

Welcome

Welcome to the September 2015 edition of BOARDTalk.



Another term nearly over. One more week to go then YAY school holidays! If you aren't going on holiday at least there is less traffic; according to some media reports, trips can be up to 38% faster. This has been attributed to many factors, including being able to pass school zones at higher speeds, so please stay safe over the holidays and make sure you continue to watch out for cars if you are crossing Dowse Drive.

We had a busy BoT meeting this month. We were very happy to welcome **Newton King** to the Board of Trustees, as our latest (and likely final) co-opted member. The number of new members made it difficult to fit around the table but succession planning is an important consideration with the triennial elections in the first half of next year! It's great to have so much interest from parents in the work of the Board.

On the agenda this month we had the Board self-review, discussion around the up-coming Education Review Office (ERO) review, a review of the Leadership Practices Survey results and an update of the initial planning stage for a project to redevelop the hard surface areas of the school, as well as another update on the Council's construction of the new playground. Contrary to the last BOARDTalk we have been promised yet another deadline by the Council for completion of the playground. We remain hopeful that it will be finished in time for next term.

September meeting highlights:

- The BoT has begun its annual self review process starting with the Hautū – the Māori cultural responsiveness self review tool for boards of trustees. (<http://www.nzsta.org.nz/trustee-professional-development/culturaltool>) At this meeting we looked at the *Representation* criteria. After some consideration and reflection including input from Nga Kakano Puawai and Māori representatives on the BoT, while the BoT feels it still has some way to go, overall we are clearly moving in the right direction.
- In November ERO will undertake its three-yearly review of the school's performance. This involves considerable additional work for the school and the BoT in preparing documentation and meeting with the ERO review team. It is a robust and important process however which provides us useful feedback on success and areas for further improvement, and we look forward to sharing the results with the school community in due course.
- The school conducted its third Leadership Practice Survey, to determine the teachers' views of the leadership of the school. The results are seriously impressive, showing significant perceived overall improvement from the previous survey two years ago, and well above the national "reference group" results. Evidence of the great job being done by our school's leadership team.
- As per Home & School's focus project on repairing and/or replacing the school's hard surfaces, we are now seeking a **landscape designer or architect** to help us plan the repair of the tarmac. As the Ministry of Education have indicated they will not provide funding for this work we are looking for some voluntary help from any parents (or others) with skills in this area. Please contact the school directly if you, or someone you know, are willing and able to help.

Next meeting and BoT information

Our next BoT meeting will be held on 21 October, 2015, 7.00pm in the school staff room.

Remember that a full copy of monthly BoT meeting minutes are also 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.

Take care ... and enjoy the holidays!

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

