

Date of Dictation: 06 February 1997  
Date of Meeting: 12 February 1997

St Paul's School  
Headmaster's Report

Mr Knox,

I have pleasure in presenting this report to the above meeting of the Council.

Matters for Council Decision:

- Leave for Mr Klavins, p. 2
- Proposal re payment for Extra-Curricular Activities, p. 4
- Any other matters.

Matters for Expression of Council Opinion:

- Change of date for Business Planning Meeting, p. 2
- Communication of Business Plan to staff, p. 2
- Enterprise Bargaining matters, p. 4
- Building Plans: Music Building; Car Parking, p. 5
- Financial Reports, p. 6
- Any other matters.

## 1. Council

We congratulate Mrs J A Smith on the publication of her book (co-authored by Mr Allan Chay), *Legal Interviewing in Practice*. Some of us have known that the production of this work has had some hiccoughs, and share Judy's pleasure at its achievement. We also congratulate her on her appointment to a London law school for the 1997-8 northern academic year. Mrs Smith will be seeking leave from Council for this period.

Also seeking leave is Mr P Klavins, who has at very short notice already moved to Rome with his family to commence a six-month assignment with Telecom Italia.

These developments bring back into focus the membership of Council, already one below its maximum strength. The Nominations Committee has met on a couple of occasions without resolving any particular action in the recent past. Mrs J A Polkinghorne and Mr P J Johansen are two of the names which have most frequently been supported as future members of Council.

Since Council's last formal meeting Mr Johansen has assumed the Chairmanship of the Board of the Foundation, and is presumably also one of the preferred candidates for Foundation-based membership of the Finance and Commercial Activities Committee.

For reasons well known, the Council/Staff dinner on 24 January was cancelled. Attention needs to be given to the method and style of now promulgating Council's business planning intentions and activities to the staff, and to the wider School community.

Professor Kiel has asked leave to transfer the proposed annual review of the Business Plan from 9 August 1997 to 26 July. If this latter date is inconvenient he will honour his previous commitment to 9 August. I am aware, however, that he wishes to attend a conference overseas which would now clash with the August date.

The minutes of the November 1996 meeting of the Anglican Schools Commission are included for the information of Council.

