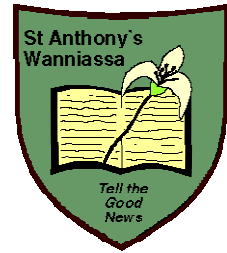


St Anthony's Parish Primary School

Wanniassa

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Principal: Mr Tim Elliott



Annual Report for 2007

Our Vision

The Community of St Anthony's Parish Primary School joyfully:
Follows Christ,
Treats others justly,
Celebrates individuals,
Loves learning
And looks to the future with enthusiasm,
confidence and optimism.

A Message from Key School Bodies

A message from the School Board

Time marches on, and another year has flown by. Clichés abound as I sit to write this message, of sands of the hour glass, flowing rivers, old man time, but the best measure of time is the movement of children through the years. It seems only yesterday that my three St Anthony's children were off to their first day of school this year and yet, in a blink of an eye, they are again here at the end of the year, planning next year's journey.

St Anthony's school has again provided a wonderful year for the children. Most significant of all are the teaching staff and, in particular, the Executive. Their combined efforts for the year have given all of our children a wonderful education, sometimes overcoming seemingly insurmountable challenges. The fire that consumed all of the Year Five facilities was probably the most difficult however the school was able to take it in its stride and carry on as if it was yet another day at the office. The school board would like to recognise and thank Tim for his fantastic efforts this year.

To the other support staff who keep the school clean and functioning, to those whose administrative skills keep the school humming along or to those in the canteen providing hundreds of meals a day, a "high five" to all of you in thanks. Your efforts may seem to go without comment, but definitely are noticed and all are greatly appreciated.

The OOSCA facility has seen many changes this year with the departure of the director mid year but the staff have done themselves proud with their dedication and efforts. Proof of this could be seen during the highly successful Quality Assurance Review which mentioned only a few areas that needed to be addressed.

The School Board has focussed on a variety of areas ranging from a request to change the traffic flows in Wheeler Crescent through to planning for the future of the school financially and demographically. The uncertainty of the current political environment requires that some conservative estimates of the fiscal future have needed to be made but we are confident that these decisions will set up St Anthony's well into the future.

Certain members of the St Anthony's teaching staff are moving on and on behalf of the school community I thank them for their efforts and contribution to the rich fabric of the St Anthony's community. They have left a lasting legacy with our children and we are grateful for their gifts. A special thanks to Chris Masters, who was the acting Assistant Principal for this year. She did a magnificent job with long hours spent improving the OOSCA processes and procedures as well as overseeing a quantum leap in the IT capability of St Anthony's. Thank you for all of your efforts Chris. They have been appreciated.

For the members of the P&F who tirelessly and willingly contribute their time for the benefit of the school community, a special thanks. Yet another successful year of fund raising has occurred and the P&F need to be thanked by all members of the school community.

Within the School board, I must thank retiring members who have similarly given freely of their time. Ms Cheryl-Anne Moy, Ms Katherine Rennick, and Mr Cyril Karo will all retire from the School Board at the end of 2007. Your contribution has been vital and integral as representatives of the community.

Finally, to the children who are leaving St Anthony's for the last time. Your life has just begun and each new day is an adventure. But each day starts with building upon the solid foundation that you gained at St. Anthony's, a foundation that you can trust in and be confident of. I wish you all the best in your future.

Regards

Jonathan Toze
Chairperson
St Anthony's School Board

A Message from the P & F

Building on the successes of previous years the Parent's & Friend's Association have had a very busy 2007. As well as providing a financial commitment to the school, the P&F have provide opportunities for community building within the school and provided a forum for parents to discuss school issues. This year, as in previous years, there has been a very dedicated team of parents operating behind the scenes to make 2007 a successful year. All those parents involved with the Parents & Friends Association for 2007 deserve big thanks.

During 2007 the P&F Fundraisers have been successful in not just raising funds, but also bringing the school community together and building on the fantastic community spirit of the school. A special thanks needs to go to Amanda Hargrave for taking on the Fete Coordinator's role, Jason Egan & Jamie Kemp for Coordinating the Walkathon and Gail McKillop & Kylie Ferrari for Coordinating the Christmas Raffle. Planning and preparations have already begun for next year's Fundraisers which we are all looking forward to.

