

## **Nominee - Arvid Pluschke**

Parent of Maja Pluschke (3.3) and Lena Pluschke (K.1).

I was part of one of the early Kindergarten classes at Telopea Park School in the early 1980's and, as an alumnus of Telopea Park School, I have experienced and enjoyed the benefits of its recognised unique and high quality educational experience. Eleven of my direct and near family members are Telopea alumni and being multilingual has opened up a wide range of opportunities. Within this cohort, some of us have continued tertiary education in, and undertaken professional employment in, Francophile countries. I believe the exposure to linguistic and cultural diversity of the school supports the development of emotional intelligence and strong communication; both of which are highly valued in today's workplaces. I continue to rely on the skills I developed at the school to build effective, collegial teams during my professional career.

In addition to the French education which formed a large part of my family's experience, I also appreciate and wish to continue Telopea's ongoing contribution to Canberra's heritage. The school forms one of the foundation buildings of the capital and the iconic red brick corridor and stairway mural have inspired generations of young Canberrans.

I am excited that my daughters are now a part of current cohort of amazing students at this school. I believe that, in joining the board, I will have the opportunity to support and help guide Telopea's ongoing journey. I recognise the strong foundations on which the school has been built and look forward to reinforcing these to ensure that Telopea continues to excel at delivering strong educational outcomes. I will be keen to ensure that the board and the Telopea community continue looking towards the rising sun – Spectans Orienta Solis Lumina.

## **Nominee - Janelle Jorgensen**

I am a parent of four children, the oldest having completed Canadian French immersion and graduated from University of Queensland. The next is beginning tertiary studies. Our teenager is attending Narrabundah and the youngest is here in year five.

I am passionate about learning other languages and do not need to be convinced of its benefits. My hope is that our children be provided with a safe and caring environment in which a life-long love of learning is instilled, deep and meaningful connections are nurtured, and opportunities to reach their fullest potential abound. In fact, this is my wish, not just for each student, but for every member of the Telopea Park School learning community including teachers, staff and parents alike.

I can contribute a background in applied linguistics and English language teaching as well as past experiences among different school settings with an awareness of the various issues facing students at all levels of education, from early childhood through to tertiary. Moreover, I approach problems with a strong sense of fairness, justice and integrity. Finally, I am known to create innovative ideas in attempts to find viable solutions for all parties involved.

I would like to see Telopea Park School become a powerful learning community where each student, teacher, staff and parent, feels valued, connected, and respected within a culture that promotes all forms of excellence. I would like to see open and transparent lines of communication established and maintained between all stakeholders. I want students to feel empowered and safe, teachers and staff to feel supported, and parents to feel welcome, informed and listened to. Finally, I wish to see students, staff, teachers and parents work together in achieving the common goal of providing the best possible education for every one of our children.

## **Nominee – Noel Derwort**

I am seeking to be elected as a P&C representative for Telopea Park School Board. I have three children in Telopea, Reuben, Sophia and Bryce in primary grades 5, 4 and 2 respectively. I have been associated with the Telopea P&C since 2015 and we have recently returned to Telopea P&C after a year in France where we were immersed in the French community, including the education system. I have always tried to be an active member of the P&C committee, and like all parents I have experienced and understand the need to balance all commitments – this is why I am now seeking a role where I can do more and represent the parents within the school board. With over 3 decades of experience with the military, including as a member of numerous committees and boards and as a qualified member of the Institute of Company Directors I feel I have the appropriate knowledge and skills to successfully fulfill the duties. I also feel my leadership skills and experience can help me add to the strength of the board and the wider school community. I look forward to representing you, and your families.

## **Nominee - Ric Curnow**

TPS Board Nomination Statement - A safe, welcoming, nurturing school environment. High academic and social expectations, and reasonable pathways to achieving them.

At board level I hope to enhance:

- transparency of school processes
- parent to parent communication and on-campus presence
- recognition and reward for outstanding teachers and teaching
- support for students and families transitioning in and out of TPS
- support for students facing difficulties
- pragmatic, practical, effective, economic solutions to issues facing TPS

to the benefit of all of school's educative, health and social objectives.

Previous school board experience:

French Australian Preschool (2006-2008). Established FAPS building fund, negotiated with ACT government on relocations plans, worked on finances, recruitment, strategy, fête

Jerusalem American International School (2009-2012). Leading role in school expansion and promotion, budget and salary negotiations, recruitment, strategy development

At New Delhi's American Embassy School in 2018 I worked with school's executive and administration to streamline processes for students transitioning between schools with academic programs out of sync with AES.

Voluntary work in the last 12 months:

Red Hill Primary School Maths Club, Red Hill Tennis Club committee, AJPP, APAN, Narrabundah College building review and sausage sizzle, TPS P&C, fête and Y10 project roundtable, Eastlake Football Club

Relevant interests:

- educational standards drawn from NAPLAN, PISA, LSAC, LSIC and elsewhere
- educational innovations supported by empirical evidence, through portals such as Education Endowment Foundation, the Grattan Institute, Centre for Independent Studies, and so on

Personal:

Two children currently in English stream highschool. One child previously in French primary.

Fluent in French but more comfortable in English.