



FREE REFORMED SCHOOL ASSOC. (TAS.) INC.

administering the

JOHN CALVIN SCHOOL

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Chair's Report to the FRSA (Tas) Inc at the Annual General Meeting on 25th March 2024

Prepared by Stefan Pitlo

Dear members,

It is with great pleasure that I present the chair's report for the 2024 Annual General Meeting. I am pleased to report on another blessed and productive year for our school and association. All thanks to God for His blessings and provision for our school, His blessings are clearly evident in the reports to follow.

These annual reports are an essential part of the governance of our school, and I encourage you all to read them thoroughly, ensure you understand them and present any questions or ideas you have to the board.

From a governance perspective the board has been using a program called BoardPro for more than 12 months now and we have found it to be an effective document management tool, streamlining most governance tasks such as agenda preparation, minute taking, motions, an action list and the decision register as well as serving as a portal for organising all the boards governance policies, mandates and other documents. While we are still learning to leverage its full potential, we will continue to use this software moving forward.

With the assistance from our Association Secretary, the board has also been working on a risk statement and risk register, which serves to outline the governance and delegation structures of the association and school and is another essential governance document expected by the Non-Government Schools Registration Board. Re-registration of the school

is expected for next year and most of the work to meet the requirements is already underway or complete.

Recruiting staff for our school is often a dynamic and challenging process, but once again God has provided us with adequate teachers to make a start for the year. I would like to welcome Sam de Ruiter to the faculty and wish him and his family well as he settles in at the school and they settle more broadly into the community. I am also pleased to thank Irene Eilander for making herself available to cover some of the teaching load in the high school for this year. Due to this teaching load, she needed to step down from her position on the school board. Much appreciation to her for the time she served and the wisdom and energy she brought to her board work.

While the number of staff that we have on the faculty is short of what we want going forward this year, I have every confidence in the staff that we do have. They are excellent teachers, dedicated, hard-working and are well equipped with adequate resources, on-going PD and support from the principal and leadership team. We also have a member of faculty who holds the role of student support facilitator as well as an expanding team of teacher assistants to support larger classrooms and support students with extra learning needs. With these staff, I have every confidence that our students are receiving the best K-10 Christian education in Launceston.

Alongside the leadership team we will continue our recruitment efforts through the year and to support this further, we have developed the new standing role of Recruitment Officer on the board. Their objective is strategic planning, to ensure a robust pool of candidates whenever the school embarks on recruitment. In addition, they would assist in the actual recruitment process by serving as a point of reference for the principal, conduct their own networking and refer potential candidates to the principal and assist the principal with tasks that require board representation, including interviews.

There is little to report on the property front. The property committee has been seeing to regular demands from our tenants and ensuring a smooth transition of maintenance from the previous property management team. The property committee maintains contact with our tenants, seeking to shorten the timeline before we can take occupancy of the building, but at this stage we are still working with the original timeline. The property committee

continues to communicate with the FRCL aiming to reach an agreement to manage the ongoing risk to the association posed by the FRCL church building.

12 months ago, we restructured the standing committees of the board, with updated mandates and I am pleased to report these have been operating well. These committees align with the strategic plan of the association and are mandated with overseeing the various aspects of school oversight as well as ensuring the strategic plan is being progressed through annual action plans.

Aside from these standing committees we also have some fundraising committees. John van Asperen and his committee have been working to distribute information, raising pledges, and fundraising for the building fund. Due to their work, your pledges and contributions, and contributions from our brothers and sisters in WA, we are on track with the repayment schedule that we committed to when we purchased the new building. A big shout out to John and the rest of the committee and thanks be to God for the generosity that He works in us.

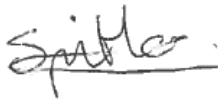
I would also like to acknowledge the work of Kerry Ann Heys, the rest of the fair committee and everyone else who helped to organise the car boot sale last year, including those who managed a stall, operated a barbeque or ice cream machine, wrangled animals or set up the myriad of other activities that were available on the day. Through all your efforts we could enjoy a wonderful day of community engagement and fellowship, while raising funds for the school.

Moving forward, the Board is planning to hold a culture survey, to identify ways to continue building a positive school and community culture. To this end, I encourage you to participate in the culture survey, when it becomes available. Take this opportunity to have your say in the ongoing growth of our school and community. We will also continue planning for and paying off our new building, in preparation for its future development into a school.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and commitment to our association. From the depths of my heart, I thank you for your generosity in giving to the building fund and the future of our school. Thank you also for being busy attending excursions and visiting the school, when possible, for participating in fundraising events, for

contributing to the community in various small ways. This is your association that was set up for the education of the covenant children that God has entrusted to us. I encourage you all to remain committed to its continued operation and growth. Finally, a big thank you to all my colleagues serving on the board again this year. I am well aware of the continuous commitment and energy required to complete board tasks. Your work is much appreciated, and I wish you continued success in the year ahead.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Stefan Pitlo', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Stefan Pitlo