

School Board Report 2022

Hannah von Ahlefeld, School Board Chair

2022 was a tough year for everyone as COVID continued to disrupt our lives at work, school and holidays. I would like to applaud the amazing resilience and empathy of all our staff and students, supported by families and carers, over the last two years. Louis Cheeseman and the Student Support Team, with our Corporate Services Team, deserve special mention for their tireless efforts to keep our students safe, especially in early 2022.

This is my second year as School Board Chair, and I am still enjoying getting to know and learning from our inspirational staff, students, fellow Board members and families. I love engaging in the life of our school, and I am deeply grateful to Peter Lillywhite and his inspiring staff for affording me this privilege. This year, I had the pleasure of working closely with the P&C's Family Engagement Committee on a number of initiatives, including Treat the Teachers, and with the inspiring Climate Crew, who give us all hope for the future.

Despite COVID and many students receiving early offers to enter university, our Year 12s continued to shine, with a record number of students attaining over 90 ATAR and outstanding VET completion rates. On behalf of the Board, I would like to express my gratitude to our staff, especially Heads of Learning Areas and our Literacy and Numeracy, Quality Teaching and Learning, Student Support and SAER teams, who provide exceptional support to students as they transition from primary school to Year 7, through to upper school.

The School Board is passionate about whole-school approaches to nurturing voice and agency in all our students. Each term, the Board looks forward to chatting with our Year 11 and 12 student counsellors – and sometimes the Junior Leadership Team – about the development of their Student Leadership Portfolios: School Culture, Sustainability and Student Voice. In 2021 and 2022, students also reported on the health and well-being of their peers during COVID. This year, we were proud to celebrate the appointment of Hannah Wallace, Year 11 Student Counsellor, to the new WA Student Council; the recognition of Meghan Reyes and Jasmina Nikolowski as Future Female Leaders; and the success of our Mock Trials team, who achieved 2nd place in the State.

This year, in an effort to maximise the knowledge and expertise of School Board members, three Board working groups were formed: School Buildings and Grounds, Engagement and Alumni, and Student Opportunities. Despite our inspiring collaboration with architects on the design of our new school buildings in 2021 and early 2022 – and on the Percent for Art Project as part of this build – inflated costs have stalled our precious project. Considerable progress was made this year by the school to develop our Alumni, including marketing, data collection and hosting of the first Alumni event for the Class of 2002, although we are still searching for a high-profile Alumnus to champion a new Duncraig SHS Foundation. With borders opening, in 2023, the School Board will develop a strategy with senior leadership on student opportunities.

I would like to thank the 2022 Board members for their contributions throughout the year: Peter Lillywhite (Principal), Justine Avenell (Manager Corporate Services), Sasha Brennan (Staff), Louis Cheeseman (Staff), Aaron Gibson (Staff), Barbara Kamarudin (Staff), Jason O'Meara (Community), Vilko Poznovia (Community), Brendan Everett (Parent), Martin Flaig (Parent), Rebecca Newton (Parent), Kristian Ravn (Parent) and Paul Stone (Parent). I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding work of Jane Street, Executive Support and Projects Coordinator, to the Board and our school.