The Walkathon was a fun day for all the families at St Anthony's. The new format of running it on the weekend in order to allow families to participate was a success in terms of the community building and it was a special time for all families involved. Next year the plans are in place for an even bigger and grander Walkathon and we look forward to all families of the school participating.

There have also been the events and activities throughout the year that have contributed to strengthening our school community. There were school breakfasts in Terms One and Four, School Discos were run by the Canteen; there was a Trivia night and an Elvis night in Braidwood. There have also been working bees around the school which many parents have assisted in and other ways that the school community has worked together, whether it is helping out in the Canteen or in the clothing pool.

Another important area of the P&F is the school canteen. In consultation with the canteen staff the P&F has started a canteen sub committee that is working to improve on the good service already

provided by the canteen to the school community. This sub committee has only just begun and next year we look forward to an even more active canteen sub committee.

In conclusion the P&F have had a very successful year and big thanks must go to all the parents on the P&F who have given so generously of their time and effort throughout the year. As we plan and prepare for the upcoming year, we look forward to the opportunities and invite all parents to come along and join in the fun, learning and activities of the P&F in 2008.

The P&F Team

A Message from the Principal

In 2007 St Anthony's has continued to prosper. Our students have once again had the opportunity to achieve academically and this is reflected in daily classroom work, results from assessment tasks and competitions they have entered. They continue to perform with skill and demonstrate sportsmanship on the sporting field. They have continued to support each other and work at making St Anthony's a friendly and safe school. They have made a great effort to support those less fortunate than themselves. They have celebrated their faith and received Sacraments and on a daily basis they have grown together through sharing happy times.

To the Year 6 of 2007, I thank you for your leadership and the role that you have played in making St. Anthony's the great school that it is. I wish you every success as you continue your education at high school. I am positive that you have the skills that you need to achieve highly and be valued members of your new school communities. Once again we look forward to hearing back from your new schools about what a positive and capable bunch of students you are.

Our school would not be a success without the tremendous support given by our parents. The ongoing commitment to the school by members of our School Board, who help form policy and manage the maintenance of our grounds and buildings and the outstanding efforts of the P&F, who have raised the money to meet the ever increasing running costs - as well as provide valuable teaching resources - is greatly appreciated by both myself and the staff. To these committed parents who so generously give their time and to all the parents who have supported the P&F, thank you.

Our St Anthony's Parish has continued to support our school. Father Mietek continues to give generously of his time, supporting the spiritual growth of our students, parents and teachers. His friendship is greatly valued by all. In my long association with Catholic schools I have never known a more committed and hard working priest when it comes to supporting a school. Special thanks also to Claudia McIntyre for her efforts coordinating our Sacramental Programs and to Lyn, the Parish Secretary, for her continued support.

The teaching and support staff continues to meet the daily demands of an ever challenging and changing teaching profession. The commitment and hard work of our staff is evident every day. How fortunate we are to have such a dedicated teaching staff who provide quality teaching and who work continuously to ensure that their teaching reflects best practice and meets the needs of the students. Our wonderful Learning Support Staff and ever-efficient secretaries in turn support the staff.

The canteen is open daily and provides a wonderful service. Many thanks to Geraldine and Donna and their volunteers for their dedication to this service and to Vina who works to keep our grounds clean and tidy. OOSCA continues to provide a much-needed service to our community and the staff strives to provide a caring service, a home away from home for the children. Many thanks to Clare and all the OOSCA staff.

During the year there has been a multitude of parent helpers in our school, assisting with special events as well as some who help weekly in classrooms. To all who have helped in some way this year we are most grateful.

While we live in interesting times, where the school is required by the Australian Government to display a poster titled 'Values for Australian Schools' it is somewhat ironic that these are the values that we as a Catholic school and system have always openly articulated and witnessed. While the funding for our Catholic schools is far from equitable on a per student basis, as a school and system we have quietly proceeded with the job of letting our actions speak louder than words. However, let me encourage you to make an effort to support our school within the local community, helping to promote all the wonderful opportunities offered here at St Anthony's.

I continue to be proud to have the opportunity to work in this wonderful school community. It is true that visitors will often comment on the lovely atmosphere that permeates the school, how well mannered and responsive our students are and how a love of learning is present. This is all due to a dedicated and committed staff, a supportive parent body and students who reflect the expectations that parents and teachers have of them.

