



Trustee News

August 2015

Kia ora koutou

As another term races by, it is time to update parents and whanau of the school on the items that are keeping your Board of Trustees busy.

Toilet upgrades

A large part of our last meeting was taken up with discussion and decisions made about the toilet upgrades. As I have outlined previously, earlier in the year the Board felt that just simply updating the toilets in the same locations as they are currently may not be the best approach. We wanted to make sure that the revamped toilets would not get in the way of future school developments. To inform this, Mike, Tony Austin and Peter Dobson undertook research and provided input in terms of the direction that “future focused teaching and learning” or “modern learning environments” is going in (more from the Ministry of Education provides can be found here <http://mle.education.govt.nz>).

With this in mind, we commissioned Don Jamieson, the architect that has been engaged for the toilet refit project, to provide us with a concept of how our middle and senior syndicate classrooms could be modified to provide more flexible learning spaces. The concept was shown to the Board of Trustees in the first week of term so that we had time to think over the options before our meeting in week three. Some great ideas were shown and discussed and involved a range of toilet configurations, but all come at a cost. With limited funding over the next 3-4 years we needed to priorities areas for development, and so requested that the Quantity Surveyor involved in the project provide ballpark figures alongside various options.

We had hoped that at the week 3 meeting we would be able to decide on a location of toilets, as well as pick off a few modern learning enhancements for the money that we had available, but unfortunately the estimates came back so high that we didn't get too far down the list.

We did decide that all the senior toilets (both boys and girls) will get moved to the area where the junior toilets currently are. With a change in configuration we can get two extra junior toilets (in addition to those in the junior classroom block) into that area as well as sections for senior girls and senior boys. This will free up the existing senior toilet blocks (currently between rooms 7 and 10) for extra learning / breakout space (though it is uncertain whether we will be able to do any modifications at the same time due to budget constraints). We have prioritized refitting the resource room and small old library space that is between the existing junior toilets and room 7 to be done at the same time as the toilets

work. This will create more flexible learning spaces for senior syndicate students and teachers to be able to use. If budget permits, we'd look to convert the current senior boy's toilet to a cloakroom for room 10 so that the existing cloak room can be used as a break-out space.

Environmental Education

At the last meeting we heard from Kay Mudge who is leading the school environmental initiative. Kay is informally linked into the EnviroSchools programme, but has decided at this stage to plan a programme that is unique to Kilbirnie School.

That programme includes:

- Regular gardening at lunchtimes and on Friday afternoons, with the produce from the vegetable gardens going to a soup kitchen later in the year.
- Re-introducing the collection of lunch scraps for the worm farm
- Getting a council recycling bin for the school

Future initiatives include:

- Building a seed raising house out of recycled plastic bottles as part of the term 4 electives programme
- More visibility around waste that is generated from lunchbox wrappers
- Greater emphasis on sustainability and cultural perspective in syndicate planning.

Other items discussed

Mike and Tony gave us an update on items that were covered by speakers at the recent Principal's Conference and we also reviewed the progress made against goals on the school annual plan and discussed the impacts of the Vulnerable Children's Act, and the progress that is being made in the Government's Communities of Learning initiative.

Items for next meeting

Inclusive Schooling Project

The first item on the agenda for our meeting next Monday 7th September will be an update on the Inclusive Schooling project that Mike and Glenys Johnston have been working on. We'll hear about progress on the three goals for the year:

1. Social Relationships: some of the strategies staff use to manage social relationships and resolve conflict issues
2. Student Voice: ways staff are allowing students to have a greater choice towards self-directed learning
3. Cultural Identities: some of ways we celebrate student's language and culture

Any interested parents are welcome to come along at 7pm to hear this update.

Other items

Also on the agenda will be property - we will be reviewing more final plans for the toilets and will hopefully have a more accurate QS estimate before they go out to tender, and we will also be reviewing personnel policies.

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.

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