## 2. Staff

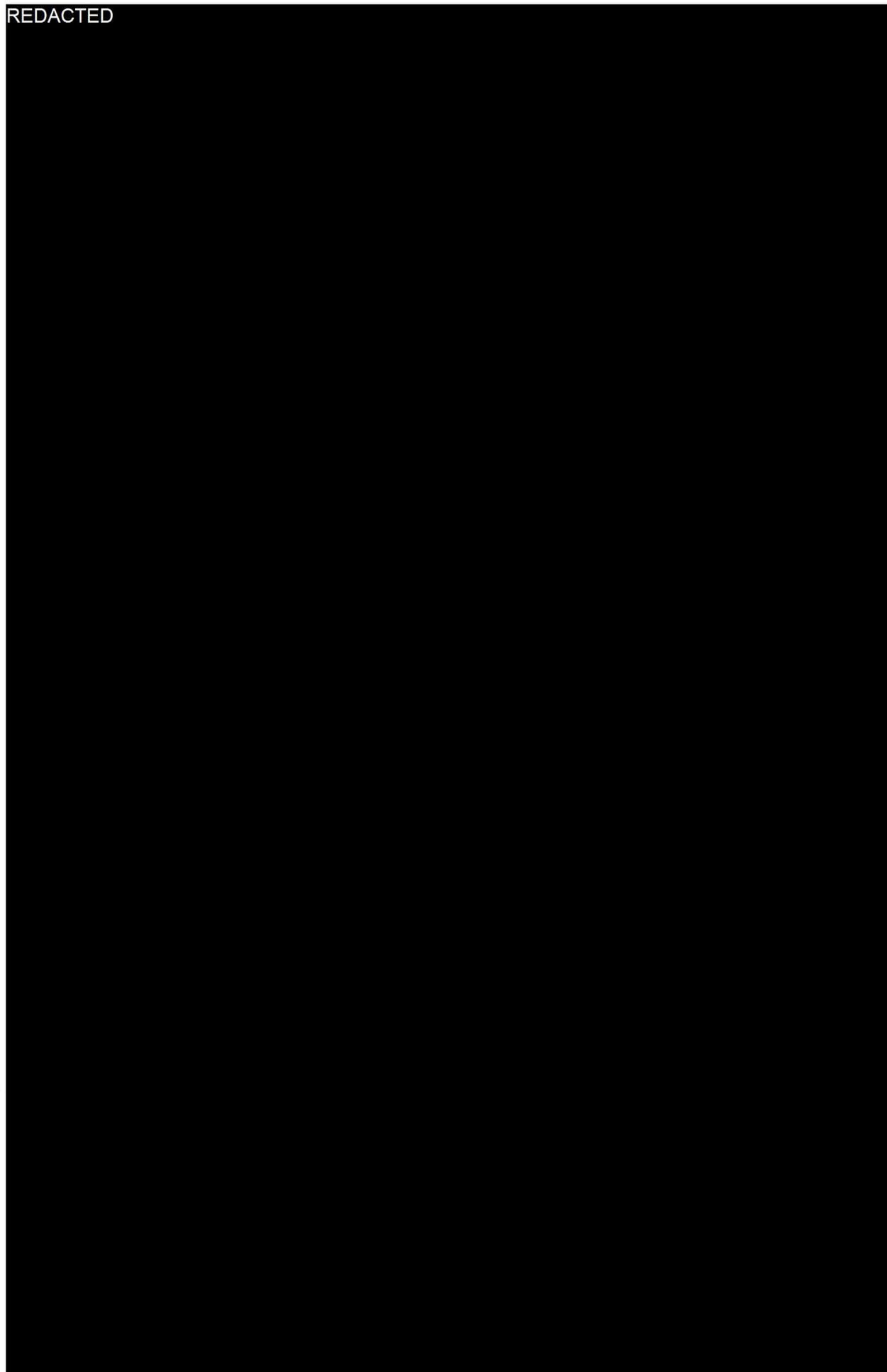
All members of Council will be aware of the death of Mr Kevin Lynch on 23 January, and many attended his funeral on 29 January. A formal statement was read to all staff on 24 January in the presence of the Chairman. Copies of this statement should by now have reached all Council-members.

I am extremely grateful for the strong personal support offered by the Chairman and members of Council in this period. Many of you know that Mr Lynch and his family had been close personal friends of Pam and me for some quarter of a century.

There are a number of matters related to Mr Lynch's death which will be commented on when we meet rather than expanded upon here. An advertisement for the School Counsellor position will appear in *The Courier-Mail* on Saturday. A copy of the information sheet for intending applicants is enclosed.

Some staff have raised again the question of declaring the campus "smoke-free".

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### 3. Students

The expected numbers for 1997 in the budget papers were 960. The actual numbers as I write are 945. There are a number of students scheduled to start in April or July. The changes this year in enrolments have been different in pattern to those of past years. 83 changes to the roll have been recorded since 6 December 1996; over 25 of them since the first day of School.

One Year 11 girl leaves tomorrow to accept a swimming scholarship at Clayfield College, organised by her coach. A Year 8 boy is expected next week from overseas. Fluidity, it seems, will be an increasing phenomenon.

Documents relating to the performance of last year's Year 12 students are enclosed. Some of my educational statistics are renowned for their opaqueness. I shall be happy to provide explanations when we meet.

Call-up letters for 1998 were mailed last weekend. The annual Scholarship/Entrance Examination, again accompanied by an Open Day, is scheduled for Saturday 8 March.

### 4. Government Initiatives

1997 State and Federal subvention to be received by St Paul's is

State:	\$ 674 per primary student
	\$ 1051 per secondary student

Federal:	\$ 778 per primary student
	\$ 1137 per secondary student

A sheet giving historic ERI parameters is enclosed. The Bursar will be the best explainer of these mystic numbers.

The Federal Government's new funding policies have been the subject of widespread media comment. Education continues to fail to be one of the Government's obvious strengths.

