



Subject	Perth Modern School Board Meeting
Date	3 March 2026
Time	17:11
Location	McCusker Board Room
Chair	Mr Mitchell Mackay
Attendees	Voting: Mitchell Mackay (Principal), Grant Staffe, Cathryn Trott, Raymond Loh (until 6pm), Sandra Song, Peter Farr (Perth Modernian Society Rep), Kati Tonkin (Parent Rep), Monica Franz (Staff Rep), Rick McMahon, Bin Zhu (Parent Rep)
Apologies	Dr Bronwyn Rasmussen (resigned), Lora Brown (P&C), Avash Shakya (student rep), Mary McCusker (student rep)

#	Item	Minutes
STANDING ITEMS		
1	Welcome and acknowledgment of Country; Apologies; conflict of interest	MM welcomed everyone. Thanked Bronwyn and Charlie, and also the new parent representative, Dr Bin Zhu. MM proposed that voting for new positions on the Board for 2026 be held prior to 6pm, when RL needs to depart. MM provided an Acknowledgement of Country, with the staff spending last Friday discussing cultural elements, including the significance of the site. Positive immersive experience for staff, and acknowledgment of the education and contributions over time in the school site.
2	Minutes of previous meeting	PF moved; KT seconded. All in favour. Changes will be accepted.
3	Correspondence	None received
4	Action Items Register	Deep dive of the School Effectiveness Survey; to be presented in the next meeting. Board Effectiveness Survey for 2025 will close before the next meeting.
ITEMS FOR DECISION		

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5	Thank you to outgoing Board members and election of office bearers for 2026	<p>Letter to be sent to Charlie Bond and Bronwyn Rasmussen thanking them for their service on the Board, by Mitchell Mackay.</p> <p>MM thanked PF for supporting the Board and doing some of the groundwork to prepare for 2026. MM proposed that discussions about a new Community Member can occur organically. Some flexibility in the process of Community Members. BR is the current Chair. She is stepping down due to work constraints. Nomination for Chair – Dr Kati Tonkin. Proposed by two members. KT accepts the nomination. Nomination for Deputy Chair – Prof. Cathryn Trott. Proposed by two members. Suggestion for requesting early nominations earlier than on the day of the Board meeting. Could be proposed when the meeting is first announced. Terms of Reference require that the election occurs in the first meeting of the year. KT left the meeting during the discussion. KT supported. SS nominated RL for Deputy Chair. He declined the nomination. CT left the meeting during the discussion. CT supported. MF nominated for Secretary. MF left the meeting during the discussion. MF supported. CT and BZ nominated to be Observers on the Finance Committee.</p> <p>PF spoke to Community Member vacancies. Keen to ensure that any candidates understand the role of a School Board relative to a commercial Board. Typical term is 3 years. Suggestions to be taken privately to MM. MM congratulated the new members, in the new roles.</p> <p>The Board introduced itself to the new member, Bin Zhu, and welcomed him. MM reminded the Board of its role and the confidentiality of Board discussions. Department of Education expects good governance for public school Boards, and has provided materials to support this. RL left the meeting at 6pm.</p> <p>KT took over chairing the meeting. KT requested that reports are available well before the meeting so that everyone has the opportunity to read prior to the meeting.</p>
6	2026 Meeting Schedule	<p>Next meeting: 31 March</p> <p>2026: 12 May, 9 June, 11 August, 8 September, 3 November, 1 December</p> <p>KT proposes that the Open Meeting be the second meeting of Term 2 – confirm at next meeting for Mi7 report availability.</p>
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / INFORMATION		
7	Principal's Report	<p>MM presented the 2025 WACE results, including positive media about the results. Very high numbers of students achieving excellent results. Standout year for ATAR results. Implementation of the Business Plan is underway. Values are embedded throughout the school and in the language and behaviour of school members. Reminded the Board of the four focus areas. Documents produced for school members for the implementation of the Business Plan. Policies being developed that rest on Business Plan. Some documents outward facing, and others for the teaching staff. MM discussed the work the school is doing to manage AI and its appropriate use. Also working on updating communications via Compass. Year 12 School Ball was a great success.</p> <p>PF asked MM to provide an overview of the School Executive. New fixed term appointment to fill RV's secondment. Outlined other Associate Principals and their roles. Sabrina is the Executive Assistant to the Principal.</p>