Tim Elliott

Student Performance

At St Anthony's assessment is a vital part of any curriculum process. Within the Stage-based outcome structure adopted in *Treasures New and Old* and the *NSW K-6 KLA Curriculum* documents, teaching, assessing and reporting are closely linked. Teachers use a variety of assessment strategies which include teacher observation, checklists, student self-assessment and written reflections, conference / interview, running records, oral presentations, anecdotal records, written tests, projects, response to open-ended challenges, problem solving tasks, student explanation and demonstration, practical investigations, questioning and use of technology. St Anthony's has an Assessment and Reporting Policy which included the following Reporting events for 2007:

- Term 1: Parent-Teacher Interviews for Kindergarten and in other Year levels upon request.
- Terms 1 & 3: Three-way conferences for Years One to Six.
- Terms 2 & 4: Portfolios and written reports.

Our students again participated in the University of NSW Computer, English, Maths, Writing, Spelling and Science competitions and received Credit and Distinction results. We also entered a team of thirty Yr 5 and 6 students in the Maths Olympiad. One student was placed in the top 10% of Australasia and 4 children were placed in the top 25%.

Our ACTAP results in 2007 have provided our school with useful data to inform our directions in teaching and learning. Overall our Year 3 students were above the ACT average in almost every aspect of Literacy and Numeracy and in no area were they significantly lower than the ACT average. They were, however, significantly higher in Spelling, Spatial Sense and Numeracy. Our Year 5 students were generally equal to the ACT average in all areas except for Reading, where they were lower.

Analysis of our ACTAP data over the last four years has revealed that our school is successfully increasing the level of achievement of our underachieving students as they move through the school. Those students who have been in the middle 60% range are, with continued differentiation of the curriculum, beginning to achieve higher results.

Our Year 3 cohort sees 100% of students achieving above the Numeracy benchmarks and 96% achieving Literacy benchmarks. In Year 5, 97% of students are achieving Numeracy benchmarks and 97% are achieving Literacy benchmarks.

Analysis of the 2007 ACTAP results indicate that:

- there has been a considerable overall improvement in all areas of Literacy and Numeracy for our lower-achieving students,
- in Numeracy the school trend is above the ACT Benchmark, and

- we need to continue to differentiate the curriculum to extend middle to higher achieving students.

Professional Learning and Teacher Standards

All teaching staff at St Anthony's have a teaching qualification from a higher education institution within Australia. Several teachers have continued postgraduate study during 2007.

Professional Learning during 2007 has focussed on quality teaching, quality assessment and reporting and developing effective strategies for the teaching of literacy and numeracy.

All teaching staff participated in Professional Learning in:

- Implementing the ACT Curriculum Framework
- Student Reports to Parents
- Quality Teaching & Learning
- Teaching Writing (First Steps)

Individual teachers also participated in Professional Learning in:

- Teaching Strategies for Asperger's/Autism Spectrum
- Values and Drug Education
- Count Me In Too (Mathematics)
- Leadership
- ICT Administration
- Teaching Writing
- Every Chance To Learn (ACT Curriculum Framework)
- Student Engagement
- Students with High Support and Emotional Needs
- National Safe School's Conference
- Teaching Grammar
- Occupational Health & Safety
- Guided Inquiry – Learning through the Library
- Studies of Asia
- Sustainable Schools Initiatives
- Assessing Writing
- Quality Teaching and Learning
- Cooperative Reading
- Identification and Provision for Gifted Underachievers

Learning Support Staff have participated in Professional Learning in

- Engaging the 3-D Student,
- Students with High Support and Social and Emotional Needs,
- Speech and Language Assessment and Programming, and
- First Steps Writing [2nd Edition].

The average expenditure per teacher on professional learning in 2007 was \$953.

Teacher Attendance and Retention

Teachers were in attendance at St Anthony's Parish Primary in 2007 for an average of 195 ½ days. The total number of teaching days in the school year was 204. The average teacher attendance was therefore 95.8%.

Of the 36 teaching staff at St Anthony's in August 2006, 31 or 86% were still at the school in August 2007.

Student Attendance

The average student attendance rate for students at St Anthony's during 2007 was 94%, i.e. on average, each student attended school for 94% of the total number of days enrolled.

