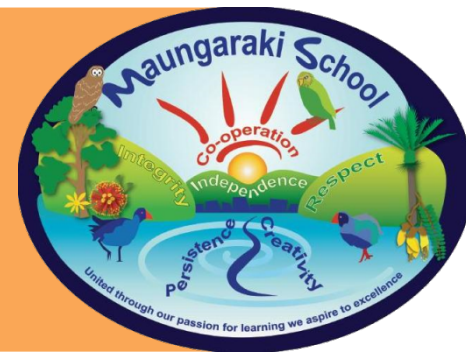


BOARDTalk

*An update from the Maungaraki
School Board of Trustees*



Welcome

Welcome to the October 2015 edition of BOARDTalk.

Wow, term four already! Christmas shopping and summer holidays, here we come!

This month's BoT meeting was a long one - almost 5 hours - to work through plans for the upcoming Education Review Office (ERO) three year review of the school's performance.

At this meeting we also elected a new Board Chair to take us through to next year's trustee elections. **Paul Matthews** will replace **Janine Foster** who will stand down at the end of this year. Janine has been a truly outstanding chair of the Board since being elected in 2007, and is stepping down to take on more responsibility elsewhere. While we're sad to see her step down, we're thrilled she is staying on as a member of the board so that we can continue to benefit from her experience and expertise.

In addition to our preparation for the upcoming ERO review and election of a new chair, other agenda items this month included a review of **target student data report**, **parent donation levels** and an updated **finance policy**. Of course the playground is still on the agenda, and as I'm sure you will have noticed, it is now in use - with the exception of the slide. No more promises from the council for when this will be going though!

October meeting highlights:

- > **ERO review.** Planning for the ERO review is now well underway with a lot of work already done by the school to prepare for the review team visit during week six (16 -19 November). This is a major event for the school involving a substantial amount of paperwork and meetings. We feel the school has been tracking well against most of its objectives so are expecting to receive a positive outcome.
- > **Target student progress report.** The target of increasing the number of children achieving at or above the standard by 3% across all year levels is well on the way to being achieved with many of the students we track making accelerated progress across the three areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, where our overall targets are 90.4%, 84.9% and 85.7% respectively.
- > **Parent donations.** Income from parent donations is something we depend on to provide the high level of education parents expect from the school. Parent donations for 2015 are just over 46% of possible budgeted funds which is extremely disappointing for this time of the year. As a decile 10 school, funding received from the Ministry of Education is less than most other schools and the BoT has to make some hard decisions about what the school can and can't do with the limited funds available to us. A big thanks to those who have paid their

donation and a big ask to those who have yet to do so. Even if you aren't in a position to pay the full amount, any contribution you can make helps to make a difference to the equipment and materials available to staff and therefore the school's ability to educate our children.

The board has approved the school's recommendation to again hold parent donations at the same level in 2016 as this year (being \$200 for the first child, \$180 for the second, \$120 for the third, to a maximum of \$500 per family). Payment options are readily available for those who would prefer to pay in smaller installments.

Next meeting and BoT information

Our next BoT meeting will be held on 18 November at 7.00pm in the school staff room. Remember that a full copy of monthly BoT meeting minutes are available on the school website or by request from the school office.

If you would like to raise a matter with the BoT or to attend a meeting please see the school website or contact us for details.

Janine, Simon, Lisa, Janet, Phil, Kaylee, Greg, Kerry, Paul and Newton.