

## **T1 2021 School Board Report**

It has been a busy start to 2021 for the Board, welcoming two new parents and three teachers to our group of MPPS Board volunteers as well as meeting this year's Year 6 student councillors.

Following an election that resulted in a school-record turnout of voters, we were delighted to welcome Marina Males and Elli Petersen-Pik to our Board. Their appointments take the number of parents and caregivers on our Board to five out of 14 and further improves our representation across all year groups – Elli is a new parent to MPPS, with kids in kindergarten, while Marina, who has been a P&C volunteer for some time, has children in Year 2 and Year 5. I am confident Elli and Marina will make positive and significant contributions to the Board, for the benefit of the entire school community.

Equally pleasing as the record-high voter turnout was the strong line-up of candidates for the two Board positions. All six candidates attracted significant voter support and I thank them for their interest in helping our school to continue to prosper.

I also look forward to the strong contributions from Estelle McGuire, Mable Wong and Sandra Masic, who this year begin their terms as Board members representing MPPS' teaching staff.

A school like MPPS benefits greatly from the active involvement of parents and caregivers in the many volunteer opportunities that exist. As varied as these opportunities are, they are united in the common goal of further enhancing school life for our students. The more volunteers MPPS has who are willing to help – whether it be through formal roles with the Board and P&C or by simply putting your hand up to assist with cake stalls at Faction carnivals or cleaning up after the school disco – the healthier and stronger our school community will be.

The proposed school uniform update is one such example. The Board was updated on the process and progress at our meeting earlier this month. In line with our role to provide governance oversight, the Board is committed to ensuring proper and fair process is followed if and when a decision is made to update the MPPS uniform. It is also worth applauding the efforts of our P&C for its role in assessing all aspects of the proposed uniform update, including incorporating school community feedback. The P&C carries out its important role – not just in relation to the uniform update – on behalf of all parents and caregivers, but is limited in its effectiveness by the number of its volunteers. There can never be too many volunteers to help the P&C make a positive and constructive contribution.

At our Term1 Board meeting, we also heard from our Year 6 student councillors – Riana Alecsa, Matthew Klinger and Rachel Stephens (Cuba Eaton was unfortunately away on the day) – about their plans for 2021. It was clear to the Board that the students of MPPS have again elected a quality group of young leaders who will represent the school with distinction. I look forward to hearing from our councillors again in Term 4 on their reflections of 2021.

The Board was also updated about MPPS' role in the CaLDEYLink trial. CaLDEYLink, short for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Early Years Link, is a new State Government initiative to be trialled at two schools in Perth – MPPS being one of the chosen schools. CaLDEYLink focuses on families with children aged three and under to help reinforce the parents' role as their children's first educators and help to prepare parents and children for kindergarten. It is a credit to MPPS' standing as a culturally diverse and inclusive school that it was chosen by the Government to take part in this important pilot program.

This has been a short term but, as you will appreciate, a busy one for all at MPPS.

As always, I would be delighted to discuss the functions and roles of the MPPS Board with you. You can contact me at [schoolboard@mpps.wa.edu.au](mailto:schoolboard@mpps.wa.edu.au).

Peter Klinger

**MPPS School Board Chairman**