

# School Council Elections 2018

## Information for Parents

In February-March of 2018, Moorabbin Primary School will hold School Council elections. Half of the members of the School Council are required to vacate their positions. They may renominate for positions on Council for 2018. All members of the Moorabbin School community are encouraged to consider School Council membership and all retiring 2016/17 Council members are encouraged to consider renominating. Attached you will find a Notice of Election and call for nominations. The status of the currently elected members is shown below.

### Current membership summary:

<i>Parent member name:</i>	<i>Term of office</i>	<i>Status</i>
Martin Shrives	Elected in 2016	Vacancy – may renominate
Meg Wyatt	Elected in 2017	Remains on Council till the end of 2019
Colin Jones	Elected in 2017	Remains on Council till the end of 2019
Brent Jones	Elected in 2016	Vacancy – may renominate
John Dakis	Elected in 2016	Vacancy – may renominate
Sharon Merrick	Elected in 2017	Remains on Council till the end of 2019
Angela Bligh	Elected in 2017	Remains on Council till the end of 2019
Daniel Warne	Elected in 2017	Remains on Council till the end of 2019
Melissa Perry	Elected in 2016	Vacancy – may renominate
Bevan Lowe	Elected in 2016	Vacancy – may renominate
Jo Ryder	Elected in 2016	Vacancy – may renominate
Mark Linton-Smith	Elected in 2016	Vacancy – may renominate
<b>DET employee name:</b>		
Noxia Angelides	Permanent ex-officio	Executive officer - remains on Council
Debbie Schmauder	Elected in 2016	Vacancy – may renominate
Michelle Samuels	Elected in 2017	Remains on Council till the end of 2018
Stephen Leeden	Elected in 2017	Remains on Council till the end of 2018
<b>Community members:</b>		
	Term is completed	Vacancy may be filled by co-option
<p>There are 7 vacancy positions available for our parent community and 1 community co-opted position vacancy</p> <p>There are 1 vacancy positions available for our DET staff.</p>		

### What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided 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?

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 employed 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.** Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

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### ***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.

### ***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.

### ***Do I need special experience to be on school council?***

No. 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 school's future.

### ***What do you need to do to stand for election?***

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

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 employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled

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.

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 if an election is required.

**Contact me for further information.**

*Noxia Angelides*

**Principal**