



Trustee News

March 2016

Kia ora koutou

With the exciting camp week over, and the toilet blocks all but finished, the school year is well underway for the Board of Trustees. Our first meeting of the year was held in February, and a lot of the meeting covered discussion and sign-off of camp plans. At that meeting we also acknowledged the efforts of the Parentlink committee for organising the food and promotion at the Meet and Eat evening held at the beginning of term, and of the Pool Committee and Brian our caretaker who have made sure that our pool has been in top condition for so many people in our community to enjoy over this long hot summer.

At that meeting we also discussed a proposal that Wellington City Council has for a safer crossing on Hamilton Road, the results of the 2015 school survey, the draft Charter, Strategic Plan and Budget, and the upcoming Board of Trustees elections. These items are described in more detail below.

Our next meeting will be held next Monday 21st March, and we will focus on finalising the strategic plan and budget for the coming year, reviewing the governance manual (policies that govern the role of the BOT) in the lead-up to the May elections, as well as receiving an update on programmes under way for children with special needs and extension requirements.

BOARD ELECTIONS THIS YEAR

The Board of Trustees performs a governance role for the school. As a group it sets the vision and ensures that it complies with legal and policy requirements, so that every child can achieve their potential at school.

In the past three years your current board has revised the school vision, graduate profile and enablers for staff in consultation with staff and the community; developed a policy and framework for the school's Bicultural Programme; supported and encouraged plans to create innovative learning environments in the school; and overseen the construction of the new play areas and refurbished toilets. We've also been advocates for the school with external parties such as NZTA and Wellington City Council when issues arise and have kept informed on developments in education such as National Standards and the Investing in Educational Success (IES) initiative.

Board elections will be held this May/June to elect the Board for the next three years. We encourage all parents to get involved in the election and you can do so in two ways:

- **Put yourself forward as a candidate in the upcoming election** – if elected, you will be part of the board, which will work on behalf of all stakeholders and be accountable for the school’s performance.
- **Vote for candidates.** Every person’s vote counts so that we can have a board that reflects all of the voices in our school community.

You will receive two lots of information via the post. The first will call for people to put their names forward, and the second will enable you to vote for candidates. The time line is as follows:

6 May	All parents will be sent papers calling for nominations of candidates
20 May	Nominations close
25 May	Voting papers sent to all parents
3 June	Voting closes
9 June	Votes counted and new board announced
20 June	First formal Board of Trustees meeting for the new board.

If you are considering putting your name forward, the NZ School Trustees Association has put out a useful [guide for parents](#) and has more information on its trustee election website <http://www.trustee-election.co.nz> . Please also feel free to talk to one of the current BOT members at any time (our names are all at the end of this newsletter) or come along to an upcoming meeting to observe our meetings in action.

A SHORT SURVEY – POTENTIAL CROSSING ON HAMILTON ROAD

We have been approached by Wellington City Council which is proposing that a Kea crossing be installed at the Hamilton Road entrance to the school. We have met with Council officers to find out the difference between a Kea crossing and the patrolled ‘zebra’ crossing at Moxham Ave, and have observed crossing and parking practices before and after school.

We are aware that it is currently unsafe to cross the Hamilton Road outside the school especially in the afternoons. This is mainly due to many cars parking on the yellow lines on Hamilton Road – and on the corner of Hamilton Rd and Raupo Street - and using them as ‘pick up zones’. The yellow lines should not be used for this purpose, as they are there to provide a clear line of sight for people crossing the road.

As a board we are committed to ensuring that our children can get to and from school safely, but before we agree that the Council’s Kea crossing is the solution, we would like to hear what you, our community thinks. Please take the time to complete the short survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/83TXW9Q>

2015 SURVEY SUMMARY – FROM TOM HAIG

Thank you for taking the time to complete the community survey that we conducted late last year. 2015's survey saw the highest response rate yet.

There were three themes to the survey, which were school donations and payments, inclusive education, and Treaty partnership and biculturalism.

In regards to payments and donations a large majority of responses felt that we had the donation amount the school requests set at around the right level (75%). There were some useful suggestions about adjusting the rates for family size and equity issues around this which the Board is considering.

Payments for activity fees were also felt by most respondents to be about the right amount (79%). The main concern in regards to them is ensuring payments are requested in a predictable and timely fashion; some parents suggested that receiving a bill for activities each term might be an improvement on the current situation. There was a split about the idea of one activity fee for the whole year (39% in favour, 26% against) with a number of people pointing out the potential problems that this would cause for families with less disposable income. The vast majority of respondents preferred making payments over internet banking. To make this easier the Board is looking into getting Kilbirnie School set up as one of the payment option with the major banks.

In regards to inclusive education, the responses were strongly positive, though there were certainly areas that we are aware could be improved. Some highlights for the Board were that 94% of respondents said that parents felt welcomed as members of the school community, and over 90% agree that students feel welcome, help each other and there is mutual respect between staff and students.

The question about the school holding high expectations for all students received a somewhat lower positive response, with 77% agreeing or strongly agreeing that was the case. Following the ERO report in 2014 which also picked up on this issue, the Board is aware that this is an area that needs some focus. Changes to curriculum and teaching practice that are happening at present are partially in response to this. Physical accessibility around the school site was also identified by some respondents as an area that could be improved, and there was uncertainty by some about what behaviour management strategies are used. The Behaviour Management Procedures can be found on the [school website](#).

In regards to Kilbirnie School's Treaty of Waitangi partnership and bicultural practices, it was positive for the board to see that around 85% of respondents agreed that the school values Māori students' culture, promotes knowledge of Māori culture, and acknowledges Māori as stakeholders in the school. A number of comments reflected on the improvements in regards to this in recent years. A reasonably high proportion of parents weren't sure about or disagreed with the statements that Kilbirnie School encourages parents and whanau with knowledge of Te Reo to be involved, and gives the local Māori community opportunities to be involved, so these are areas we will look into.

There were also some very interesting and useful comments in the general feedback section at the end, with good suggestions about how we could improve our communication with families.

The survey is a valuable way for the Board to 'take the temperature' of the community, but we also always welcome individual feedback and input at any time, so feel free to get in touch to discuss any of these issues further.

We represent you

The Board of Trustees is there to represent you, so if you have any questions or queries that you would like to raise, please get in touch with a member of the Board of Trustees – our details are below.

Name	Position	Email
Chris Montgomerie	Chairperson	chris.montgomerie@xtra.co.nz
Jake Yocum	Property	jakeyocum@hotmail.com
Tamsin Wilkins	Deputy Chair / Policies	tamsin.wilkins@icloud.com
Tom Haig	Strategy / Survey	haig.tom@gmail.com
Leigh-Anne Wiig	Personnel	leighandcraig@paradise.net.nz
Derek Blair	Finance	derekandclaire@slingshot.co.nz
Tony Austin	Staff Representative	tony@kilbirnie.school.nz
Mike McGimpsey	Principal	mike@kilbirnie.school.nz

Ngā mihi

Chris Montgomerie