



Newman Parents Committee

22.03

Wednesday 10 August 2022 5.45pm
JHN Learning Hub

Minutes

1. Acknowledgement to Country and Welcome – John Finneran

Principal, John Finneran, opened the meeting and reflected on giving thanks and being part of a Marist community.

2. Opening Prayer

The prayer was titled 'A New Beginning' derived from the 2022 Marist theme Known and Loved.

The Feast Day of the Assumption was also acknowledged (on 15 August the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary). This is the day St Marcellin Champagnat chose for the Marist Brothers to come together.

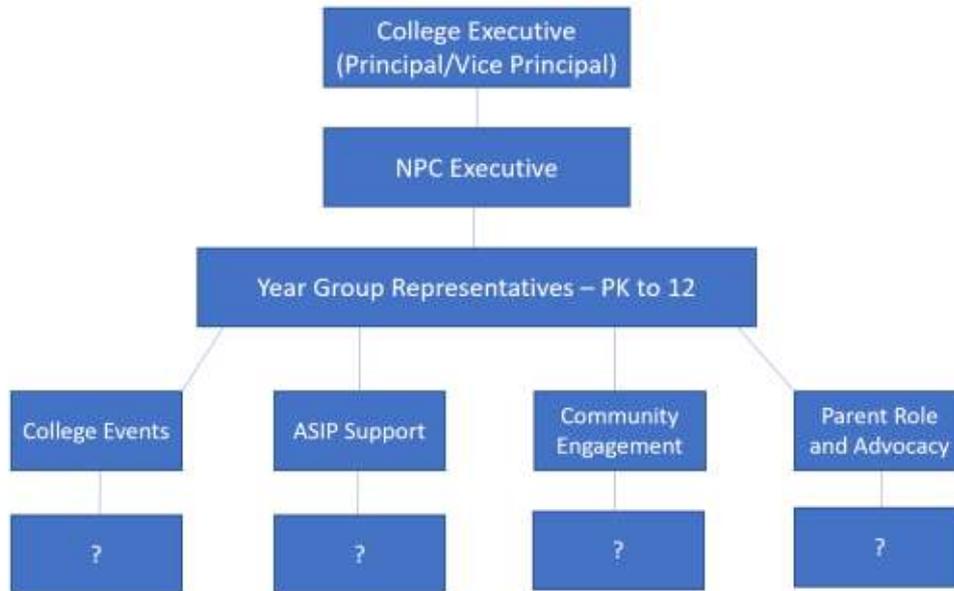
3. Announcement of Newman Parent Committee, Executive members

Congratulations to the following members of our parent community who have been appointed to the Newman Parents Committee:

- Gina Thornberry (Children are in Years 3 and 5) – Gina looks forward to cultivating connections between families and the school.
- Ben Ker (Child in Kindy) – Ben has been in education for 12 years. He is looking forward to being the conduit between parents and staff.
- Christina Folley (Children are in Kindy and Year 2) – Christina is looking forward to the responsibility in representing the parent body.
- Stella Rapanaro (Children are in Years 3, 7 and 9) – Stella looks forward to bringing the parent voice back to the teachers. She also aims to increase representation of more parents at the meetings.
- Deb Attard Portughes (Child is in Year 7) – Deb sees her role as a sense of duty and opportunity to best represent the parent body.

New Parent Engagement Structure

To be further developed over the next 6-12 months.



4. **Capital Development Update**

- Currently moving towards the tender process.
- 3 stage project. Due to escalation of cost and difficulty in securing resources, estimated the opening of the new building will be in 2024
- Making very strong headway in the design elements
- Fundamental shift in the traditional classroom you currently see – common shared areas

There are other proposed capital plans on the secondary campus (over the next 5 years):

- N Block
The College is currently working with architects to consider the refurbishment of N Block this Summer holidays.
- Office
The centralisation of Student Services to the main administration building; along with required refurbishments is currently being considered and reviewed.
- Lockers
The current undercroft locker area is being considered for expansion during the N Block refurbishment, to allow for the classroom entrances to be reconfigured in line with S Block and the Hub.

