



Welcome

Welcome to the May 2016 edition of BOARDTalk.

Ah the fresh crisp air of winter has finally arrived, and plenty of rain with it. As one season replaces another so we will soon have a new Board of Trustees (BoT) set to replace our existing board following a three-year term of significant activity for our school.

Highlights of the final BoT meeting for the current board included:

- **Target Student Data.** Every term the school presents data on the progress of children who have previously not achieved to the expected standard. The school tracks these students throughout the year and works to ensure that the learning needs of these children are being met. Our term 1 data shows several of these target students have made accelerated progress over the first term which is great, but that there is still much work to be done as the year progresses.
- **Strategic Aim 1 interim Analysis of Variance.** Our Strategic Aim #1 states that “At Maungaraki School we excel in Literacy and Mathematics”. This month’s interim analysis of variance reports shows that the school is tracking well towards achieving the actions relating to our academic goals for this year.
- **Alcohol policy.** There was some great feedback and engagement from members of the school community to the consultation on the school’s draft alcohol policy. The board appreciated the responses from 33 families, with 26% of respondents suggesting a change in policy to a blanket ban on alcohol at school-related activities (such as wine and cheese etc), 2 families “against the policy” (without elaboration on whether they supported a stricter or looser regime), 48% supporting the policy as currently worded, and the other 20% generally supportive, but raising points or concerns about some aspects (such as being concerned about the sale of alcohol at the gala, but not being opposed to other aspects of the policy).

In retrospect, the Board didn’t make the purpose of the policy and consultation as clear as intended. The original intention was simply to formalise existing practice within the school as a result of a realisation of the need for a policy (as recommended by the Ministry of Education), however it’s clear that some in the community thought we were consulting because the Board was considering either significantly tightening or loosening the rules around alcohol at school-related activities, or possibly saw the consultation as a poll on whether alcohol should be allowed at adult events related to the school. Neither was the case.

That aside, and as a direct result of the feedback from families, a number of amendments to the policy were made by the Board. These clarify the intent and outcome of the policy, tidy up some of the wording that has caused confusion, and ensures a clear and balanced case-by-case graduated approvals framework is in place around alcohol at adult events related to the school. The amended policy was adopted and is now in place for the school. You can view the [final policy](#) on the school website.



- **Enviro schools.** We are going for Green-Gold! The board reviewed a report from the Enviroteam at the meeting and acknowledge that this is a big step up from Silver but agree that the school and students are up to the challenge. The green-gold requirements will be in our minds as we make future decisions. A big part of this is about the community as well. We look forward to your support as the year progresses as we work together to make Maungaraki School even more environmentally conscious.
- **BoT elections.** By now you will have received your voting papers, and thanks to those who attended our *Meet the Candidates* night last Friday. The voting box is beginning to fill up. Remember to get your votes in by Friday 3rd June (this week!)
- **Big thanks to Home & School:** For all the work they have done, raising just over \$12,000 for the year, boosting the Home and School's accounts to \$37,000. The BoT would like to acknowledge the hard work of outgoing President Naila Rahman, and express our appreciation to the incoming president Caz Guard who is taking over the reigns of this highly motivated group for the coming year.
- **School Donations:** Your school donations are critical for us to be able to provide the facilities and quality teaching spaces we all want for our children. Donations are tracking lower for this time of year than usual which is of concern for us.

Our donation level has not increased since 2008. First child \$200, second child \$180, with a maximum amount payable of \$500 per family. This money helps provide many of the extra resources not allowed for in Ministry funding. So far this year we are approximately \$5,000 down on the same time last year and as you can imagine that makes a significant dent in the budget.

For those who want to support the school and make their school donation, but either don't want to or aren't in a position to pay it in one go, we can set up weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments - whatever suits you. Just let the school know.

- **Last meeting of the current BoT.** A sad farewell was made to Janine Foster, who has been a part of the Maungaraki School BoT for 10 years (9.5 of these as Chair). Janine's hard work and devotion to the school has been an inspiration to us all. Greg Hawkins and Simon Williamson have also not sought re-election after serving almost 4 years each. We appreciate their contribution to the school, in particular to the new classrooms we are now enjoying (in Greg's case), and the area of policy development (in Simon's). All three Board members will be sorely missed.

Finally, the BoT would like to extend a thank-you to all members of our wonderful school community for everything you have brought to our school over our our last three years. The passion, involvement and readiness to express your views and suggestions remains a positive characteristic of our school.

Next meeting and BoT information

Our next Board of Trustees meeting will be held with the new BoT at 7.00pm on June 22nd 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.

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

