



BOARD HAPPENINGS 2017



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EXCELLENCE

The Dunsandel School Board Newsletter

ISSUE TWO

The Board of Trustees held its second meeting for 2017 on Tuesday 28th March, with the following being the key points from the discussions:

Firstly, a big thank you from the Board to all those involved in the successful completion of Stage 1 of the school's playground project. Special mention goes to Dave Robinson, Liz Righton, the members of the Playground Project team and to the staff/parents, who at short notice, assisted with the final clean up prior to the grand opening.

Section 1: School Charter

Strategic Aim 1: Our children are successfully able to access the New Zealand Curriculum, as evidenced by progress and achievement in relation to National Standards and other assessment processes.

- As required by the Ministry of Education, the School's Annual Plan for 2017, the 2016 Analysis of Variance and the 2016 National Standards Data were submitted prior to the deadline (1st March) for approval. Regarding the Annual Plan, unless we hear back from the Ministry, we consider it an approved document and therefore have placed it on the School's website.
- The principal informed the meeting that Parent-Teacher interviews took place on 20-21 March (Room 3 was a week earlier). Based on the number of interviews that were held over the two days, 67% of children had their learning and progress discussed.

Strategic Aim 2: Children engage in a learning environment to experience success in all areas of the curriculum

- Representatives from the school (Dave Robinson), the Board (Don Lough) and the PTA (Becky Wolff) held their quarterly meeting with the main topic being the fundraising priorities for 2017. Other discussion points included PTA roles outside of fundraising, playground progress and teacher resource funding.

Strategic Aim 3: Our culture defines Dunsandel School through a supportive environment that promotes the school's PRIDE Values

- The Principal informed the meeting of the successful working bee held recently. A total of 25 parents/caregivers and 9 staff participated in various projects around the school. Special thanks goes to Liz Righton for her management of the exercise, to Ellesmere Transport for providing river stones and to the PTA for providing food on the second night.
- The Principal has confirmed all staff have signed their job descriptions and understand the appraisal process for 2017.

- Leaders from the Nga Matapuna o Te Waihora cluster (Dunsandel, Leeston, Southbridge primary schools and Ellesmere College) have produced a draft Cluster Plan for 2017. The key focus areas will be around ECES (transition support), schools (writing enrichment programmes, Year 6 Conference and drama workshops), Leadership (principals professional development, Board professional development, on-going investigation of Communities of Learning), staff (cluster professional development, transition between primary schools and the College) and community (cluster newsletters, investigation of vocational pathways for students)

Section 2: School Governance

- Financial statements for January and February 2017 were presented and approved by the Board
- The issue of corporate sponsorship as a source of funding was discussed. The Board recognises this type of funding requires future consideration in assisting the school to achieve its goals and objectives. However, currently there are no guidelines/policies to support this funding mechanism. The meeting discussed draft guidelines with the outcome being further work to finalise policies specific to our school.
- Policy reviews were carried out on the following: Recognition of Cultural Diversity; Staff Leave; and Separated Parents, Day to Day Care and Guardianship.

Board of Trustees Meetings 2017

The remaining Board meeting dates for 2017 are:

Term Two: 16th May and 27th June

Term Three: 22nd July and 26th August

Term Four: 7th November and 5th December

The minutes for the above Board meeting, once approved, can be accessed via the school website on the 'Our People' page under the 'Board of Trustees' tab. Should you wish to discuss any of the above issues please do not hesitate in contacting either myself or another Board member.

Don Lough
Board of Trustees Chairperson
For the Dunsandel Board of Trustees