Council Constitution, membership, training and public profile. This resulted in a renewed energy and optimism about how, and what, a dynamic School Council can bring to CSHS and to the learning outcomes and well-being of its students. Time was set aside to discuss wider strategic issues such as risk management, long term planning and the relationship between the school and issues affecting the wider community. Additional information on the Council, its members and activities was added to the school's website, including detailed Council reports to the P&C.

Council members represented CSHS at functions and conferences, and lobbied on behalf of the school on issues of importance, such as the school sports complex upgrade proposal - which includes essential covered outside space to accommodate whole of school assemblies, and refurbishment of out-dated, sub-standard swimming facilities. Council also undertook its annual self-appraisal process, which provides an opportunity for reflection, ensuring that all strategic issues are addressed in a timely manner from year to year.

I would encourage all members of the CSHS community to familiarise themselves with the School Council web pages setting out Council's responsibilities and role in relation to the P&C and school administration. Council reports to the P&C, meeting agendas, minutes and other reports provide a record of the issues School Council addresses, and decisions that are taken during the year. These pages will be updated on a regular basis during 2016.

Virginia Cullen
Chair