

29 August 2019

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS...

On behalf of the Board of Governors, a very warm welcome to all our new Association Members. To all the new families joining us at GESS from abroad, we hope you have settled well in Singapore and will find many friends at GESS and a community you can count on. Please enjoy reading our first Association News for the AY2019/20.

Our newsletters provide Members with a regular update about the activities of the GESS School Association from the Board of Governors. As many of you know, the Association is a private “not-for-profit” body whose main purpose is to maintain and enhance the interests of GESS. It is managed by an elected ten-person Board of Governors who work on an honorary basis, offering their professional expertise and knowledge to provide the strategic direction to and develop long-term goals for GESS to ensure that our students and teachers have the tools and resources required to receive and provide a high-quality education.

If you would like to offer your services to the Board, you may be interested in becoming a Board Pipeline Member, please send your CV and a short letter outlining why you are interested and what expertise you can offer to Board@gess.sg. The Board Pipeline serves as a stepping stone for Association Members interested in standing for election to become a Board Member. It provides an inside view of the Board’s work, whilst not carrying the same time commitment. There will be vacant Boards positions to be filled by election at this year’s AGM in November, so please consider this opportunity to help our School Association.

If you know someone who is not a Member of the Association and would like to join, please ask them to complete the [online application form](#) or contact Board@gess.sg for more information. There are NO FEES to become an Association Member if one of your children attends GESS or you are a staff member. The Board encourages all members of the School Community to join the Association.

... TO OUR NEW PRINCIPAL...

The Board would like to take the opportunity to welcome our new School Principal Mr. Christof Martin. We are very pleased that Mr. Martin has chosen to lead GESS and we are looking forward to benefiting from his extensive experience as a Principal of schools both within Germany and abroad. We wish him and his wife, a wonderful time in Singapore and look forward to working with him over the coming years at GESS.

...AND TO ALL RETURNING ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

We have another exciting year ahead of us as the implementation of the GESS Strategic Plan continues and the School prepares for the reaccreditation of both the International Baccalaureate (IB) in Pre-School and European Section this academic year and the Bundes Länder Inspektion (BLI) in the German Section next academic year and the whole school, Council of International Schools (CIS) reaccreditation visit in April 2020.

CHANGES TO THE BOARD'S MEMBERSHIP

Leading up to and over the Summer holidays, there were some changes to the Members of the Board. We bid farewell to Mr. Joachim Braun, who unexpectedly had to return to Germany and Dr. Katharina Lange, who oversaw our Strategic Plan review progress and facilitated our Community Consultation Workshops. Both Katharina and Joachim served the Board with enthusiasm and we would like to thank them for their valuable contributions to the School.

We also welcomed two new members to the Board: Mr. Florian Weidinger, who served as a Pipeline Board Member in the Finance Sub-committee for the last 18 months and Mrs. Elke Simon-Keller, who was a Board Pipeline Member in the School Development Sub-committee, for the last eight months. Both members have been co-opted until the election at the AGM in November.

There was also a change in our Office Bearers. Our Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Roger van Baal, was required by the Constitution to step down from his position as Treasurer at the end of the last school year. This was due to a change in his membership status as a result of his daughter finishing her studies at GESS. Office Bearers are required to be Ordinary Members of the Association. Mr. Florian Weidinger has been co-opted as new Honorary Treasurer until the next AGM. The Board consider his extensive background in Finance and Banking together with his experience in the Finance Sub-committee to be the right person to be the next Honorary Treasurer of GESS. We are happy to advise that Mr. Van Baal will remain on the Board as an Ordinary Board Member.

UPDATE ON SMT CHANGES

As you may be aware, the School's recently appointed new General Manager Mr. Russell Cooke, decided to leave GESS for personal reasons at the end of July. Given this unexpected vacancy, our Principal Mr. Martin recommended that this position be filled by an internal candidate. The Board fully supported the Principal's recommendation that Mr. Maclean Braganza, our Director of Marketing and Admissions be appointed to this role.

The General Manager reports directly to the Principal and oversees all the administrative departments of GESS. This position was established to achieve the strategic goal of delivering Operational Excellence for our School by allowing the administration departments to further align to the 'One School' approach. The Board would like to congratulate Mr. Braganza and look forward to working with him.

Lastly, it is with a tinge of sadness that the Board wish to advise that Mr. Joachim Herrmann, our Director of Finance and Administration has decided to leave GESS to take up an exciting new opportunity in Europe. Mr. Herrmann's last day will be the 30th September. The Board sincerely thanks Mr. Herrmann for the many contributions he has made to the School over his nine years of dedicated service, with the most recognisable achievement being his great commitment to help ensure that our new campus was delivered on time and on budget. The Board wishes Mr. Herrmann and his wife, Anna, all the very best for their future endeavours.

For more information about the School Association or to check your Membership status, please contact Board@GESS.sg.