

BNPS School Council Treasurer's Report for AGM 2024

As the Treasurer of the Beaumaris North Primary School Council, I commend to you my report for the 2023 calendar year.

I would like to thank my fellow Finance Committee members, Sherril, Nicola and Mary, for their time and contributions towards managing the school finances. This is not a minor task, and you have all done an amazing job navigating our school through the choppy economic situation we find ourselves in post-Covid.

The financial position at the end of 2023 was a net operating deficit. This was a result of a decrease in budgeted revenue and the significant level of deficit recovery costs to the Department of Education (DE).

In 2022, our School's leadership team made the decision to keep our class sizes low for the students' first year back after two years of interrupted education. This was not a decision taken lightly but it had a hugely positive impact on our student body, ensuring they would receive the best start to their education post-lockdowns. However, significant costs were attached to this decision which need to be returned via deficit recovery payments for the 2022 year. (A repayment plan has subsequently been negotiated with DE commencing in 2025.) Further deficit recovery costs for the 2023 financial year will also need to be repaid, with Sherril and Nicola currently negotiating a repayment plan for the additional amount.

Our enrolment numbers have been affected from both ends – there is natural attrition as the balloon of enrolments at the senior levels of school graduate to high school, and lower enrolments at the Prep end as previously predicted by Bayside City Council's MCH data. This decrease in enrolments negatively affects the Student Resource Package (SRP) funding that the school receives from DE.

There was also a decrease in the amount received from Voluntary Contributions from families (-7% for total curriculum contributions for all year levels, and small decreases in each of the other contribution categories ranging from -1% to -5%). This is likely a reflection of the increasingly difficult economic climate that families are facing due to increased interest rates and cost of living expenses. While we cannot control the economy, we must continue to educate our families about the educational benefits their children receive by attending BNPS in an effort to increase these voluntary contribution levels in the future.

Our biggest budget line by far in 2023 was that of CRT costs. Continued teacher shortages across Victoria have kept CRT costs high. However, due to a phenomenal effort by Sherril and our entire school staff working together to manage absences and keep CRT costs down, we have essentially held to our budgeted amount of \$413K for the year.

The outlook is not all negative, however. Our Parents & Friends Association continued their amazing run of fundraising activities, bringing in not only funds but even more fun and community spirit to our school. P&F raised \$32,642 via a number of activities run

throughout the year including the School Disco, Colour Run, Bunnings BBQ, Referendum Day BBQ and other fundraisers. The Funds raised in 2022 were used to install the Wood Street Playground in March at a cost of \$55,530. They also contributed approx. \$14,000 towards purchasing decodable readers and football jerseys for our school, as well as \$750 towards subsidising the cost of the Year 6 Graduation tickets.

At the time of writing, our first School Fete in six years is less than 72 hours away. The organising of the fete has been a momentous effort from P&F, and I anticipate that their fundraising efforts will start off with a bang for 2024!

Finally, I want to thank Sherril and the school's leadership team for their diligence and superb management of our school. They are leaving no stone unturned, pursuing numerous grants, and managing our budget with a fine-tooth comb to ensure every dollar is well spent. Thank you for putting our kids first and giving them an exceptional educational experience.

SONIA HOGAN

Treasurer

Beaumaris North Primary School Council