



Trustee News

August 2018

Kia ora te whanau

This is an update from your Board of Trustees. As the parent representatives elected by the school community to oversee school governance and strategic direction, we have been busy lately with several items, which I will outline in this newsletter:

- Teacher industrial action
- Policy review – behaviour management and emergency management
- Board elections next year, and what we've covered in recent meetings.

TEACHER INDUSTRIAL ACTION

As all teachers at Kilbirnie Schools are members of the NZEI, it was an obvious decision for the board to make to close the school on Wednesday last week as we had no alternative supervision options. We recognise that it was an inconvenience to many families and employers, and do thank you all for making arrangements for your children on the day.

As a parent and someone who has been involved in the school for several years, I do support the teachers and the reasons for their strike. As a school we have lost good teachers who were unable to afford local rent on a teachers salary, and since I have been involved in the board the number of applicants for teaching vacancies has reduced significantly. Conditions do need to change to attract quality people into the teaching profession, which is a very demanding one.

The negotiations are also focusing on getting extra support in classrooms, particularly in the special needs area. As a Board setting annual budgets, we almost always pay for additional staffing time to provide classroom support and release time from our operational grant. We do this to support teachers and students, at the expense of other areas of the school operations, making budgeting a real challenge.

That is just my opinion though. As well as negotiating with the teachers' union, the Government is currently running a series of surveys to get New Zealanders' views on the future of education. If you haven't already participated in Kōrero Mātauranga - Education Conversation, please follow this link <https://consultation.education.govt.nz> . There are a number of issues that they are surveying New Zealanders about.

POLICY REVIEW

As a Board, we are responsible for reviewing school policies regularly. Our policies are quite broad, and often there are specific procedures that fall under each policy. As the practice in procedures is delegated to the principal and staff, they also review specific procedures before we discuss the overarching policy.

Recently we've reviewed the Health and Safety Policy and a couple of key procedures fall under it, which will be of interest to you.

Behaviour Management

Prior to coming to the Board, the Behaviour Management Procedure was discussed in detail over two staff meetings, and parts were changed to be consistent with current and best practice. The second staff meeting was facilitated by our liaison Resource Teacher Learning and Behaviour (RTLb) who spends some time with some students at the school. The drivers of the revised version are prevention, restorative practice, and consistent practice including consequences.

Since the review and discussion with teachers, new classroom initiatives include classroom circle time, a restorative discussion framework, and the introduction of the Mindfulness programme which is running this term.

The revised procedure is on the school website if you would like to read it in more detail. <http://www.kilbirnie.school.nz/Media/Default/Documents/Policies/Kilbirnie%20School%20Emergencies%20Procedures%20v1.3.pdf>

Emergency Management

I have written several times about the work that we have done on the emergency management procedures that have been updated as part of the work we've done in becoming a Community Emergency Hub. They are also updated on the website and include more detail about family reunification and when and how the Community Emergency Hub would be activated. We have not held a reunification drill in the ten years I have been involved in the school, but will be holding one this year. Look out for more details early next term.

BOARD ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR AND RECENT MEETINGS

Board elections are held every three years, and the next is scheduled for the middle of 2019. As we have a number of people on the board who will have children moving on to other schools, there will be several incumbents who will not stand again so we will be seeking nominations. I'd encourage anyone with an interest in the strategic direction of the school to consider putting their name forward. There is no particular skill or profession required, though we would like accounting and finance experience on the board, as well as someone to represent the needs of Māori and Pacifica whanau.

If you are interested in finding out more about what the board of Trustees does, please feel free to contact anyone on the list below, or come along to a board meeting, which are always promoted in the school newsletter and are open to the public. Our next meeting is on Monday 10 September.

At the last meeting we received an update on sport programme, BYOD and production planning at the school. We heard about how the collection of Yummy fruit stickers makes a large contribution to the school sports equipment available for PE use, so if you don't already collect the stickers, please get a sheet from Liz.

We also reviewed our projected numbers of students and upcoming enrolments and discussed the ideal number of students in each year level to ensure consistency of staffing and resourcing. If you know any neighbours who are intending to enrol in the next year, please check they have filled out a pre-enrolment form as we need to know about prospective enrolments from students within our home zone before we make any decisions on potential numbers of out of zone places for new entrant students next year.

WE REPRESENT YOU

Below is a list of the members of the Board of Trustees. We have been elected by the school community to oversee the governance of the school, so please get in touch with any of us if you have any questions.

Ngā mihi

Chris Montgomerie
Chair

Name	Position	Name	Position
Chris Montgomerie	Chairperson/Property	Tamsin Wilkins	Personnel
Derek Blair	Finance	Jane Lamb	Policy
John Denton	Projects/Education	Lucy Corry	Communications
Tony Austin	Principal	Peter Dobson	Staff representative
Heidi Cannell	Secretary		