Enrolment Policy and Profile

In enrolling students, St Anthony's are directed by the Archdiocesan Enrolment Policy which can be found on the Annual Report page of the school's website or the Catholic Education Office's website at <http://www.ceo.cg.catholic.edu.au/policies/enrolment.htm>

The August Census for 2007 indicated that St Anthony's had an enrolment of 479 students. This total included:

- 230 male and 249 female students
- 16 Table 1 students with a disability
- 2 Indigenous students
- 29% from faith backgrounds other than Catholic
- 13 students identified as having English as their second language.

School Policies

St Anthony's School policies for Student Welfare, Discipline, Complaints and Grievances can be found on the Annual Report page of the school's website.

School Determined Improvement Targets

One of our targets for 2007 was for the staff to continue to review the school's curriculum, and especially to familiarise themselves with the Essential Learning Achievements and associated Essential Content. All staff attended a system in-service day on these on January 29 and in December they received a copy of the completed document *Every Chance to Learn* with its amendments and modifications.

In preparation for a review, several staff meetings were devoted to identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the current Mathematics Policy and reviewing current teaching and learning practices in Mathematics. Preparation of a draft of a Mathematics curriculum, incorporating the ELAs, was begun.

Another target was to continue to implement NSW Quality Teaching Framework. To this end, throughout the year, two teachers attended a series of four CEO workshops, reported extensively to staff on these and led the drive to make explicit links to the Quality Teaching dimensions in programs and curriculum documents.

To enhance the teaching and learning of writing in classrooms staff were comprehensively in-serviced on the new *First Step Writing [2nd Edition]*. Links to Quality Teaching were also made here and teachers were provided with the necessary resources for the programme's implementation in their classrooms.

In 2008 we are focussed on embedding the elements of Quality Teaching in all planning, teaching and assessment. To this end, all staff attended an in-service day led by Ralph Pirozzo on designing and implementing challenging, differentiated integrated units. Teachers are about to begin working in pairs to observe and provide Quality Teaching feedback on each other's teaching. Re-writing of the school's Mathematics curriculum has been completed and seven teachers attended the recent Numeracy Conference. Another four teachers are booked in to the Hawker Brownlow Conference in Melbourne in May and staff will receive feedback from both conferences.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

St Anthony's theme for 2007 was 'Side by Side Together we Grow.' This theme, together with the associated values that inspire us as a Catholic community formed the basis for all values education in our school. This theme permeated through to the students' class rules and the weekly focus of the St Anthony's Newsletter.

Through Religious Education lessons values were explicitly taught. The students' understanding of the values was then reinforced by our fortnightly Peer Support program. Focus assemblies and celebrations also provided opportunities for our students to witness and live these values on a daily basis. Banners were made and erected in our school hall as a visual reminder of the values that we all aspire to live by.

The aim of the Peer Support Program at St Anthony's was to develop the social skills of students and to build relationships between students from Kindergarten through to Year 6. Each session had a specific value based focus to help the students further explore how they could live the values in their daily lives and actions.

Regular 'Focus' assemblies were held where classes were responsible for presenting a particular value. During the assembly the chosen value was presented through story, drama or music to help students understand what actions accompanied the value. The assembly ended with each class being given a symbol to place on their classroom prayer focus table to remind them to live the value about which they had learnt.

School Parliament provided an opportunity for the students to develop leadership skills and develop responsibility for different activities in the school as well as provide feedback to the school executive about the areas the students would like to see developed or improved in the school.

In 2006 a special program to support students who need to further develop social skills, (specifically in positive playground interactions) was developed and has continued to be a valuable program within our school. The program is called 'Social Club'. Specific students are invited and encouraged to attend lunchtime activities, supervised by the Learning Support team. While the program does target specific students the program is open to all students at St Anthony's and has become a very popular activity for many students. At the same time it has helped students understand how positive relationships are built, taking responsibility for treating each other with respect. This year our school was chosen to represent the Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese and present at the National Safe Schools Week Conference. The Program is now being adapted across the country as one that incorporates the mandated values nationally in an inclusive, readily accessible program for all students.

