SCHOOL COUNCIL
Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

Dear Parents/Guardians

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Watsonia North Primary School. School Council plays a critical role in determining and setting the key directions of our school within Departmental guidelines and we extend our gratitude and thanks to the following councillors whose term of office ceases on the day before the declaration of the 2016 poll:

Parent Members: Maria Collins, Derrick Watson, Greg Anderson, Nick Laskaris
DET Members: Jamie Jaquinta, Kerri Glowacki
Coopted Members: Maria Cogger

In the coming election there are 6 two year vacancies (4 Parent and 2 DET members). An election process will take place for the 6 vacancies and the 1 community position will be filled by co-option by the newly elected Council, as per DET guidelines.

THE ELECTION PROCESS

The timeline below outlines the election process:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2016</td>
<td>Notice of Election and Call for Nominations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2016</td>
<td>Nominations Close – 4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 29 FEBRUARY 2016</td>
<td>Ballot Papers distributed (if required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 7 MARCH 2016</td>
<td>Ballot Closes 4.00pm (if required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH 2016</td>
<td>Declaration of Ballot (if required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2016</td>
<td>First Council meeting to coopt Community Members (Principal will preside)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2016</td>
<td>Second Council meeting to elect office bearers (Principal will preside)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The official ‘Nomination Form for Parent Member Category’ is available from the school office or can be downloaded from the school’s website at http://www.wats-north.vic.edu.au/school_forms.html

Where the number of nominations equals the number of vacancies, the persons nominated will automatically be elected. If the number of nominations is greater than the available vacancies, a ballot will be conducted.

I urge parents to consider nominationg for this important role.

Tina King
Executive Officer
Watsonia North PS School Council
An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Watsonia North Primary School.

Nomination forms must be lodged by 4.00pm on **MONDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2016**.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to and</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to and</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**Tina King**  
(Principal)
APPENDIX A
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2016

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 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?
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 Early Childhood Development (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** – 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.

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.

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 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.
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 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.

How do I nominate for election?
If you would like to be nominated for School Council, a Nomination Form for Parent Member Category can be obtained from the school office, or alternatively, can be downloaded from our School’s website: [http://www.wats-north.vic.edu.au/school_council.html](http://www.wats-north.vic.edu.au/school_council.html)
Please return your Nomination Form to the school office by 4.00pm on Monday, 22 February 2016.

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 School Principal, Tina King, for further information on School Council Elections