

# ASCOT STATE SCHOOL - INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

Bright Futures. Endless Possibilities.



# The background....

- In 2013, the Ascot State School community and staff made the decision to become an Independent Public School (IPS). As an IPS school we have greater autonomy in decision making processes to enhance student learning.
- The IPS quite simply offers Ascot State School the opportunity to go from being a great school, to being the best school it can possibly be through creation of bright futures with endless possibilities.

# The logo....



- Highlights the Independent Public School
- It shows that life's path does not have to be set; life is an ever-changing journey, one of endless possibilities
- Life's journey has many bumps and pitfalls and if we make mountains out of each one, we will get nowhere, so the sun and blue sky depict a positive disposition – bright futures.

# What does this mean for Ascot?

- The School Council decides on the strategic direction of the school
- Ascot can embrace innovation
- We can tailor school programs to meet the needs of the Ascot State School community
- We will remain part of the state's strong public schooling system
- The Principal will select and recruit high quality staff
- A one line budget which gives the school flexibility
- Formulation of our own plans.

# What doesn't change?

- Ascot must still teach the Australian Curriculum
- Ascot's enrolment management policy
- The name of the school and the uniform
- The requirement to adhere to legislation.

# What does being an IPS deliver?

- Quality leadership
- Greater parent, staff and community involvement to enhance student learning through the School Council
- Quality teachers delivering quality curriculum
- Endless possibilities

# What is the School Council?

- It is required under legislation for an IPS, namely Chapter 6 of the Education (General Provisions) Act, 2006. Sections 77-117
- It sets and monitor the school's strategic direction
- It approve plans and policies of the school of a strategic nature
- It performs its functions in a way that achieves the best learning outcomes for the school's students
- It is made up of the Principal, P&C President, 2 elected staff members, 2 elected parent members & 2 appointed community members (8 people in total).

# The School Council may not:

- Interfere with the management of the day-to-day operations of Ascot State school or its curriculum
- Make operation decisions about the use of teaching or learning resources at Ascot
- Make decisions about individual teaching style to be used, or not used, at Ascot
- Have control of funds or enter into contracts
- Make a decision contrary to law or a written policy of the EQ
- Acquire, hold or dispose of or deal with property, and
- For the avoidance of doubt, the School Council is not part of EQ, it is not a body corporate and it doesn't have a separate legal identity.



# School Council v P&C

		RESPONSIBILITIES			
		Governance	Advice	Operations	Fundraising
Entities	Principal	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	School Council	Yes	Yes	No	No
	P&C	No	Yes	No	Yes

# School Council Members must:

- Be willing to commit to the task of governing
- abide by a Code of Conduct
- Be willing to make & influence decisions
- Ideally have expertise in areas that are important for the School Council
- Be willing to devote time to be informed in order to ensure effective decision making
- Commit to up to 2 years of service.

# Paradox of Governance

- How to allow the School Council and Principal to exercise effective control without diminishing the initiative and motivation of either?
- Through respect, trust, confidence, support, open communication and the understanding of specific roles whilst remaining focussed on the strategic vision and mission of Ascot.

# Establishment – Phase 1

- Meetings each Friday in term 2 with interested parties
- Council at this stage consists only of the Principal and P&C President
- The Draft Constitution was prepared
- Timeline was drafted.

# Establishment – Phase 2

- Consultation with staff, parents & student on draft Constitution and IPS in general
- Expressions of interest sought from parents & staff
- Training night on 30 July for all who submitted expressions of interest
- Special meeting in August for P&C and staff to approve Draft Constitution by Secret Ballot

# Establishment – Phase 3

- Constitution gazetted
- Returning Officer appointed
- Formal nomination process starts
- 28 Days notices given for election date and final receipt of nomination is not less than 14 days prior to the election
- Secret ballot for both staff & parents and 2 staff members & 2 parent members elected

# Establishment – Phase 4

- School Council meets to discuss and determine the two community members to be appointed
- School Council meets for induction and training
- School Council conducts its first official meeting and elects the Chair & Secretary (Chair can't be the Principal).