

## 2023 TPS school board wrap-up

Following is an outline of the items that parent members of the Telopea Park school board have raised in board meetings throughout 2023.

*In summary, every single suggestion and issue of concern that parent members raised at the school board was dismissed or not actioned by the board, generally due to objections by school executive.*

- Requested that any appointed board members are done in collaboration with the board – chair undertook a SWOT analysis of board composition so we could identify skills to target for a new board member.  
*Principal appointed a person without prior discussion with the board.*
- Proposed that a parent observer be included in the group that makes enrolment decisions, as used to happen in past years.  
*Principal and Provisieur did not support this.*
- Asked for improved communication regarding homework assignments and provided a draft homework sheet that could be used to ensure consistent methods used by all teachers.  
*Not actioned by school.*
- Provisieur noted that French teachers to be trained re homework assignments in term 3.  
*No reports provided on progress.*
- Establishing board subcommittees for finance, student wellbeing, review of enrolment policy and curriculum/educational outcomes.  
*Embassy opposed the establishment of any subcommittee. Provisieur did not support the establishment of an educational committee.*
- Wellbeing committee finally established.  
*Only the parent members turned up to the meeting.*
- Enrolment policy review – Principal advised in May this was imminent.  
*To date no progress.*
- Asked that board minutes be published. Principal advised that he was given legal advice from Directorate not to do this. Noted that any parent can ask for minutes under FOI laws.  
*Embassy has since lodged their strong objections to the use of Australian FOI laws to obtain board papers*
- Asked for copies of PWC audit conducted in 2022 –  
*to date this has not been supplied.*
- Road safety – board noted that the road safety audit made many recommendations, including using semi-circle at front for pick-ups instead of executive parking.  
*To date, implemented recommendations include trimming bushes and re-painting crossings, some bollards to block illegal parking. Front area retained for executive parking.*
- Access to advanced French classes for high school students who leave French stream.  
*school did not agree to provide.*
- Satisfaction survey results – a 7-year analysis done by parent members showed that TPS consistently shows significantly lower results than similar school in areas such as ‘does the school listen to me’ or ‘do teachers treat students fairly (students, parents and staff all report similar poor results across both areas).

*Parents offered to assist school in identifying ways to improve results. School advised that this should be 'left to the professionals'.*

- Conseil de classe: Concerns were raised that providing all the grades of students to the parent and student members may be a breach of the privacy act.  
*School informed board that they believe the AEFÉ rules take precedence over Australian law.*
- Concerns were raised that only allowing fluent French speaking members meant that the conseils were not culturally inclusive, at that some members are dismissive of concerns they do not agree with.  
*Conseil members within the school board disagreed that conseil members do not listen or progress concerns they disagree with.*
- Jurisdictional issues regarding the role of the school board to oversee the French program have been discussed.  
*School executive and embassy advised their view that the board has no authority over the French program in relation to any matter covered by AEFÉ policy, which must take precedence.*