



BOARD HAPPENINGS 2019



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EXCELLENCE

The Dunsandel School Board Newsletter

ISSUE THREE

The Board of Trustees held its third meeting for 2019 on Tuesday 21st May.

Chairman's Comments

End of May and we're well into Term 2 and sliding into the depths of winter.....time to dust off the flannel sheets.....not that I know where they are!!

The school remains busy on a number of fronts as outlined below. Of particular interest, at the meeting, the Board was presented with the Auditor's final report for the 2018 financial year. The report confirmed that the "school remains in good heart and in a strong financial position.....". The year saw the school operate at a manageable deficit (\$28,730), much of which was attributed to a fall in Ministry funding due to a decreased roll, reduced fundraising income and an increase in Board-funded wage costs. The school ended the year in a strong position with working capital of \$170,934. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team responsible for school finances (Sonia Colenso, Felicity Pluck and Mr R) for ensuring the school remains financially sound.....no easy task!

As many of you are aware, one of the school buses was involved in an accident on Friday 3rd May. Fortunately, there were only minor injuries and we wish Rob (bus driver) a speedy recovery as he rests up at home. An incident like this is a parent's/caregiver's/teacher's worst nightmare and I just want to thank all those who were involved at the scene of the accident and in the days following to ensure the children and Rob were well looked after. The accident has been investigated by the police and the school is in discussions with the bus company on what can be done, if anything, to further minimize the risk of any future incidents.

Highlights from the discussions include:

- *Tabling of a Year 6 Leadership Student Voice Survey*
- *Commencement of the Kapahaka and Te Reo programmes*
- *On-going maintenance of the school house*
- *Commencement of stage 2 of the school's 5YA Projects Plan – roof and classroom upgrades*
- *Selection of the project manager for the building of the new garage/storage facility*
- *On-going preparations for the up-coming Board elections*
- *Update on the Kahui Ako programme*
- *Update on the teachers' strike planned for 29th May 2019.*
- *Review of the accident involving one of the school buses on 3rd May 2019*
- *Brief on the Principal's visit to Singapore*

A draft of the Minutes from the previous meeting, dated 2nd April 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

- A Year 6 Leadership Student Voice Survey was presented to the Board. The purpose of the survey was to gauge how the Year 6 children felt they had stepped up as school leaders. Findings from the survey:
 - 47% felt they have stepped up and performed as a school leader all the time
 - 48% felt they had stepped up most of the time
 - 5% felt they had not stepped up and performed as a leader.

When asked the one thing they found most rewarding as a leader, 62% listed organizing and presenting at the Friday assembly.

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

- Kapahaka group commenced this term with 53 students taking up the opportunity. Alongside this is the teaching of Te Reo with Rooms 1 & 2.
- An update on the school house was provided with the chimney having been swept for the winter and a process under way for the installation of under-floor insulation to meet rental house regulations coming into effect on 1st July 2019.
- The school has commenced planning work to make use of the remaining funds (\$200k) under the 5YA projects budget. The focus for the funds will be on roof repairs and the modernization of the area between Rooms 3 & 4.
- The Project Manager for the garage construction has been selected. Tenders are currently being sought for the construction of the garage.
- CES continue to manage the Board election process with regular advertising taking place.
- Kahui Ako: the Leadership Group continues to meet with much of the discussion on 'well-being' as the major focus for the Kahui Ako. Work will continue on defining well-being within the Kahui Ako context and what can be done to address this focus.

Section 2: School Governance

- The financial statements for March and April 2019 were presented to the Board for approval.
 - ***Approved by the Board***
- The final report from the school's auditors, John Hooper & Co, relating to the 2018 financial audit was presented to the Board for approval.
 - ***Approved by the Board***

- The principal informed the Board of the teachers strike taking place on Wednesday 29th May. As all the teachers at the school are members of the NZEI they are bound by the vote to strike.
- The Principal provided an update on his work with the Strategic Leadership for Principals Programme (Springboard Trust).
- The principal also provided a review of his recent trip to Singapore where he attended the World Edulead Conference and visited two schools – Edgefield Primary School (publicly funded) and Stamford American International School (privately funded).

Health and Safety

- The Principal provided a review of the bus accident that happened on Friday 3rd May. Obviously, a very frightening experience for all those involved and, thankfully, we were only dealing with minor injuries. Rob, the bus driver, did go to hospital to have his injuries checked out. He is now back home, resting and the Board wishes him a speedy recovery. In the days following the accident staff traveled on the bus to reassure both kids and parents that the bus ride to and from school is a positive experience. The accident has been investigated by the police.

Section 3: Board of Trustee Meeting Dates 2019

The remaining Board meeting dates for 2019:

Term Two: 25th June

Term Three: 3th August & 17th September

Term Four: 5th November & 3rd December

Finally this was the last Board meeting of the current Board. While three members are re-standing I would like thank Kylie Paterson for her six years' service on the Dunsandel School Board of Trustees. We have appreciated her input into the governance of the school and hop she has enjoyed being part of our Board. We wish her well for the future.

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