

School Board Report 2020

David Ford, School Board Chair

In 2020, in the face of a global pandemic that has changed the way we work, study and live, our community at Duncraig Senior High School has remained strong. I am proud of the extraordinary resilience, sense of community, courage and accomplishment of all students, staff, parents and carers at our school over this difficult year. 2020 also tested the strength and resolve of our leaders. I would therefore like to applaud Peter Lillywhite and his Executive Team for steering our school through uncharted waters with such care and humanity.

Despite these challenges, our Year 12 students continued to shine, with outstanding achievements across the board in VET, ATAR and WACE. Duncraig SHS ranked 8th for median ATAR and 13th for WACE in WA Government schools - and 153 students obtained VET certification. This hard work on the part of staff and students has allowed us to meet the nine ambitious targets set to drive student performance as part of the current School Business Plan. On behalf of the Board, I would like to congratulate everyone on this astonishing achievement.

In 2020, the School Board was pleased to contribute to the Public School Review of Duncraig SHS. The Review Report affirmed the school's commitment to a continuous improvement agenda, specifically its focus on quality teaching practice, the use of data to support school improvement, student health and well-being, and communication with students and parents. In anticipation of the next review in 2023 and the development of the next School Business Plan in 2021, the School Board will continue to support the school in its commitment to strengthening classroom practice, promoting student voice, prioritizing student health and well-being, and fostering parent and student engagement. I would like to acknowledge and thank the school's staff, leadership team and parent body for their contributions to this process.

After many years of service to our school community, I will be stepping down as School Board Chair in 2020. I have had the privilege of watching staff and students flourish under Stephen Spice's leadership from 2012 to 2019 – and then of ushering in a new era at the school under the stewardship of Peter Lillywhite in 2019.

Reflecting on the proudest moments at the school in my role as Chair, I'm reminded of the formidable responsibility of serving as the first Chair of an Independent Public School Board in the State in 2012 – and of the many times Steve and I would meet to discuss our plans to make Duncraig SHS the "Churchlands of the North". Though I no longer had children at the school, I was eager to embark on the school's next chapter with Peter Lillywhite, until such a time as a new Chair could be transitioned to the role.

On that note, I would like to warmly welcome Hannah von Ahlefeld, who was elected to the position of Board Chair by her peers in December 2020. With more than 20 years' experience in international education policy, research and indicators, she brings a wealth of experience and dynamism to the role. I am certain that Hannah's commitment to strategic, participatory and consensus-driven governance - and to building strong sustainable partnerships will help make Duncraig SHS a veritable *tour de force* in the future.

I would like to thank the 2020 Board members for their commitment and invaluable insight and contribution throughout the year – Peter Lillywhite (Principal), Nicole Baker (Associate Principal), Steve Galvin (Associate Principal), Justine Avenell (Manager Corporate Services), Louis Cheeseman (Staff), Sasha Brennan (Staff), Barbara Kamarudin (Staff), Helen Egeberg (Community), Kristian Ravn (Parent), Vilko Poznovia (Parent) and Rebecca Newton (Parent).

With a host of exciting possibilities on the horizon for our school and an impressive new Principal and School Board team, I leave this wonderful school in safe hands...