

Evening all.

I am happy to report on a rewarding and challenging 2020 at The LPS.

COVID-19 was and is quite clearly a challenge for us all in both our professional and personal lives. While it is a challenge it has allowed The LPS community to display its full range of attributes including incredible dexterity and awesome experience.

The speed with which the leadership team and teaching staff switched to an at home learning experience was amazing. At Board level we looked at the software that was used and were happy with the positive feedback that came back because of these efforts.

The experience of the leadership team also shone through in terms of keeping abreast of and advising the Board on the changing regulatory environment and the conditions that were in place for running a school.

COVID-19 also provided an opportunity for the school to experience the benefits of years and years of careful financial stewardship. The Eamonn Tiernan 'solid set of numbers' has continued under Michael Howard's watch. This allowed the Board to provide a fee discount for a period of time to assist families with navigating the financial impact of the pandemic.

In terms of Board activities, I am happy to provide an update regarding both the risk register and the strategic plan.

Our risk register rates risks according to their likelihood of occurring combined with the consequence of occurring. Risks as a result of this are classified as low, medium high or extreme and appropriate mitigations are put in place. At Board meetings we continually update the register and action various items to ensure that over time risks are reduced. It is important for the school community to know that the Board does take this aspect seriously and works to reduce the impacts of various risks as part of its good governance practices.

We all meet last year at a strategic planning day and a new strategic plan is imminent. The key priorities are: learning and teaching, facilities infrastructure and resources, promotion of our school, communication and engagement and governance of our school and Board. There are strategies and action plans under each priority area to ensure the continued success of our school. I thank everyone involved for their contributions to this exercise and look forward to working through delivery of the plan over the next five years. The finalised plan will be available on our website.

In terms of Board membership, 2020 saw us farewell Jacquie Adkins from the Board. It was a well-earned leave pass for Jacquie who provided excellent support to me as chair, the Co-Principals', the Board and more broadly the school community. I know Jacquie cares about The LPS and has our well-being as one of the many things constantly on her mind.

While as Chair I captain the ship, I am constantly amazed and thankful for the support and encouragement from my fellow Board members. Their contribution might not always be obvious to the broader school community, but I can guarantee you all that they apply due diligence like you would not believe to Board matters. Pete's experience and knowledge is invaluable, the perspective that Craig provides, often noticing things that I have not thought of, is appreciated. Michael as Treasurer provides excellent support to both myself and Jody. Hannah helps me out on various aspects of Board activities, and I thank you Hannah for that. & in their first year, of many, Clare and Judy have been great additions and provide perspective and hard work and experience that completes an awesome group of people that we all rely on.

The reward for me for all this hard work comes from the children themselves. They are why we are here. When you see the children of this school playing happily, achieving academically, or conducting themselves with distinction in the community, those observations come with a real sense of satisfaction.

I look forward to 2021 and am sure that the factors that ensured our success in 2020 will continue to stand us in good stead for the year ahead.

Thank you.