Community service is also an important component of our Catholic ethos and students were given many opportunities throughout the year to participate in activities and programs to help and support not only members of our own community but also those in need in third world countries. As a school we celebrated 'Mission Week' and through classroom activities the students learnt about the importance of third world countries having access to fresh, clean water.

Through various fundraising events, the school raised money to build wells in two villages. Other examples of community service included a \$500 donation made to St Vincent De Paul and a trailer load of warm blankets as part of the Annual Winter Appeal.

During June the Community celebrated St Anthony's Feast Day. This annual event was an opportunity for the entire school body to gather for Mass in our Local Church. The students caught buses to the Parish church and sat at Mass in their Peer Support Groups. They continued to enjoy the day and participated in a variety of activities based on our Patron Saint.

Throughout the year we worked in collaboration with the St Anthony's Parish community and assisted our students in preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist. The students participated in a Parish run program and each Sacrament culminated in a Retreat day and the Celebration Masses.

St Anthony's is proud to enjoy strong support from our Parish Priest and local community. We have a hard working and enthusiastic community who support our school with energy and interest, leading to positive outcomes for all our students.

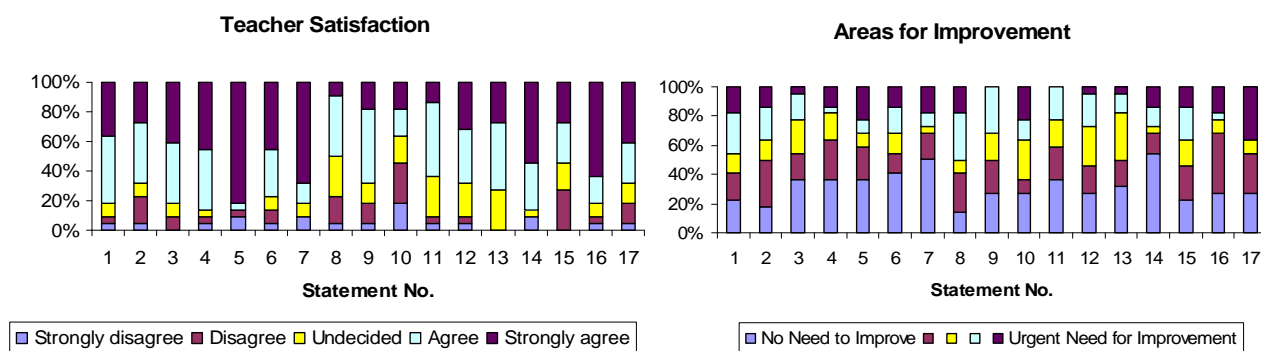
Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction

To determine satisfaction levels of the various members of our school community, the school personalised a series of questionnaires developed by the Catholic Education Office.

All staff were asked to respond to an online survey indicating their perceptions of our school and the priority for improvement of each aspect.

1. I take opportunities offered for professional development.
2. I become involved in collaborative decision making.
3. I am supported by my colleagues.
4. I offer support to my colleagues.
5. There is an expectation that I behave in a professional manner.
6. I feel my role is important in the school.
7. I feel committed to this school.
8. My workplace has a positive ethos.
9. There are clear goals and expectations at my school.
10. Communication is effective at my school.
11. Change has provided positive results for my students.
12. Leadership promotes teachers as professionals.
13. My colleagues set good examples to students.
14. Our school encourages student responsibility.
15. Student management is consistent at my school.
16. A positive learning environment is promoted at my school.
17. Staff wellbeing is promoted.

The following are graphical representations based on the responses of staff members.



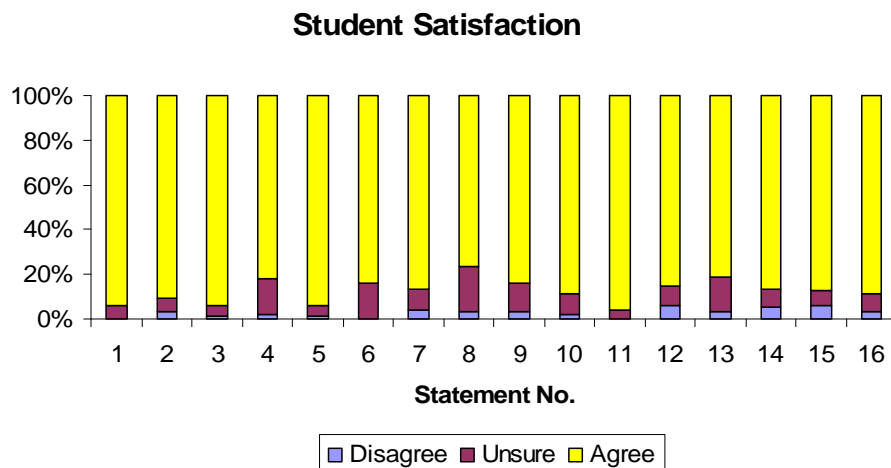
The responses given indicate that the staff has an overwhelmingly positive perception of the practices of the school, 75+% agreed or strongly agreed with most statements.

