



BOARD HAPPENINGS 2019



PARTICIPATE
RESPECT
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DETERMINED
EXCELLENCE

The Dunsandel School Board Newsletter

ISSUE TWO

The Board of Trustees held its second meeting for 2019 on Tuesday 2nd April.

Chairperson's Comments

Can't believe we're coming to the end of the first term of 2019.....it seems like only yesterday I was welcoming everyone back for another year!! As is usual, the first term has been a busy one for the school with plenty of events having taken place including the school swimming sports, the duathlon, the various representations at both zone and Canterbury levels, commencement of the year's music programme, establishment of the Kapa Haka Group, demolition of the school boiler house; and class visits to the beach and the Canterbury Museum.

On a sadder note, the commencement of 2019 is going to be remembered for what took place on the 15th March, a tragedy that caught us off guard, caused a huge amount of pain, left us confused and has presented us with a whole lot of uncomfortable questions. Hearing the words 'extremism' and 'New Zealand' in the same sentence is something most New Zealanders are not comfortable with, but now its something we're going to have to deal with and, hopefully, in a way that makes New Zealand stronger, for all. Our thoughts go out to those that have been directly or indirectly affected by the tragedy and a 'big' thank-you goes to all staff at the school for the effort that went into keeping things as normal as possible in the days following 15th March.....very much appreciated by all.

Finally, we are in election year.....Board of Trustee elections.....and we are looking for new members!!! The date set for the elections is 7 June 2019. We're not requiring astronauts, captains of industry or NBA basketballers (of course, we wouldn't turn any of these down), what we're wanting are individuals who are looking to give something back to the local community, individuals who are excited about Dunsandel Primary School's positive contribution to our children's development and individuals who have an interest in ensuring the school is around for many more years to come. Details on the election process will be made available over the coming weeks through the various school communication channels and if you're wanting to talk further about the Board role please do not hesitate in contacting myself or any of the other current Board members.

As for the meeting on the 2nd April, highlights from the discussions included:

- *Proposal for the Year 6 Camp to Aoraki- Mount Cook approved by the Board*
- *Parent – Teacher interviews (week 7) successfully concluded*
- *Student Voice Survey Report presented to the Board*
- *Introductory meeting with the Kapa Haka Group trainers*
- *Swimming pool closed for the winter period*
- *Principal to attend the World Edulead Conference in Singapore (1st week of the holidays)*
- *School management currently reviewing its Lock-down policy and procedures*

A draft of the Minutes from the previous meeting, dated 26th February 2019, was presented to the Board for approval.

- **Approved by the Board**

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.

- Nothing to Report

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

- The Parent-Teacher Interviews were held in week 7 which included 90 scheduled meetings. Response from the teaching staff has been positive. There were discussions on the timing of the interviews (beginning vs end of the term) and the length of each interview (10 minutes). Both these issues will be included in a review of the process for next year.
- The Proposal for the Year 6 Camp to Aoraki-Mount Cook was presented to the Board for approval. An information evening with the parent group had also taken place on the 28th March.
 - **Approved by the Board**

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

- A Student Voice Survey Report (PRIDE Values and Learning at Dunsandel School, Yrs 3-6) was tabled at the meeting. Details of the report can be accessed via the school website (our people page).
- The school met with the Kapa Hikitia Group to discuss the running of a Kapa Haka Group programme at the school. Depending on numbers the programme will commence Week 1 Term 2 and will be an opt-in programme for Yrs 3-6 children. There is also an opportunity to run Te Reo lessons for Yrs 1-2 children at the same time. Details of the two programmes will be sent out to parents in the coming weeks.
- The Board was informed the swimming pool is closed for the winter period and that some work will be required on a leaky pipe.
- The Principal will be attending the World Edulead Conference in Singapore in the first week of the upcoming holidays. While in Singapore he will have the opportunity to visit a couple of primary schools. The trip is being funded through the Kahui Ako programme.

Section 2: School Governance

- The financial statements for January and February 2019 were presented to the Board for approval.
 - **Approved by the Board**
- The Board reviewed the following policies:
 - School Swimming Pool Policy
 - Alcohol/Drugs and Other Harmful Substances Policy
 - Legislation and Administration Policy

- The Principal provided an updated on his work with the Strategic Leadership for Principals Programme (Springboard Trust)

Health and Safety

- Following the events of 15th March 2019 the school has commenced a review of its Lock-down policy and procedures in line with the Ministry of Education's review. A number of issues have been raised and are currently being addressed.

Section 3: Board of Trustee Meeting Dates 2019

The remaining Board meeting dates for 2019:

Term Two: 21st May & 25th June

Term Three: 3th August & 17th September

Term Four: 5th November & 3rd 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