Welcome everyone to the 2014 St Pius X Catholic Primary School AGM. Thank you all for attending tonight. My name is Gavin Walton and I have had the privilege of being the school board chair at St Pius X during 2014 and as my son is in his final year this will be my last year on the Board.

Firstly, I would like to introduce the board members who are all here tonight – Dana McGrath, Clive Bingwa (Secretary), Graham Moore (Treasurer), Nick Sertis, Steven Zaninovich and our ex officio members Parish Priest, Father Thomas and Principal, Daine Burnett, our P&F representative, Peter Hopfmuller and our Parish representative, Steve Logan and also Brett & Mac who always attend as part of their leadership role.

Tonight apart from hearing from me, you will also hear from our Treasurer, Graham Moore and Principal, Daine Burnett.

As a reminder the school board’s primary responsibility is to the financial governance of the school which covers reviewing and monitoring operating budgets and also development of a Capital Expenditure Plan and Strategic Plan for the school over the next 3-5 years. The board also supports the principal to run the school. This support extends to providing advice and ensuring that school operates within CEO policies and guidelines. To this end the obligations of the school board are contained in the Catholic School Board Constitution, a copy of which can be found on our school website.

During the year the board has been across a range of activities that the school has been working on including:

- The finalisation of the school’s vision and values with the help of Brendan Spillane and a dedicated sub-committee representing teachers, parents and the board. Thanks to – Daine Burnett, Brett Wilkie, Jo Pitt, Tonia Poggioli, Josephine Freeman, Peter Hopfmuller, Christine Bacon, Claire Griffiths, Nick Sertis and Dana McGrath.
- Installation of the new Nature Playground in Pre-Primary.
- Setting up of a new IT network structure to support our current and future needs including our 1 to 1 programs.
- Working with the CEO and Santelli Architects to shape a Capital Development Plan to expand and upgrade our facilities, meeting rooms, classrooms, work areas and
amenities. Daine will provide more information next year on the final concept and timeline once confirmed by the Catholic Education Office.

- LEAD Award presented to the school for outstanding effort in Learning and Teaching and increasing the capacity of students at St Pius X through Science and the MacKillop Club.
- Inclusion of an Art Program and Music program in 2015.

In regards to the school finances I am very pleased to report that St Pius is in sound shape and has recorded a small surplus this year which is in line with expectations we set at the beginning of the year. I would like to thank Margaret for her continued hard work in managing school finances and also supporting the board. I would like to ask Margaret to come forward to accept a small token of the Board’s appreciation to recognise all the support she provides to the Board. I would also like to thank Graham Moore who took over the role as school board treasurer this year and has really simplified the board reporting process to allow us to concentrate on the items of significance. You will hear from Graham shortly. I think it is an important priority that St Pius X continues to deliver great value to the school community and this has been a focus of the board, Daine and the leadership group throughout the year. We are acutely aware of the cost pressures on all and strive to provide the very best value catholic education we can to the community and provide as many reasons to keep St Pius at the top of the list when considering a catholic school in this area.

At St Pius we are fortunate to have a dedicated P&F team that has been capably led by Peter Hopfmueller over the last 2 years. Thanks to the P&F executive, Class Reps, Ball Committee and all the volunteers that helped out with P&F activities throughout the year. The board and school sincerely appreciate your efforts in everything you do. I would also like to formally acknowledge the financial contribution that the P&F has made to the school this year with over $48,000 provided to improve the resources available for the children.

Also thank you to Father Thomas who has again provided the Spiritual guidance and parish connection to our school. On behalf of the board we would like to wish Father Thomas all the best with his next adventure. Thank you Father.

I would also like to thank the teachers for their contribution to the school and towards our children’s development and am confident that with our quality team of current teachers and some high calibre arrivals next year the children will continue to love to learn.

It is with a touch of sadness that I ask Mac to come forward to receive a token of the board’s appreciation for her 10 years of service at St Pius as part of the leadership team. Unfortunately Mac has to move on at the end of this year and St Paul’s have got themselves one very special person. Mac, we wish you every happiness and success in your new role and know that if anyone deserves it, you do.
Thank you also to our school principal, Daine Burnett who in his second year at the school has been a driving force to ensure that the school is operating within CEO guidelines and current teaching practices as well as driving innovations to ensure St Pius stays at the forefront of children’s education.

In closing I would like to thank the entire board for their contribution throughout the year and wish the new board every success. A special thank you to our retiring board member – Dana McGrath for her contribution to the school and board over a number of years and to Nick Sertis who has renominated – I wish you well.

And finally as a school is all about the children I would like to thank all of the children who contribute to making St Pius such a fantastic place.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank everyone involved with the school throughout the year and wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and I am sure 2015 will be very exciting.

Thank you

Gavin Walton
Chairman – St Pius X School Board
25 November 2014