**Penrith High School P&C Association – Annual General Meeting 2018**

**President’s Report**

2017 was a significant year for Penrith High School. Mr Mark Long embarked on a journey to make improvements in staffing, administration, communication, assessments and student well-being.  His considerable experience in successful selective schools enabled him to take the school forward in a very positive direction. Given the scale of the changes, I am glad  to say that the response of every parent I have spoken to has been nothing short of enthusiasm. This further resulted in an immediate boost to the parent engagement, and commitment as well as the HSC outcome.

**P&C Activities**

Apart from our regular general meetings, the P&C were involved in the following activities and school support in 2017:

* **Parent forums.**

 We ran parent forums on:

 Term 1: Presentation on student stress and well‐being, ATAR calculation

 Term 2: Pathway to medicine by 3 medical students who had graduated from PHS

 Term 3: Pathway to Engineering by 6 engineering students who had graduated from PHS

* **Scholarships**

P&C gives 3 scholarships each value $500.00 to three students identified by the school at the end of year Award Ceremony.

* **Selection panels for teachers**

P&C provided parent and multicultural representatives for a large number of panels (DP, HT Mathematics, English teacher positions).

There were Parent representatives on the Curriculum Committee that oversaw the introduction of a new timetable model and contributed to discussions about subjects that would be offered to students as electives in years 9, 10, 11 and 12.

* **Uniform**

The P&C also established the Buy and Swap platform for uniforms when blazers were introduced and reorganised the clothing pool so that more families could access this resources. The operating procedures were written by P&C parents and this will now be operated by students as part of their Duke of Ed volunteer hours.

* **Selection panel for new students intake**

5 parents formed the panel that determined the rank order for students offered places in years 8-11. This involved looking at the applications and ranking them against the entry criteria and then advising the Principal in what order places should be offered. The parent panel also looked at a selection of applications that had been rated by the staff panel to provide transparency to the process.

* **Canteen**

P&C parents played a huge role with the canteen and supporting the work there. Both as volunteers and as the subcommittee.

There are paid canteen staff members including one manager, two staff sharing cover Monday to Friday, and recruiting is underway for additional cover of 3 hours on each of four days per week.

* **School Support & Funding**

Funds have been set aside for the quad refurbishment. The designs are being finalised by the Captains who are working with the student body. Completion is expected by term 2.

Following parent requests at a meeting, additional funds from P&C are going to be requested to complete the air conditioning of the final 6 rooms. The Department's Assets unit is still trying to determine if there is enough capacity in the substation to run these. (3 months of waiting, testing and site visits have already taken place). We are working hard to try and get this done for term 2 when it is cooler so that heating can be used.

**Final comments and thanks**

The P&C has a sizeable sum on hand at the bank waiting to be spent on resources for the school (over $90,000). The allocation of these funds should be a matter of priority for this year.

I would like to extend my deep thanks and appreciation to the many people who have given so much time supporting Penrith Selective High School and the P&C. A huge thank you, to the P&C executives who have worked very hard all year. Without their efforts very little would have been achieved. A thank you to the many parents who have given so much time to selection panels and the canteen. Finally to Mr. Long and the wonderful staff at PSHS who so ably teach and support our children.

Wishing you all the best for 2018.

**Praba Prabaharan (Maheswaran)**.