

T2 2022 School Board Report

Following our first-ever virtual meeting in Term 1, the MPPS Board was able to return to the school grounds for our Term 2 meeting. Indicative of how COVID continues to affect every part of life around our school, we too had Board members who could not attend because of sickness. Nonetheless, it was pleasing to be back on school grounds, particularly for those Board members who joined us at the start of this year.

As with all our meetings, conversations this term were broad ranging and it was again encouraging to see the level of interest shown in school matters, which are mostly brought to our attention in Paul Andrijich's principal's report but sometimes come up in general conversation.

Discussion focused on issues including the Safe Routes to School initiative and the City of Bayswater's plan to provide a safer pedestrian crossing on Kelvin Street, the challenges of maintaining classroom staffing levels with the constant COVID interruptions, and feedback on how NAPLAN was carried out this year with the COVID modifications. We also discussed the well-being of MPPS staff given the added pressure that teachers and administrators are under because of the pandemic – not least because more than half of the MPPS staff have had COVID.

The Board also agreed to a suggestion from Mr Andrijich for a special meeting in Term 3 to discuss aspects of the school's 2021-23 Business Plan. MPPS is halfway through this three-year plan so it is an opportune time to delve a bit deeper into some of the targets and priorities identified and see how the school is tracking against them.

As I have written previously, the Board's role is to provide guidance and ensure good governance. We do not run the school nor do we get involved in operational matters. Our focus is to take a holistic view of the school and identify any areas of improvement or that require the Board's support. The Board is in a great position to provide advice given our members represent parents and caregivers, teachers and community representatives, in addition to Mr Andrijich and his leadership team.

I am delighted with the diversity of voices around the Board table and particularly pleased with the strong representation of parents and caregivers. I intend to step down as chair at the end of the year and it is my hope – though the decision will be made by the Board – that my successor is a parent/caregiver. One of our community representatives, Alan Benn, is also stepping down at the end of the year to continue the regular – and healthy – movement on and off the Board. MPPS has been able to attract some tremendous community representatives to the Board, which reflects the school's high standing in our community.

I would be delighted to discuss the Board or any relevant matters with you. You can email me at schoolboard@mpps.wa.edu.au. Or feel free to have a chat with our five parents and caregiver representatives – Marina Males, Elli Petersen-Pik, Andrew Thomson, Suzy Watson and Clayton Hanrahan – around the school grounds.

Peter Klinger

MPPS School Board Chair