

CANDIDATE FOR THE P&C MEMBER POSITION ON THE CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

KATHRYN WELLS

School Board Candidate Profile - Kathryn Wells

Kathryn Wells, the mother of Laila and Luka McDade, twins in Year 10, has previous experience as a board member for both educational inquiries as well as in the arts and sciences. In addition, Kathryn has been very active in local school activities in the past decade.

When her children were at Ainslie Primary School, Kathryn was the P&C Public Officer, and a member of the P&C Executive Committee as the P&C Science Club and Arts Co-ordinator (until 2014). During this time, Kathryn co-ordinated weekly lunchtime activities each term in: Textiles, General Science (Force and Energy), Pottery, Metal smithing, Robotics and Electronics as well as Ecosystem Excursions. The activities were spread across different years, to complement curriculum needs. Through her efforts, the Robotics program was awarded funds through an application to CSIRO Inspiring Australia and supported by ANU. The Ecosystem Excursions become part of the Year 4 curriculum with support from ANU and CSIRO. The P&C supported the refurbishment of a pottery and print-making studio, which was utilised by teachers and AFTRS. Over 200 students attended program activities annually.

Kathryn's background is in Arts administration, communications and marketing as well as Information Technology and Business Development. Kathryn managed the Commonwealth Indigenous Arts and Culture Program (2003-05), the Culture Portal (2005-10), and then Communications at Craft Australia (2011-12), before becoming a board member of the Canberra Potters Society (2014-15). Responsibilities included: strategic development, managing expenditure across a formal budget process, taking into consideration procurement, tender and recruitment within a financial regulation framework, as well as developing policy for agreement and implementation across jurisdictions.

After leaving the Public Service, Kathryn has run a strategic consultancy business, including project managing the Myer Foundation Kosciusko to Coast Native Grasslands Project (2012-15). In 2016, Kathryn was Director, Business Development, QuestaGame, an online educational tool for both identifying flora and fauna in the field, and loading the corroborated data to the Atlas of Living Australia. This tool has been adapted by the NSW Department of Heritage and Environment, for delivery to all NSW schools in 2017.

With regard to education policy engagement, Kathryn was an elected member of the University of Western Australia Student Guild. After completing university, Kathryn was appointed the Education Officer at Edith Cowan University. This led to a board position for the Beazley Inquiry into Education as well as EC University Council. From 1994-96, Kathryn managed the Nurrinyeri Curriculum Project at the University of Canberra, working under Prof Eric Willmot, to develop curriculum for accreditation of an Indigenous Studies major across six faculties, with changes to 110 units and 11 new subjects, all implemented. In 1999, Kathryn consulted with and advised the Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation to improve outcomes for Indigenous high school age students. Her implemented recommendations included community engagement and participation, access by students to Aboriginal run boarding facilities in Katherine and cross-accredited TAFE courses.

Kathryn looks forward to contributing to implementing a vision for Campbell High School through sound governance as both a sought-after destination and a significant resource for students, parents and the community.