### 5. Enterprise Bargaining

There have been a number of developments during the vacation period. A Diocesan briefing paper dated 22 November 1996 is enclosed. Mr Verdon and Dr Coman will be able to provide current detail when we meet.

The question of payment for staff taking extra-curricular activities, already agreed to in principle by Council for 1997, has been taken further in discussions led by the School Consultative Committee. The latest version of the proposal is enclosed.

## 6. Buildings and Developments

The School has now received the permission of the Property and Finance Board to accept the offer from the State Government of \$235,600 towards the cost of construction of the Music Building and the refurbishing of the Krebs Building to meet the needs of the Drama Department.

The car park problem remains unresolved. One parent enclosed a note with his fee payment:

I propose to pay the Building Fund contribution when the current chaotic traffic conditions on leaving the carpark have been properly addressed.

While this parent is known to hold strong opinions on a number of issues, the sentiment is accepted as a general one.

Sadly the School and some staff have been the subject of abuse recently, almost certainly students from Year 12 1996 (or 1995). The heaviest damage has occurred at School almost weekly over the last month or so, with a significant amount of shrubbery being destroyed, and damage to facilities on the Oval. While we believe we know who is responsible, the evidence is not sufficient to support a charge at this stage, although the Police are aware of the incidents, and suspicions held by staff have been fed back through the grapevine in an effort to deter further activity.

## 7. Interest Groups

The Report of the Meeting held with Council on 30 November 1996 is enclosed. The next quarterly planning meeting for interest groups is scheduled for 18 February.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Past Students' Association and the Foundation to support fund-raising for the Clubhouse project is either complete or near completion. Advice received from the ATO with the assistance of Mr Darryl Somerville indicates that the planning for the building will have to be carried out very carefully if the tax-deductible status of the Foundation's Building Fund is to be protected. In brief the building must be used for at least 50% "school purposes" during normal school times. It will be remembered that a similar requirement for the Chapel led the Foundation to establish a separate Chapel Fund which did not attract tax deductibility.

## 8. Legal Matters

Further to the matter reported last meeting regarding acoustic problems in the Krebs Building, arrangements are being made for the formal assessment of noise-levels by an acoustics engineer.

Further advice has been sought on the desirable length of the arm which separates the School from the Foundation. This question is critical to the introduction of a number of initiatives proposed during the Business Planning discussions. The purpose of the arm's length was to protect the School from adverse effects upon ERI calculations. All current advice has been that while, naturally, due care must be exercised, and the Foundation must meet all its legal responsibilities as a registered company, DEET now accepts that schools need to maintain a commercial arm such as a Foundation and that the relationship should be kept close in order to avoid having two groups with diverging goals.

#### 9. Financial Matters

Following the reconstitution of the Council Committees, it was agreed that the monthly financial reports would form part of my own reporting to Council. The November 1996 figures are enclosed, and the December figures should be available by the time Council meets.

#### 10. Other Matters

Following some dissatisfaction with aspects of the Cadet program in 1996, the army authorities indicated that they would not be happy for the present leadership to continue unless further training were undertaken by the Officer-in-Charge. He resigned in what can only be called a huff, as did his 2-i-c. One of the two Instructors of Cadets has remained, and the other has yet to indicate his intentions. (Three of these four staff are School parents.)

With the assistance of regular army personnel who have an interest in the School, Capt Helen Gill, who has been part of the Caboolture Cadet Unit for some time, has taken over the Unit for the year to give us time to find alternative leadership for 1998.

The School's "Chapter" of QATIS has held its AGM. Mrs PJ Bopf remains the Staff Representative, and Mr A du Preez has assumed the Chair, in the place of Mr S P Faulkner, who did not seek re-election.

Morayfield West State School opens this year; Eatons Hill State School and Burpengary State High School are in planning for 1998 openings. I have been invited to a meeting with Lendlease on 17 February to discuss Mango Hill proposals. An excerpt from the latest information available is enclosed.

#### 11. Date of Next Meeting

This is scheduled for Wednesday 9 April 1997 at the usual time. At this meeting Council has indicated its desire to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the new Committee Structure. This matter may also be considered when the Coordinating Group meets tomorrow morning.

G A Case  
Headmaster