



Trustee News

May 2016

Kia ora te whanau

This issue of Trustee News reports on items covered at the last Board of Trustees Meeting, and issues for discussion at our next one, to be held on Monday 16 May.

Upcoming election

All families of the school should by now have received in the post some information about the upcoming Board of Trustees election. The first mail-out outlines the role of the board, and contains a nomination form for anyone who is keen to stand in the election. The election will be for five parent representatives, and this includes current Board members seeking re-election as well as newcomers. I understand that the majority of the current Board members are likely to put their names forward again, but anyone interested in a governance role at the school can and should put themselves forward.

If you are interested in seeing what our meetings are like, you are most welcome to come along to the meeting on Monday, or talk to an existing member (contact details are provided at the end of this newsletter).

Nomination forms are due at noon on Friday 20 May, and then the second mail-out, containing candidate profiles and voting papers will be sent on 25 May. Voting closes at midday on Friday 3 June.

Kea Crossing

Thank you to everyone who filled out the online survey about a Kea Crossing on Hamilton Road. We had 89 responses to our survey, which is approximately 51% of our school whanau. We passed on the following results to Wellington City Council.

Of those who responded, 73% have children who usually walk to or from school, and of that group, 60% cross at some point along Hamilton Road. We believe that these results alone show that if a Kea Crossing was located outside the school's Hamilton Road entrance, it would serve as a safe 'funnel point' for pedestrians. As a relatively small school we were concerned about how we could provide adult supervision on a second crossing, but were heartened that a number of parents volunteered to do this through the survey also.

When we met in February we discussed the likelihood of a raised platform being incorporated into the design of the Kea Crossing, and note that there is an example of one in the Pedestrian Planning Guide, downloadable from the NZTA website.

In the survey we asked the community if they had a preference for a flat road or raised 'bump' that would provide a platform for children as well as serving to slow down traffic, and the platform was supported by parents of both walkers and drivers. 88% of responses with children who walk supported a platform, with verbatim comments saying that a platform would be useful for school groups to use when it is not monitored, and also noting that a bump would slow traffic down. Interestingly, 73% of drivers also supported the bump, citing that cars need to slow down through that area regardless.

We also asked the parents who drive their children to school whether they had any preferences about parking, noting that currently the yellow dotted lines are often ignored. While there was some support for designated pick-up and drop-off zones (39%), a further 43% said that we should enforce the yellow lines more rigorously, which we believe will be able to be done when a Kea Crossing is in use.

Given the results above, as a Board we can now say that we support the WCC's plans for a Kea Crossing on Hamilton Road, and will support any future consultation the WCC engages in with neighbours of the school.

We also believe that there is a strong mandate for us to request that you do some further investigation into installing a raised platform when the Kea Crossing is constructed, and would like to discuss this with you further.

We await feedback from the Council with regards to the 'bump'.

Health and Safety

Health and Safety legislation changed on 4 April, so a lot of work has been done by our board member Tamsin Wilkins and Principal Mike McGimpsey to identify the significant changes that the Board needs to be aware of. We plan to spend a large portion of the upcoming meeting discussing the new legislation and how our current policies and practice relates.

Building Works

The upgrade of the toilet blocks has now been completed, along with refurbishing the resource and break-out rooms off room 7, and the conversion of the old senior boys' toilet into a cloakroom for Room 10.

As it took longer than expected to complete, we decided to focus the contractor's efforts on finishing the toilet project rather than continue on to our 'stage 2'. Soon we will begin the tender process to install a door between rooms 9 and 10, and refit the old Room 10 cloakroom as a break-out work space for students. This will enable Tony, Peter and Alison to further develop their teaching practice for individual learning, as this is a school-wide focus

for teacher professional development this year. While we don't have any further funds to make enhancements to other classrooms, the connection between rooms 9 and 10 will be a good trial and enable us to refine our future building needs for when further funding is available.

Community Update

At this coming board meeting, we will be spending the first section hearing from various school community groups. We will have representatives from Kilbirnie After School Care, Parentlink and the Whanau Group to provide updates on their work. If anyone is interested in coming along to this part, or indeed all of the meeting, you are most welcome.

Thanks

As this coming meeting will be the final for the current Board of Trustees, I would like to say a huge thank you to each board member for the amount of time and energy that they have all put in to the Board this year. Each member has brought a unique perspective to the table, and through discussion and a common goal of the best educational outcomes for our students, I personally believe that we have been able to lead the school forward.

Ngā mihi

Chris Montgomerie

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