5. **Newman Parents Events**

5.1 Christmas in July Review

Positives	Needs Improvement	Opportunities
Great to offer a parent only event	Staff to pass the food around	More targeted Year group events/activities
Builds community amongst the parents	More substantial food options	Different activities for parent engagement rather than a party
Informal atmosphere to socialise	Attendance!	PK-12 Mother's and Father's Day Activities and events
Mulled wine was great!	Plates and cutlery needed	Use the whole Hub to engage parents better

Well catered (both food and drinks)	Parent Reps to assist more with the promotion / encouragement to attend	More involvement and representation of parents
Great being on a Friday night	Planning and promotion	Advertising/Promotion earlier
	End time to be later	
Timing of event was good	Perception of it being a 'drinking event'	Link future events to a charity or child benefit
Great to have the opportunity to also mingle with staff		More posters and use of SeeSaw to advertise

5.2 Father's Day

- Marian Campus Father's Day Liturgy
- Kindy Father's day event
- PK-12 Thursday Community Mass

Feedback / Opportunities

- Breakfast before Mass
- Year 7 specific Mass and morning tea
- A famous Guest speaker to draw more secondary fathers to attend

5.3 Zero2Hero (previously Newman Parents)

The College has partnered with Zero2hero (a WA-based not-for-profit organisation with a mission to address mental health problems openly among younger people) to provide parents with a valuable opportunity to learn the skills and tools needed to support their children.

Each two hour seminar will see a panel of experts present and provide the opportunity for Q&A.

Resilient Young Minds (Monday 5 September, Marist Auditorium)

This seminar will focus on how to develop resilience and better prepare our young people for challenges and life. The night will be a valuable opportunity for parents to learn the skills and tools needed to support their children.

Tickets are \$15 and can be [purchased here](#).

5.4 Parent Art Show Soiree

- Term 4 Week 3
- More information to follow

5.5 Parent Morning Formation (Br Bill)

- Term 3 Week 9
- Opportunity for parents to learn more about what it's like to be in a Marist community
- More information to follow

5.6 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

- Term 3 Week 9
- Ticket sales are selling well
- Parents are encouraged to purchase tickets and support our students. Tickets can be [purchased here](#).

6. **College Alignment**

Diagnostic Inventory of School Alignment (DISA)

Newman College is committed to annual school improvement, and is seeking feedback from all members of the community to refine practices through the completion of the DISA survey.

The DISA is a longitudinal survey that evaluates the perceptions of students, parents and staff on the progress of school improvement strategies and our Vision for Learning.

The survey is anonymous and it takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. Responses will play a valuable part in shaping the strategic vision of Newman College for the years to come. [Click here](#) to complete the survey.

The College is currently viewing a number of traditions and practices with the intent for future alignment in the next 2-3 years when we come together at a PK-12 school. These include:

- Uniform (continuity)
- Guilds
- Resources
- Reporting (alignment)
- learning profiles (maintaining/storing a student's data during and post enrolment)
- Policy and practice

It is inherent that some traditions are maintained, however we need to have one story.

Consultation with parents will occur prior to any changes being made.

7. Q & A

7.1 Change of Campus Names

- A naming committee is in charge of naming new / renaming existing buildings under the directive of Marist Schools Australia. Br Terry Orrell is leading this committee.
- Currently looking at name options – based on the Marist history and charisms
- Would also like to be able to recognise the Dominican and Brigidine Sisters and influential Alumni.

7.2 New Principal

Mr Andrew Watson has been appointed to lead Newman College from Term 2 2023. Andrew is currently the Principal of Mazenod College in Lesmurdie. He is a well-known and highly regarded leader in Catholic education.

7.3 Opportunity for Wellbeing Events for Parents

Need to bring parents back together. Opportunity to hold a parent only event during Wellbeing week?

Inclusivity/connectivity for parents with children with learning needs.

8. John closed the meeting at 7.00pm
