



Trustee News

March 2018

Kia ora koutou

I hope you and your tamariki have settled well into school this year. This is the first newsletter from your Board of Trustees for 2018, to provide an update of what we're working on as your governance representatives.

SCHOOL SURVEY AND ANNUAL PLANNING

Thanks to everyone who completed the school survey at the end of last year. The responses were reviewed by the board and staff before school started this year, and have helped to contribute to the school's annual plan. We've also taken on board your feedback in terms of how we communicate with you. We're keen to develop the concept of whanaungatanga further – recognising that children get the best education when there is input from the school, the family and the children themselves, so your input is always valuable.

At the February Board meeting we reviewed and discussed the Annual Plan, which will be ratified at our March meeting and then submitted to the Ministry. The focus for this year's school-wide staff professional development will be Reading, and there have also been specific plans developed to ensure that the school continues to offer a rich and varied curriculum. We'll also be reviewing and ratifying the school budget at the next meeting.

END OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

As you will be aware, the new Government has announced an end to National Standards reporting. At this stage there has been no alternative offered for planning and reporting to parents, but teachers at Kilbirnie have continued to undertake their usual level of testing to assess the level and needs of our students.

As a board, monitoring student achievement is one of our key mandates, so we are working closely with Tony and his senior team to ensure that we get an accurate reflection of the learning and achievement of our children.

We will be following the advice of the Ministry, and working as a school and as part of our Kahui Ako (Community of Learning), to ensure that a system is developed that will provide parents with an accurate measure of your child's progress, as well as being a useful classroom planning tool. We're still unsure how this will look, but it is likely there will be some changes in the next year or so

KAHUI AKO UPDATE

Work on the formation of the eastern Wellington Kahui Ako (previously called Community of Learning) continues. It has been structured so that Tony and/or I are Kilbirnie representatives at Kahui Ako planning meetings, but any major decisions have to be discussed and agreed by the full school board. At the beginning of this year the board discussed the draft achievement challenge of the Kahui Ako and have provided feedback that was discussed at a planning meeting this week.

One area of notable progress has been the appointment of a lead principal for the Kahui Ako. John Western (principal of Seatoun School) has that role and will now have dedicated time for Kahui Ako work, so progress is likely to speed up. Next steps are to refine the achievement challenge and get approval from the boards of the 12 schools, then this will be recognised by the Ministry and further appointment can be made for staff to work across schools to help progress these challenges.

The goal of a Kahui Ako is to develop a long term learning pathway for our tamariki from preschool education, through primary, intermediate and secondary school and beyond. Our Kahui Ako has 12 schools, including primaries from the Eastern Zone, EBIS, Rongotai College and Wellington East Girls. The intention is that collaboration between schools will make for better continuity of learning for our tamariki. It is also seen as a career pathway for teachers and principals, as there are roles within the Kahui Ako that will see lead teachers appointed and spending time sharing their expertise across other schools.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW SECRETARY

At our February meeting, we farewelled Rachel Cassey, our Board Secretary for the past five years. Stepping into her shoes is Heidi Cannell – welcome Heidi. The secretary role is a non-elected appointment, working alongside the Chair and the Principal, and is really important to ensure that the administration of the Board runs smoothly.

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		