



AGM Report from the Chair of The Beehive Montessori School

Chair Report – Annual General Meeting Monday 1st May 2023
for the year ending 31 December 2022

We appreciate you all for making the time to attend our annual AGM for the Beehive Montessori School Inc. tonight.

I would also like to thank Beehive Staff and Lisa in particular for such capable organising of tonight's meeting and all our meetings throughout the year and providing such valuable support in our governance duties.

Also, a big thank you to our wonderful community who give so generously of themselves and with so much purpose. Beehive thrives because each one of you brings your own light and warmth to our school and for that, we celebrate. We are all aligned in one great objective which is to provide the best Montessori experience to all of our families whilst ensuring a long and successful future for our school. It goes without saying that without each and every one of you, we would be but a pale shadow of ourselves. We acknowledge the spirit of the Whadjuk Noongar Boodja – the country on which we are fortunate to live, work and play. We respect its traditional custodians along with all First Nations People and their connections to land, water and stories.

I would like to thank our recently retired Board Members.

Lindsay Boladeras, stepped down at the start of this academic year. Lindsay is a great example of what Beehive does to people. He is a past parent at Beehive with two adult daughters who has served on the board for many years. He has been a past treasurer, and member of the building committee amongst others and always had a sharp eye for the things that mattered and has been a great repository of corporate memory for the school. He has also served on the Foundation Board and continues to do so. Sam Medway who is an emergency doctor, came onto our board after serving on the Covid Advisory group which helped advise the school on an appropriate response to Covid and subsequently joined the Board. He has relocated down south and leaving Beehive was something that weighed heavily on his mind. Don Surjan's term has also recently expired and luckily for the school he will be standing for election as will Aaron Whitelaw whose term expires today.

We have had the recent addition of Jess Boyd to the Board, who was appointed as a board nominee for a three-year period. She is a parent of four children and has direct experience of all four stages of the school. Apart from being AMI Montessori trained with broad and relevant experience in wellbeing, she also brings added child protection expertise to the board.

Kazia Klopper will also be standing for election. She is a parent of three boys who joined the school in Middle Primary and also brings great high level thinking skills, and relevant and valuable experience to the Board.



The Beehive Montessori School Inc.

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Under provisions in our constitution, the board also chose to appoint me at our first meeting of the year as a board nominee for a further three-year period as my term would otherwise have expired prior to this AGM and I am happy to continue serving the interests of the school.

It goes without saying that the continuing board members, namely Samantha Owen, our deputy chair, James Townsend, our board secretary, Serena Grant, Lucy Clarkson-Fletcher, teacher at our school and ex-officio member all continue to make an outstanding contribution to the governance of the school as of course does Bronwyn Hope who as Principal of our school is also a board member and with whom, speaking for the board, it has been a pleasure to work with.

This past year has been very active from a School and governance perspective.

Since our last AGM, reviews and audits including; child safety, student learning and assessment, the school improvement plan, the quality improvement plan and the policies that govern our school have all been carried out. The Board has also conducted qualitative in-depth interviews with a sample from each stakeholder group at our school as well as in depth interviews being offered to departing staff and board members. The amalgam of all the above in addition to reporting, information and analysis that forms part of regular board and committee meetings have all provided the school leadership and the board with valuable insights into how the school is operating.

The Board as a whole, takes great comfort in the synthesis and combination of its analysis of the school, and is happy and satisfied with how the school is operating across all areas that encompass its governance role. Beehive continues to do an excellent job of providing an authentic Montessori Education within a safe and inclusive environment not only for the children but also for our outstanding staff and parents. The school community has proved adaptable and resilient throughout the pandemic.

Development of our infrastructure has also recommenced, with building work for our Piccoli programme, an ablutions block for Middle Primary, and a Master Plan for the northern end of the school which includes demolition of our original school buildings, Adolescent Program facilities and a much expanded and improved playground.

As to this coming year, we look forward to welcoming and embedding our new board members, and I have no doubt that Beehive will continue providing excellence in Montessori education, nurturing independence so that our children find their place in, and contribute to, a better world.

We will work to ensure a secure future for the school providing educational excellence within the context of a holistically appropriate educational environment with our strong sense of community citizenship, underpinned by our core values of respect, compassion, curiosity, responsibility and individuality.

I leave you now with our Principal, Bronwyn Hope. Thank you very much.

Ronald Crichton
Chair