

## T2 2021 School Board Report

I am often asked about the Board's role and what is discussed at a Board level. In general terms, the Board's role is to provide support and advice to Paul Andrijich and his leadership team as well as ensure that governance – that is, the systems and processes used for decision making – remains at the highest level. The Board does not get involved in school operational matters nor does it carry out the important volunteer functions of our P&C.

Our Term 2 Board meeting was a good example of what ends up on our agenda and what actions we take.

The much talked-about proposal to modify the school uniform was, of course, a discussion point. Board members do not decide the look and feel of the school uniform. Rather, we must ensure the governance surrounding the uniform proposal is in line with the school's high standards. This includes making sure there is proper and extensive consultation and that the ultimate decision made by Mr Andrijich and his leadership team aligns with Education Department guidelines. As Mr Andrijich has written separately, the school took on board the community feedback and adopted an appropriate course of action with regards to introducing a Faction-type shirt into the MPPS uniform catalogue. As Board members, we support the decision made by Mr Andrijich and his team.

It has been heartening to see so much discussion – before, during and after the final school bell – about the uniform proposal. A school like ours, with such a large and diverse population of children, parents and carers, thrives when there is strong engagement in the well-being of MPPS. A high-profile engagement point like the school uniform discussion is a reminder of the importance of volunteers at our school, whether it be to run the canteen, help to organise Lap-a-thon, assist with school banking, support the uniform shop, man a cake stall at P&C fundraising events and clean up after discos and cross-country carnivals. I hope the high level of engagement in the school uniform discussion will see a reinvigoration of parent and caregiver volunteering across our school.

Two other issues that occupied us at our Board meeting included the Year 6 camp and the lack of on-site before and after-school care.

The Board had been in contact with Education Minister Sue Ellery to express our disappointment at the Government's decision in 2018 to outsource the running of the Bridgetown Camp School. The Board's concern, based on feedback from the school leadership team, was that the quality and variety of services being offered each year to our Year 6 cohort would be negatively impacted by the Government's outsourcing decision. It is exactly what has transpired, with this year's Year 6 students instead heading to Dare Adventures camp in Dwellingup in Term 4. At our meeting, the Board agreed to update Minister Ellery on the school's shift to a new camp provider.

The topic of on-site before and after-school care is also back on the Board's agenda. There is a need for more such care for our growing school community – and situated as close to MPPS as possible. There is no easy solution as it will require involvement and support from a raft of different bodies and departments across State and local government. The Board's role is to advocate for positive change for our school, and accessible before and after-school care is a topic we will progress.

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

Peter Klinger

**MPPS School Board Chairman**