



# BOARD HAPPENINGS 2017



## *The Dunsandel School Board Newsletter*

### ISSUE FIVE

The Board of Trustees held its fifth meeting for 2017 on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, with the following being the key points from the discussions:

#### **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.***

- The Principal tabled a report reviewing the school's PE and Health Curriculum. The review looked at what the school is currently doing in the areas of physical education and health education, identifying strengths in both and areas for improvement. The Board was presented with and agreed upon a number of recommendations going forward. A copy of the report is in the school foyer.
- The Principal reported on a very successful Open Classrooms Day held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August. There was an excellent turnout of parents/caregivers/grandparents/friends and a keen interest in what the children were doing.
- The Principal tabled the National Standards 2017 Mid-Year Update. Overall, 83.6% (reading), 81.6% (writing) and 80.3% (maths) of children are at or above National Standard. While the school continues to produce high achievement rates, there has been a slight drop on last year's achievement rates, which the Principal will continue to monitor to ensure the high standards are maintained. A copy of the report is in the school foyer.

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

- The meeting was informed that 33 children are continuing with the school's music programme in Term 3.

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

#### ***PRIDE Values***

- The meeting was informed the Principal's appraiser visited the school on 17<sup>th</sup> August and as part of the on-going principal appraisal process interviewed staff, children and the BoT Chairperson.
- On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August the Minister of Education, Nikki Kaye, approved the Community of Learning – Kāhui Ako (CoL) submission from Ellesmere College, Southbridge school, Leeston consolidated school and Dunsandel School.

***What does this mean for our school?*** A CoL is a group of education and training providers that form around children and young people's learning pathways, and work together to help them achieve their full potential.

***What are the next steps?*** The four schools will spend time working through the following:

- Spend time working with all groups in our community to develop a shared vision for students
- Decide how the different parts of the CoL will work together
- Identify our shared achievement challenges and create a plan to address them
- Decide how, throughout these steps and ongoing processes, we will involve parents, family, iwi and the wider community
- Decide how we will document and share our learning as a community

## **Section 2: School Governance**

- The financial statements for June and July 2017 were presented to the Board.
  - **Recommendation:** *The Board approves the financial statements for June and July 2017 - **Approved***
- Health and Safety: One recommendation was presented to the Board for approval:
  - **Recommendation:** *The Board approves the draft Dogs on School Grounds policy – **Approved***

The Board has approved this policy to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the Dunsandel school community within the school grounds. The policy has been established to provide clear guidelines for having dogs on school grounds so as to minimise the risk of accident or injury to people.

The key points from the policy are:-

No dogs are to be brought onto school grounds between the hours of 8.00am and 4:00pm Monday – Friday, during school terms.

On occasion (for example a child may want to show their class a new puppy), a dog may be brought to school. Permission must be obtained from the classroom teacher at least one day prior to the event. If permission is granted the following guidelines must be adhered to:

    - The dog must be kept on a short leash.
    - The leash must be held by adults only.
    - The dog must not be tied up and left unattended anywhere at school, even for a brief period of time.
    - The dog owner is responsible for any soiling by the dog on the school grounds.
    - Dog owners will only be allowed to bring a dog for a prearranged visit if they are prepared to state that the dog is comfortable around children and has never displayed any aggression towards children. The dog owner will be required to give an undertaking that they believe that the dog is fully trustworthy in a school environment.

Dogs are permitted at school during our Annual Country Day under our Country Day programme

The full policy is available on the school's website.
- The Injury and Incident Report – Term 2 was tabled and discussed at the meeting.
- Ministry of Education information on school sleepovers and fire safety was presented to the meeting. A number of issues were raised which are to be addressed before the next school sleepover in 2018, should one go ahead.
- The Child Protection Policy and Students with Special Needs Policy was tabled for review.

## **Board of Trustees Meetings 2017**

The remaining Board meeting dates for 2017 are:

Term Three: 26<sup>th</sup> September

Term Four: 7<sup>th</sup> November and 5<sup>th</sup> 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