



Overview

Since 2015, Darwin High School has been an Independent Public School (IPS). Through the IPS initiative, decision-making is shifted from the Department of Education to the principal and there is stronger engagement between our school and the community.

A key part of supporting this change has been the role of the school council and its transition to a Board. The Darwin High School Board:

- has a strong focus on strategic planning, monitoring and reporting;
- works together with the principal to create and achieve the long-term vision for the school;
- involves the school community in the governance of the school to strengthen and support public education in the community; and
- maintains genuine autonomy at all stages of its dealings on behalf of parents, students, teachers and the wider school community.

Throughout 2015, the Darwin High School Council Incorporated has been operating as an Interim Board, undertaking broad consultations with the school community and stakeholders and making the preparations to become the Darwin High School Board (the Board) from 2016.

What does the Board do?

The legislative authority for the Board remains the same as for a school council. The Board is incorporated under the *Education Act*, and from 1 April 2016 the new *Education Act (2015)*, and operates within Department of Education policies. Broadly the functions of the Board include:

- advising the principal about the educational needs of the community and policy implementation.
- assessing and advising on the physical needs of the school.
- overseeing work on buildings and grounds being carried out at the school.
- building links between parents, community groups and the school.
- determining the school's annual budget.
- determining community use of school facilities
- employing school council staff.

A key area of focus for the Board in 2016 is the implementation of the Darwin High School Business Plan 2016-2019.

Who is on the Board?

The Board can have up to 19 members. Parents of students attending Darwin High School make up over half of the Board's membership. This is in recognition of the importance of parental engagement and involvement in school governance. Teachers are also strongly represented on the Board in recognition of their expertise as educators and the value of their support in achieving school priorities. The principal is a full member of the Board, along with students and invited community members who provide expertise and represent broad community engagement and partnerships.

How does the Board operate?

The Board usually meets monthly throughout the school year, except during school holidays. In addition to monthly meetings, the Board operates several subcommittees that also meet on a monthly basis, prior to Board meetings. Subcommittees are established to progress key Board priorities, working through the detail to ensure the Board has sound advice, options and recommendations to inform decision making.

How do I get involved?

Parents: Elections for parent representatives will be held at the 2020 Annual General Meeting — 6:00pm on 19 February 2020 in the Main Staff Room at Darwin High School.

Teachers: Nominations for teacher representatives will be called for at a general Staff Meeting, with voting to elect members closing on Friday 15 February.

Students: Student representatives to the Board are determined by the Student Representative Council.