Overnewton Anglican Community College

Transcript

Renee Bowman – Chair of the Board

Hello everyone,

For many of you, this may be the first time you've heard from me directly as Chair of the Board. While I wish it were under different circumstances, I welcome the opportunity to speak with you about where we find ourselves as a College community and how we intend to move forward.

As an Old Collegian myself, Overnewton holds a very special place in my heart. I know firsthand the sense of connection and belonging that makes this community so special, and I care deeply about its future.

I want to begin by letting you know that our Principal, Emily FitzSimons, is currently on personal leave. We wish Emily well during this time and ask that her privacy be respected.

I am pleased that Tracy Fielder has stepped into the role of Acting Principal and has the full support and confidence of the Board. I am grateful to Tracy and to the College Leadership Team for their continued commitment during what has been a challenging time.

I also want to address the ongoing enterprise agreement negotiations.

On behalf of the Board, I sincerely apologise that negotiations for a new enterprise agreement remain unresolved. I know how long this has gone on and how much it has asked of you. It has put real strain on relationships across the College. Through all of that, you've continued to show up for our students and for one another. The Board sees that, and I thank you for it.

I want to sincerely thank the many staff and families who have taken the time to share their feedback with the Board. We have heard you, and we recognise that there are things that need to be done differently.

Reaching an agreement is a priority for the Board and an important part of restoring confidence and moving forward together.

The Board will now work alongside Tracy Fielder, Kelly Nardella and the wider team to see negotiations through to a resolution. Our priority is to work constructively with the IEU to reach an agreement as soon as possible.

The College and the Independent Education Union have jointly sought the assistance of the Fair Work Commission to help progress negotiations. Bargaining will continue alongside this process. I will attend the next bargaining meeting and subsequent meetings with fellow Board members, so we can hear directly from the bargaining team and work towards resolving the outstanding matters.

Tracy Fielder – Acting Principal

Thank you, Renee.

Many of you know me well, and you know how much this College and its community mean to me.

As Acting Principal, my immediate priority, alongside our College Leadership Team, is to provide stability and support, and to ensure that Overnewton continues to be a place where our students can learn, thrive and feel connected.

I am fortunate to work alongside an incredibly dedicated and capable leadership team who know this College, know our people and care deeply about both.

Together, we have an opportunity to draw on our collective strengths and experience and lead the College with confidence, always keeping our students, staff and families at the centre.

Renee Bowman

Thank you, Tracy.

We recognise that rebuilding trust takes time. The Board is committed to asking difficult questions, reviewing where change is needed and making meaningful improvements for staff, students and families.

Thank you for the care and commitment you continue to show our students and one another. We will keep you informed as this work progresses.