An online survey was made available in a password protected space and teachers were asked to encourage their students to respond. This resulted in 95 students indicating the extent to which they agreed that the following statements actually applied to our school.

1. My teacher cares about me.
2. My teacher helps me with my work.
3. I try to do my best.
4. I understand the teacher's instructions.
5. I understand my rights and responsibilities in my class.
6. I get help when I find tasks difficult to complete.
7. My teacher shows me how to do things when I am having difficulties.
8. I get helpful feedback on my work.
9. I am encouraged to improve the standard of my work.

10. I enjoy most things we do in class.
11. My teacher works hard.
12. I always learn new things.
13. We usually have the resources we need to complete tasks.
14. I have the opportunity to be involved in activities outside the classroom.
15. I am treated fairly at school.
16. I feel safe at my school.

The following graphical representation is based on the responses of the students.

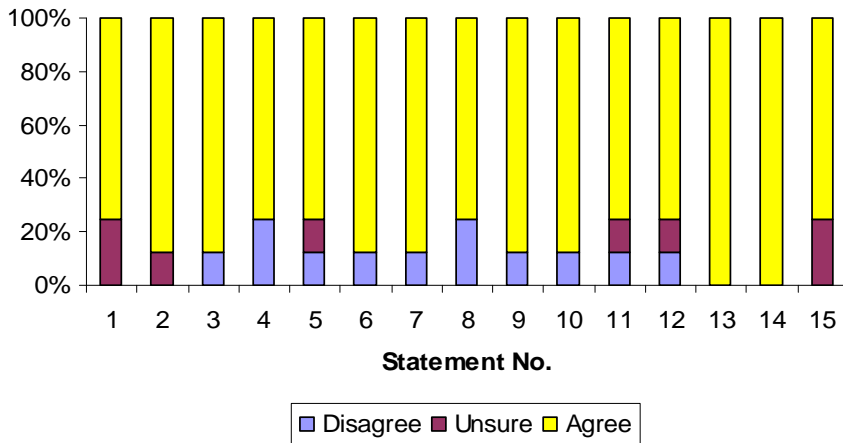


The responses given indicate that the students are very satisfied with the school, 80+% agreed with all statements.

An online survey was made available in a password protected space asking parents/guardians to rank the following statements as a means of determining how well the school is meeting the needs of their child/ren. This link was advertised in several newsletters and accessible from the school website. There was also an option of contacting the front office should parents wish to complete a paper version of the survey.

1. There is an enthusiastic approach to teaching.
2. My child is provided with a stimulating environment.
3. My child's school reports are informative.
4. This school has high standards of student behaviour.
5. The student management policy is fair.
6. The social needs of my child are met at school.
7. My child is provided with sufficient challenges.
8. My child is involved in many school activities.
9. This school is managed well.
10. There is effective leadership within this school.
11. The staff at this school are approachable.
12. The staff at this school listen to my concerns.
13. This school has a safe environment.
14. I am given the opportunity to be involved in the school's activities.
15. Overall, I am satisfied with the education of my child(ren) at this school.

Parent Satisfaction



75+% of parents agreed with all statements. Less than 25% of those who completed the survey disagreed with any of the statements. Meeting children's social needs, provision of challenging learning opportunities and school leadership were viewed positively. Of particular note is that 100% of parents agreed that St Anthony's offers a safe environment and the opportunity to be involved in the school's activities.

Summary Financial Information

A summary of the school's financial information can be accessed on the school's website.

This report was prepared by: St Anthony's School Executive Team, School Board Chair and P&F President