

T4 2022 School Board Report

Another year is about to end and with it I want to share some reflections but also changes at the MPPS Board level. It is ironic that the Board began 2022 with a virtual meeting in Term 1 because of the pandemic – the first time we hadn't met face to face in our school's young history – while we held our Term 4 meeting last week back in the library but amid a resurgence of COVID-19 across the school community.

Despite the considerable impact pandemic has had on MPPS over the past three years, our school's performance remains healthy and strong.

This was highlighted by the outcome of the 2022 School Community Survey, which Paul Andrijich shared with the Board at our last meeting. While there is always room for improvement, particularly around student behaviour, teacher engagement and school infrastructure, ratings again were overwhelmingly positive across a range of questions. This biennial survey, which collates feedback from students, parents/caregivers and MPPS staff, is an important pulse check of the health of the MPPS community.

The Board was also updated on the latest NAPLAN results by Narelle Alver. Of most focus was MPPS' performance across the year groups as well as the school's rating compared with 'like school'. Again, MPPS is performing well but it was equally pleasing to hear Mrs Alver and Mr Andrijich highlight areas that will be targeted for improvement. The Board looks forward to progress reports in 2023 and beyond.

We also used our Term 4 meeting to elect a new Board chair.

I joined the MPPS community in 2013 when my eldest son Daniel started in pre-primary. Matthew joined MPPS as a kindergarten student the following year. I was elected on to the Board in 2017 when I was the only nominee to fill a vacancy among parents/caregivers. I was motivated to nominate by a desire to give back to the school and felt I could contribute at the Board level. I was appointed chair in 2019 – again, the only nominee – and have relished the opportunity since to lead the Board and work closely with Mr Andrijich and his leadership team.

Daniel left MPPS in 2019 and Matthew in 2021 so following this transition year it is time for me to step down and for the Board to be led by a new chair from 2023.

Pleasingly, the Board had two enthusiastic and experienced candidates for the position, with a vote resulting in the election of Clayton Hanrahan as the next chair of the MPPS Board. Clayton is a long-term parent at MPPS and has the full support of the Board. I am delighted with his election – just as delighted as I was that we had two outstanding individuals who were willing to take on the role.

Along with my retirement from the board, two of the Board's community representatives – Michelle Striepe and Alan Benn – have said their farewells. Michelle and Alan have been great supporters of MPPS over many years and their experience and wise counsel much appreciated. On behalf of the MPPS community, I thank you to both.

I also want to extend my thanks to all Board members for their enthusiastic, insightful and considered contributions this year.

Just like the P&C, the Board comprises volunteers who want to contribute towards a well-functioning school. As I have written previously, a school is like a tree that relies on all its roots – relationships with its teachers and non-teaching staff, students, the P&C, the Board, the broader school community – to be healthy, strong and aligned.

It is great to see the increased profile of the Board across the school community, as evidenced by keenly contested elections over the past few years for parent/caregiver positions. I urge anyone who would like to volunteer at MPPS to consider joining the Board.

Finally, I thank Mr Andrijich and the entire MPPS team for running a wonderful school. It has been a joy and a privilege to be involved with MPPS and I look forward to formally signing off at the Year 6 graduation ceremony later this month.

In the meantime, you can get in touch with the Board via schoolboard@mpps.wa.edu.au. Or feel free to have a chat with our five parent/caregiver representatives – Marina Males, Elli Petersen-Pik, Andrew Thomson, Suzy Watson and our incoming chair, Clayton – around the school grounds.

Peter Klinger

MPPS School Board Chair