



AGM Report from the Chair of The Beehive Montessori School Monday 29 April 2024

Chair's Report for the year ending 31 December 2023

Good evening and welcome.

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

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 also like to thank all our board members and all Beehive Staff with a special mention to Lisa 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 much to make Beehive a truly special place. Beehive thrives because of our common purpose and clarity in what we do, how we do it and why we do it. 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.

On behalf of the board and the School, I would like to thank Serena Grant as our retiring Board Member. Serena, a past graduate of the school, has given generously of her time and sharp intellect. Most recently she has led the overhaul of our risk framework at the school amongst others and leaves us stronger.

Towards the end of last year, Matt Lowth was ratified as a Principals appointee onto the School board. Matt, together with Sam Owen and James Townsend are all standing for the three year terms for the vacancies that the board has for elected members at this AGM. Both Sam and James are standing for re-election and they have both shone on the school board.

Jess Boyd and Kazia Klopper are now entering their second year on the board, and they have both been an excellent addition to the skill set that the board required. Beyond their general skill set and qualities, Jess, has brought her child protection expertise to the board and Kazia her legal and construction acumen.

Aaron Whitelaw, Don Surjan, Lucy Clarkson-Fletcher as a 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 and a fantastic leader, is also a board member and with whom, speaking for the board, it has continued to be a pleasure to work with.

The backdrop to our year has been the completion of our capital expenditure projects, namely the Piccoli Classroom for our 18 month to 3 year old cohort, the demolition of the

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old main classrooms building, the completion of a new ablutions block for Middle Primary, the complete remodelling and roughly doubling in size of the main northern playground, and the completion of purpose made classrooms for our eldest cohort aged 12 to 15 in Terra.

All this within the wider macro themes affecting the state in general, namely inflationary and cost of living pressures which impact a school like ours in a very direct manner.

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.

In addition to these, the board together with the school management have worked extensively on our risk framework as well as reviewing and refining our strategic planning and carrying out our bi-annual review of the Board.

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.

As to this coming year, we look forward to welcoming and embedding our new board member, 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.

Ron Crichton