



Floreat Park Primary School

2016 BOARD REPORT

November 2016

The end of the 2016 is just about here and it's been an extremely busy and productive year for our school community. As we continue to welcome new families and more students and staff, the changing face of our school has given rise to many opportunities for the Board to engage in important discussions and decisions on behalf of our community, as well as look forward to identifying future challenges and how we can best address these to ensure we continue to offer a high quality teaching and learning environment benefitting all students.

This has been the first full calendar year of the Board working to ensure the targets of our 2015-2017 Business Plan are being met. Reflecting on 2016, the schedule of issues for discussion and involvement has been varied, including lengthy policy revision and preparation, ownership of self-assessment activities, and initiating advocacy on issues affecting our community in general.

BUSINESS PLAN REVIEW – As an Independent Public School (IPS), we are empowered to make decisions at the school community level which are relevant to the culture and context of our school. This responsibility requires us to align operational and strategic decisions to our Business Plan, as well as have in place a critical process to review our performance. A significant issue for the Board this year has been putting into place this review, or self-assessment, process. In order to be effective and to guide continual improvement, the Board agreed that a team including staff/administration and parent/community representatives would review each of the Business Plan's four priority areas. To date, two priority areas – Successful Students and Excellence In Teaching – have been thoroughly reviewed, with the review of priority 3 - Effective Leadership - to be presented to the December Board meeting. The review of Priority 4 – Positive Relationships – will be presented in term 1, 2017.

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL REVIEW – In early term 2 2017, the Department of Education Services (DES) will undertake its review of Floreat Park PS as an IPS. The purpose of this review is to verify that commitments in our school's Delivery and Performance Agreement (DPA) have been met, and that there are effective processes in place bringing about improved student learning. As well as the ongoing self-assessment process outlined above, the school, in particular administration, all staff and Board members, will undertake a significant amount of evaluation in term 1 next year to prepare for the DES review. Following this review, the school will set about formulating the school's next Business Plan.

GROUNDS AND FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PLANNING – With enrolments expected to be more than 610 students next year, we will continue to experience pressure on accommodation and facilities. How to successfully manage this growth in terms of classroom, playground, staff and overall site space has been a focus of the Board this year, driven by the commitment of our P&C to properly align the generous funding of parents to long term beneficial grounds and facilities improvements. To this end, the school administration, P&C and Board have collaboratively hosted two workshops harnessing the involvement of class representatives, staff and P&C members to identify and articulate a set of principles and priorities to guide future development and inform relevant decision-making by all school bodies. It is intended these principles and priorities will be finalised, and endorsed by the Board, by the end of this year.

PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENT – After a very thorough and extensive selection process, it was pleasing to announce Jane Rowlands as our new permanent Principal. Direct involvement in this process proved the significant benefits of being an Independent Public School, and the importance of having a say in finding a Principal who is the ‘right fit’ for our school. I can assure our school community that the North Metropolitan Education Region Office was very respectful of our contribution and assisted greatly to navigate the selection process on behalf of our community’s best interests. Once again, thanks to our dedicated staff and parents for your patience and support of myself and the Board to manage this important appointment on the school’s behalf and to Michael McInerheney for his commitment as Acting Principal throughout this process.

POLICIES – Central to the smooth running of a high performing school is a set of policies that establish the parameters for engagement across a broad cross-section of responsibilities. This year, the Board has committed extensive time to evaluating, refining and at times, re-writing existing school policies to reflect our ever-changing school environment. At times, new policies in response to new or varied demands, have also been developed. Hopefully the significant work completed this year will ease the policy development workload in 2017 and allow extended focus by the Board on other strategic issues.

OUR STAFF – If parents think the year has gone by quickly, spare a thought for our dedicated staff who must think equally, if not more so. The commitment of staff members to the demands of Board processes in addition to their classroom workloads must be acknowledged. The Board is very cognisant that many decisions require additional effort from staff and is committed to ensuring all members – parents, community and staff representatives - contribute equally to ensuring the delivery of expectations is shared. Thanks must go to our outgoing Deputy Principal Steve Godden to the direction and expertise he’s afforded the Board and our school community during his time at our school.

PARENTS AND COMMUNITY (P&C) – We deserve as a united school community to feel very proud of the close working relationship shared by the school administration, P&C and Board. When establishing the initial Board after being granted IPS status, the involvement of the P&C to ensure a two-way flow of information was considered crucial. Nearly two years into IPS and that decision has proved extremely beneficial. The contribution of our outgoing P&C President Melissa Pexton to the Board has been invaluable and lets hope there’s scope for her involvement into the future. I believe we are a great example to other schools of the enormous benefits to be gained from such close school-based working relationships.

BOARD MEMBERS – Effective school groups are reflective of the commitment of their members and Boards, like any other school group, are just that – a group of people committing to work together to achieve desired positive outcomes. This year, the Board saw our inaugural Chair Marcus LeMessurier complete his term, along with parent representative Enore Panetta and, at the end of 2016, parent representative Sandy Gordon, in addition to those already mentioned in this report. It’s expected there will be opportunities next year for additional parent representatives so if you’re interested in finding out more, feel free to contact any Board member.

At any time, should any member of our school community wish to clarify or query the Board’s involvement in any strategic school issue, your contact with any representative is always welcome or can be directed through the Board email at fppsboardsecretary@hotmail.com

CURRENT 2016 FLOREAT PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIR - Justine Burnett

PRINCIPAL - Jane Rowlands

STAFF MEMBERS - Rod Cohen, Steve Godden, Jayne Prentice, Kerry Pym

PARENT MEMBERS - Andrea Lam, Sandy Gordon, Emily Chee, Ian Gordon

COMMUNITY MEMBERS - Jacky Yardley

CO-OPTED MEMBERS - Melissa Pexton

PRESENTED AT THE 9 NOVEMBER 2016 OPEN BOARD MEETING

**JUSTINE BURNETT
BOARD CHAIR**