



Trustee News

June 2017

Kia ora koutou

As we head into the final stretch of this term, I am writing to let you know what your Board of Trustees is currently working on.

Civil Defence

At our meeting earlier this term we were joined by Jason Paul from WREMO – the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office. He spoke to us about the work is being done across the region to clarify the roles of sites that have traditionally been Civil Defence Centres, and to put more clarity around their roles in an emergency. As with other schools in the region, he proposed that our school remains a place to go in emergencies, but that it becomes a ‘Community Emergency Hub’, which is more about gathering to share information and connect people in the community rather than a place for a cup of tea and a blanket.

As a board we agreed that there is a community expectation that the school has a role to play in an emergency, so agreed to this new title, but we will begin some work now to check that our current emergency policies consider this. We are determined that if an event was to happen during the school day, the first priority will be to look after the students and staff of the school, so will ensure that this is clarified in our procedures.

We hope to hold an information evening later in the year once some initial planning has been done, so that we can discuss the plans with our school whanau and wider community who may be accessing the Community Emergency Hub.

Education Amendment Act

In May the Education Amendment Act was passed, which incorporates some changes to the way that schools are governed and managed. Our next meeting is this coming Monday and we will be discussing any implications that we see for the school going forward, as well as confirming a programme of work to review our existing policies and procedures that relate to items that have been changed.

Pool liner

A really big thanks to Victoria Taylor from the pool committee who has been getting advice and sourcing quotes to replace the pool liner which deteriorated at the end of the swimming season. The old vinyl liner has now been taken out so that contractors can examine the pool properly. Rather than replace it with the same product, we have decided that fixing the concrete and adding a fibreglass layer will be a better long-term solution. However this is more expensive, so we are in the process of seeking grants to top up the funds that had already been raised for pool works. We aim to have the funding finalised next term, so that work can be carried out in the October holidays.

Community of Learning

There has been some progress made on the establishment of an Eastern Wellington Community of Learning, which Kilbirnie School has signed up to be part of. While still in the early stages, there have been several meetings held this term with Tony attending principal meetings about common goals, and me attending meetings with other board representatives to work on establishing the governance structure or Stewardship Group.

Thanks

As well as the governance issues outlined above, the school has felt really buzzy term. We held the first mihi whahakau for new staff, children and their whanau earlier in the term, and there has a great combined excitement around the school-wide study of our planet and the solar system so thanks to all of the teaching staff who have made it so engaging. I know that our family is looking forward to the upcoming Matariki elective programme at school on 29 June, and the evening festivities that will follow.

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

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