



The Lakes South Morang College Council Elections 2020

7th February, 2020

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION BULLETIN

School Council elections Phase 1

NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Attached to this letter you will find the formal notice of election of members for the 2020-2021 School Council.

The school Council has a base membership of 8 Parents members, 4 members employed by the Department of Education & Training and 2 student delegates. The total possible membership is 14.

All parents are eligible to nominate or be nominated for election to school council in the parent member category. Employees of the Department of Education and Training (DET) who are parents of children in the school are eligible to nominate for up to 2 of the parent positions. Staff at the school are restricted to being nominated for the DET tagged positions. Normally all positions are held for a period of two years unless a position has been vacated. Nominations Close at 4.00pm on Monday 17th February 2020 and should be accompanied by a brief resume about the candidate which will be published for the information of voters.

Nomination forms can be obtained from either the Secondary Campus or Primary Campus General office.

Councillors whose term of office have expired are:

Parent members: Nil

DET members: Mat Borg

Student member: Angela Rolevska

Details of Phase 2 & 3 will be explained in greater detail in future newsletters. Any enquiries should be directed to the Principal.

PHASE 2 – VOTING: Ballot papers will be distributed on Monday 24th February 2020. Voting must be completed by 4pm Monday 2nd March February 2020.

PHASE 3: DECLARATION OF THE POLL: This will occur on Wednesday 4th March 2020.

Please read the question and page overleaf for addition information.



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School Council Annual General meeting

The Annual General Meeting of School Council will be held on Tuesday, 17th March 2020 at 7:00 pm in the PD room on the Secondary Campus. The Annual Report will be presented and all positions will be declared vacant. All members of the school community are welcome to attend the AGM.

If you would like to be part of developing our school's future directions and are unable to commit to School Council meetings, please consider joining a School Council Sub Committee. Members meet on a monthly basis and all recommendations made by the committees are taken to School Council. Being a member of a sub committee also enables a greater understanding of how the school operates and how decisions are made. The following sub committees will be running in 2020: Finance, Education and Buildings & Grounds, Fundraising. If you are interested in joining a sub committee, please pass your interest on to Kerrie Heenan.

Information for Parents

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category - more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category - members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category - members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is a fourth category of membership

- A mandated elected Student category.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role, councillors' may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the schools future.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the College Principal, Kerrie Heenan, for further information - 📞 9401 3919 Secondary Campus.

Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of The Lakes South Morang College.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00pm on Monday 17th February 2020.

The ballot (if held) will close at 4:00 pm on Monday 2nd March 2020. Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office membership categories and a number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	TERM OF OFFICE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2020 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2022.	2
DET employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2020 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2022.	1
Student member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2020 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2022.	1

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Kerrie Heenan
College Principal