

School Board Report 2023

Hannah von Ahlefeld, School Board Chair

After the last few turbulent years, 2023 was a positive, transformative year for our school with the commencement of Stage 1 of our long-awaited School Building Project, due for completion in 2025.

Our Year 12s did brilliantly in 2023 with a record WACE achievement for our school of 99.5%, with strong VET and ATAR results, including a VET Certificate of Excellence and General Exhibition. On behalf of the Board, I'd like to congratulate our graduating students and their families, and our hard-working Senior School team led by Associate Principal Caroline Crosbie.

2023 was the first year of our School Business Plan, with its 4 focus areas: High-quality teaching and learning, Whole school literacy and numeracy, Leadership and Wellbeing. The Board welcomed staff to its meetings each term to discuss progress in these areas, most proudly the development of a Literacy and Numeracy Vision Statement to frame our team's exemplary work in this critical area; an Instructional Framework for High-quality Teaching and Learning; and Updates from Student Service Managers on a range of issues, from primary school transition to negative bystander behaviour and traffic safety. I was pleased to arrange a professional learning tour to Singapore for Peter Lillywhite in August 2023 to support the school's significant efforts to build a culture of high-quality classroom practice. The Board welcomed the implementation of a Staff Wellbeing Survey in 2023, initial results of which were presented to the Board at its October meeting. The Board also applauded the work of the Staff Social Committee, which arranged many events for staff over the year.

The School Board, in co-operation with staff and community, is committed to nurturing student agency in all students, most visibly through our student leadership work. Student agency is the principle that "students have the ability and the will to positively influence their own lives and the world around them" (OECD Learning Compass, 2019). Each term, we welcomed student leaders to our meetings, including Student Councillors and Junior Leadership Team, to present their developing portfolios on Student Voice, Student Culture, Canteen, Sustainability, Diversity, Media and Promotion, and Alumni. The Board would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of Head Girl Hannah Wallace to many of our meetings in 2023.

After more than a year of careful planning by the Student Services team, we were thrilled to see the launch of new House names in 2023 with a consolidated student recognition program designed around the school's Care Engage Excel values and House points. Congratulations to all those students who were recognised for their efforts.

This year, the School Board provided regular progress reports on its three Working Groups formed in 2022:

- **School Buildings and Grounds.** With the construction phase in full swing from Term 3, the Board, in close collaboration with the school and possible partners, is already working to articulate Stage 2 of the School Building Project.
- **Engagement and Alumni.** The school's Events, Marketing and Media team is continuing to build up the school's Alumni by providing regular opportunities for networking; in 2023, the school organised school tours and drinks for the Classes of 1993 and 1983.
- **Student Opportunities.** In Term 4, the School Board hosted a Combined Meeting with Heads of Learning Areas to explore how to best harness the School Board's expertise and networks with a view to providing more strategic support to the school as part of its Operational Plans.

I would like to thank the 2023 Board members for their contributions throughout the year: Peter Lillywhite (Principal), Justine Avenell and Tracey-Anne Mutua-Muasya (Managers Corporate Services), Sasha Brennan (Staff), Louis Cheeseman (Staff), Bianca Galipo (Parent), Aaron Gibson (Staff), Barbara Kamarudin (Staff), Jason O'Meara (Community), Mick Quirk (Parent), Vilko Poznovia (Community), Brendan Everett (Parent), Martin

Flaig (Parent), Rebecca Newton (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.

