

Message from the Board – 14 February, 2018

Annual General Meeting – 14 March 2018

The Woodford Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at 6pm on Wednesday 14 March 2018 in the Woodford hall.

The Board encourages all Woodford students' parents and guardians, teachers and other interested community members to attend this important event. Refreshments will be provided.

The AGM provides an opportunity for all parents, guardians and teachers to receive detailed reports on the activities of the school and Board and to review the audited accounts for the 2017 calendar year. The AGM will also consider proposed changes to the WIS Constitution and the PTFA by-laws and elect new members of the Board of Management.

Proposed Changes to the WIS Constitution and PTFA By-Laws

The WIS Board is currently considering several proposed changes to the WIS Constitution and PTFA by-laws to further strengthen the school's governance arrangements and to make participating in the PTFA easier. Proposed changes will be discussed at a PTFA coffee morning to be held on Friday 23 February following assembly and specific proposed changes will be published later this month.

Election of WIS Board Members

Following changes to the WIS Constitution made at the 2017 AGM, the terms of four current Board members will continue until the AGM in 2019. Four additional representatives will be elected at the AGM to sit on the Board. If certain proposed changes are accepted, the AGM will also elect the PTFA President for 2018-19.

The Board is responsible for the long-term sustainability of the school. It sets the school's strategic direction and goals, oversees operations of the school, and ensures appropriate management of risk and school facilities. The Board is also responsible for the appointment, retention and evaluation of the Head of School and succession planning. Being a Board member is a big responsibility. It is also a wonderful opportunity for personal and professional learning and to contribute to the school community.

If you are a parent or guardian of a current WIS student and you wish to nominate for election to the Board, please submit a short paragraph (up to 200 words) identifying the key skills, experiences and/or perspectives you would bring to your role on the Board. Please also note the name of the parent or guardian who 'seconds' your nomination. You may also wish to include a small photograph. Nominations should be sent to woodfordschoolboard@gmail.com or handed in hardcopy at reception and are due by 5pm on Tuesday 6 March. If more than four nominations are received, details of all nominations will be emailed to Woodford parents and displayed at the school so that all those eligible to vote will be able to make an informed choice at the AGM.

Fundraising policy adopted

At its meeting on 7 February, the Board adopted without amendment the Fundraising Policy that was published on the school website and distributed to community members for comment following our final meeting of 2017. The Fundraising Policy sets clear parameters for fundraising activities at and associated with the school. Along with the other key policies adopted in 2017, being the [Child Protection Policy](#) and the [Fraud Policy](#), the Fundraising Policy will be added to the WIS Strategic Policies Compendium, which governs how the Head of School and Board's responsibilities are to be fulfilled.

Property matters

Over the coming weeks, the Board will be exploring options to make better use of the HAMS Theatre, which was gifted to the school with conditions of use attached. The school is obliged to keep the theatre as a performance space. The Board has received a proposal from a commercial operator to develop and use the premises and is considering that proposal in light of possible alternatives. If you wish to contribute to the Strategy Committee's deliberations of this issue, please contact the Strategy Committee Chair, Jay Prasad, via the board email address, woodfordschoolboard@gmail.com.

In the coming weeks, the school's Lengkiki residence will be put on the market. With traffic conditions as they are, the property is too far from the school. Selling one of the school's residential properties (the other is in Panattina Village) will free up capital for investing in improvements to the school campus and will free up the time of the school's management and maintenance staff to further focus on continually improving the quality of education and facilities at Woodford.

Appointment of two new members of the Board

As community members may recall, our last Board message included a call for nominations from parents interested in filling the Board vacancy created by Panagiota Kouri's resignation to return to Greece. Just prior to our last meeting, Francis Bakale also resigned. The Board was delighted to co-opt Jodi Cornish and Rebecca Kirkwood to the Board to fill these vacancies at its 8 February meeting. Jodi's daughter, Tess, is in year 4. Jodi has been working in Solomon Islands for the last four years – 3.5 years as Country Director of Australian Volunteers International and, more recently in management for Pasifiki HR. Jodi is a qualified secondary teacher and has taught in Australian public, Catholic and independent schools, as well as Paibeta Community School on Savo Island. She has also worked with school boards in the past. Rebecca's oldest daughter, Monique, is in kindergarten and her second daughter, Samantha, will start at WIS next year. Rebecca is a career officer with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She was previously posted to Vanuatu and has worked on Australia's regional development programs in the Pacific. Both bring valuable skills, perspectives and experiences to the Board and the Board very much appreciates them each stepping up to fill these vacancies. Welcome aboard, Jodi and Rebecca!

At the meeting, the Board noted the many benefits of having a diverse range of interests and backgrounds represented on the Board and lamented the current lack of Solomon Islander parent representatives. The Board warmly encourages parents of all backgrounds, particularly Solomon Islands citizens, to consider nominating to join the Board at the forthcoming AGM.

Getting in touch

As always, please reach out to any of the current Board if there are issues you wish to bring to our attention. We can be contacted via woodfordschoolboard@gmail.com or can often be found around the school.