

T3 2022 School Board Report

It has been a busy term for the MPPS Board. In addition to our regular Term 3 meeting this month, we met for a special session hosted by Paul Andrijich and Narelle Alver on how the school is tracking in relation to its 2021-23 Business Plan.

This special session was sparked by feedback given to MPPS during the Department of Education's last Public School Review to include a regular Board update on aspects of the three-year Business Plan. For this session, the focus was on the Sustainable Learning Culture and Facilitate Good Learning areas of the Business Plan.

It was pleasing to hear that good progress is being made by MPPS to achieve the targets set out in the Business Plan. These feedback sessions are important for the Board because they go to the heart of our role to understand how the school operates and performs and enable us to provide guidance and advice to the MPPS leadership team. And as a bonus, the Board was able to help Mr Andrijich and Mrs Alver secure a few more sponsors for MPPS' student awards.

As a Board, we found this special session valuable and insightful and look forward to the next opportunity for a review of key focus area in the Business Plan.

Discussions at our 'regular' Term 3 meeting again focused on some of the important headline issues affecting MPPS, including the school's finances – which remain very healthy – and hearing an update on the ongoing COVID impact and the proposed 'wombat' crossing that is to be installed on Kelvin Street.

The Board also discussed chaplaincy services at MPPS, particularly in the context of the Department of Education recently modifying the language around the faith-based requirements of the role. This has, of course, been an ongoing topic of discussion not just at Board level but across the broader school community and at other schools in our network.

MPPS has been – and continues to be – extremely well served by the chaplains who have provided pastoral care to our students. Filling the pastoral care role at MPPS is an operational matter handled by the school leadership team. The Board's role is to ensure that MPPS adheres to the requirements and guidelines set by the Department of Education and that, wherever possible, the views of the school community are being considered and incorporated. The Board is pleased that the faith-based mandate has been dropped by the Department of Education, though also cognisant of the challenges our school faces to find suitably qualified pastoral care providers. We are confident Mr Andrijich and his team will continue to put the students at MPPS first in ensuring they have access to a quality pastoral care service.

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