

## **Annual General Meeting – 29 March 2017**

The Woodford Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at 6pm on Wednesday 29 March 2017, not 15 March, as previously advised.

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 2016 calendar year. The AGM will also consider proposed changes to the WIS Constitution, elect a new Board of Management and appoint Trustees to fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees. The school's Governance Manual (available under 'About Us' on the website or [here](#)) describes the role of the Board and Trustees in detail.

### ***Proposed changes to the WIS Constitution***

At its 8 February meeting, the WIS Board unanimously endorsed several proposed changes to the WIS Constitution. Most of the proposed changes are simply to fix typographical errors. However, there is one proposed substantive change.

The Board proposes that the term of parent representatives on the Board be increased from one year to two years. Under the proposal, four parents would be elected each year. In the first year under the new arrangement, four parents would be elected for a two year term and four parents would be elected for a one-year term. The change would not affect the terms of current Board members.

Increasing the term of parent representatives on the Board to two years with four parent representatives elected each year (as proposed) would:

- provide for greater continuity and retention of 'corporate knowledge';
- optimize Board effectiveness by ensuring there are always experienced members on the Board (noting it takes several months for most new Board members to fully grow into their role); and
- align the Constitution with most other international schools' governance arrangements (one year terms are very unusual, possibly unique).

A marked up version of the Constitution with proposed changes marked up will be distributed in the coming days.

### ***Election of parent representatives to the WIS Board***

Eight parent representatives will be elected at the AGM to sit on the Woodford Board of Management (the Board).

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 of the Head of School. Being a Board member is a big responsibility. It is also a wonderful opportunity for personal and professional growth 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 indicate whether you wish to stand for a two-year or one-year term (or both) and note the name of the parent or guardian who 'seconds' your nomination. You may also wish to include a small photograph. If more than eight 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.

### ***Appointment of Trustees***

Under the WIS Constitution, there are five 'Trustees'. The Trustees together form the 'Board of Trustees' of the school, which is incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act. In practice, the Trustees do not have an active role in the management or governance of the School. However, the Trustees have a caretaker role and can step in to replace or succeed the Board in certain circumstances, such as if the Board ceases to operate the School. All property of the Board (including the WIS grounds, for example) is vested in the Board of Trustees

WIS trustees are generally long-term Solomon Islands residents, with some connection to the school.

After several years of service to the Woodford community, Andrew Radclyffe has tendered his resignation as a Trustee, effective on the day of the AGM, 29 March. There are also two other existing vacancies for trustees, which should be filled at the AGM. Community members' suggestions for the position(s) of Trustee are welcomed – please send suggestions to [woodfordschoolboard@gmail.com](mailto:woodfordschoolboard@gmail.com)

### **Strategic Plan 2017-2021**

Our 2017-2021 Strategic Plan was finalized towards the end of 2016. As you may recall, it sets out Strategic Goals, strategies and targets in pursuit of the WIS Vision :

Globally-ready learners,  
daring to dream,  
confident to act,  
empowered to achieve.

Despite our Acting Head of School being struck down with a severe case of dengue fever in the first two weeks of school, by all reports the school year has started very well. Full credit to Ms Rachel's excellent preparation and leadership and to the skills, passion and commitment of our enhanced leadership team and staff. It is wonderful to see the Strategic Plan's ambitious goals being pursued (with vigour!) and strategies articulated in the plan being implemented so early in the life of the plan. The Strategic Plan is available on the WIS website under the 'About Us' tab or click [here](#).

### **Appointment of new member 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 Steve Johnston's resignation. The Board was delighted to co-opt Tony Kiessler to the Board in its 8 February meeting. Tony's son, Alex, is in Prep. Tony is a health specialist with expertise in strategic planning, policy and implementation. He has worked with community organisations and boards in Australia and internationally. Tony is also a PhD researcher at the ANU's School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet). Welcome aboard, Tony!

### **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](mailto:woodfordschoolboard@gmail.com) or can often be found around the school. Current Board members are:

Emily Follett, Chair (parent)  
Bronwyn Norris, Deputy Chair (parent)  
Dennis Lee, Financial Controller (parent)  
Leonora Houma, Secretary (teacher)  
Rachel MacKinnon, Executive Officer (Acting Head of School)  
Tony Kiessler (parent)  
Josua Naisau (parent)  
Bernadette Ombu (parent)  
Lei Prasad (parent)  
Denis Smith (teacher)  
Bevan Vollrath (parent)