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8	Student Report	<p>MMc and AS were both apologies. A written report will be provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a recent influx of student "slander" accounts which were utilised as a platform for the posting of vulgar content aimed at the humiliation of students at Perth Modern <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The accounts were met with a sharp backlash from the school community, and for the most part were closed after a few hours. ○ After Avash and I had a meeting with Paul Litherland, his advice is to encourage "call out culture" with an emphasis on condemnation as opposed to feeding the fire of the posters. • Ms Reilly is moving to clarify and compartmentalise the leadership structure of the school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The clarifications trickle down from the executive all the way to student lead initiatives. ○ The aim is to establish an efficient chain of command within the school, allowing for increased efficiency in the management of school events as well creating clear lines of communication between the student body and the executive. • Year 12 Ball was run effectively and efficiently with a resoundingly positive reception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students interacted well with the external venue (the Ritz) and remained respectful ○ External photos were well-received and high quality ○ The photo booth was a nice addition and allowed for more personalised photo opportunities
9	P&C Report	MM provided an update, in the absence of a P&C representative. Elections were held. The new P&C Chair is Lora Brown.
10	Modernians Report	PF tabled a written report. Council conferred the honour of Modernian Fellow upon Dr Robyn White for her service to the school. Sphinx Foundation managing \$1.5m in investments to provide scholarships. The Fund has awarded 650 scholarships and bursaries over 18 years. Strong connections with other foundations, with appreciation for the work the Sphinx Foundation does. Perth Modernian Society produces a quarterly newsletter. RM acknowledged publicly the work of the Foundation, and the Board thanked the Foundation for their contributions. Plan to organise a reunion a year after completing high school ("Year 13") to encourage membership.
11	WACE Report	GS provided some additional context after MM's remarks about the 2025 results. Reflected on the collaborative nature of this particular cohort. Discussed the results in detail, and the work the teaching staff does to understand the results and identify any areas needing addressing. The Board appreciates the clarity this information provides. GS intending to continue analysing the data. Good discussion around marks and results, and the work the school does to support students in their journeys, including supporting their wellbeing.
	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
12	Any other business	<p>Reminder to complete the Board Effectiveness Survey.</p> <p>2025 Annual Report to be produced. Discuss offline how to construct report. Deadline of 16th March.</p>

#	Item	Minutes
	NEXT MEETING. March 31, 2026	
	MEETING CLOSE: 19:16	

Action Items Remaining Open Prior to this Meeting and subject to updates, plus new Action Items:

Action #	Meeting Date	Classification	Min.	Action Description	Due Date	Status	Comments	Actionee(s)
	2/12/2025			PF to update wording of the draft A! Guidelines for use by the Board	Term 1 2026	Completed	Adopted as a Framework/Guidelines subject to the agreed wording changes.	PF
	2/12/2025			Board to consider potential community members for the Board and provide names to the Chair	Term 1 2026		Suggestions to be conveyed privately to MM	All
	2/12/2025			Chair and PF to discuss format and timing of Board Effectiveness Survey	Term 1, M2 of Board		Survey was launched on 28 Feb. 7 responses already.	PF
	2/12/2025			Grant Staffe to present the outcomes of the School Survey	Term 1, M2 of Board			GS
	2/12/2025			Dr Kim Tan to be invited to the second Board meeting of 2026 to discuss the feedback to parents as part of the Business Plan implementation				MM/KT
	2/12/2025			A Business Plan update to be added to the agenda for one meeting per Term				CT
	3/3/2026			2025 Annual Report to be produced.			Deadline 16 March. Liaise with Thalia	KT/CT

Signed and dated as approved:

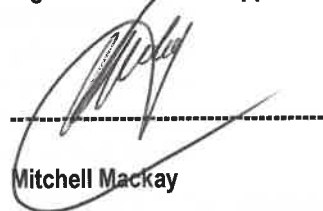


Associate Professor Kati Tonkin

Chair of Perth Modern School Board

Date: 31/3/26

Signed and dated as approved:



Mitchell Mackay

Principal of Perth Modern School

Date: 31/3/26