

Coatesville School Board of Trustees News February 2016

Welcome to the first edition of the Board of Trustees news for 2016. If you are new to our school, or returning, we hope you enjoy your time at Coatesville School and being part of the school community. The Board of Trustees meets once a month, most school months of the year. After each meeting we put out this newsletter to keep our families and community updated on what's going on around the school and behind the scenes. In addition to this newsletter, the Board and teaching staff hold a number of information evenings throughout the year to update you on plans as well as specific developments around the school. We look forward to meeting you at these events. The first of these events for 2016, takes place on Thursday 3 March at 6.30pm to launch our school Masterplan and Charter.

This year will be an exciting year as staff implement a renewed learning model for the school, we celebrate our school centenary, and welcome an Education Review Office visit some stage later in the year. Underpinning all this is a dedicated staff committed to helping all the children realise their potential in a safe and happy environment.

Budget: The Board approved the school budget for 2016 in January. This includes additional funding, over and above what the Ministry of Education provides, for teaching and teacher aide staff. This recognises our commitment to maintaining class sizes at reasonable numbers as well as providing teacher aide support in a way that benefits the entire classroom in which a teacher aide works. All school donations received go towards off-setting these investments as well as ensuring we can provide a well-rounded curriculum which includes music, art and sports.

Principal's Appraisal: Every year, the Board contracts an external specialist to conduct a thorough appraisal of the school principal. The appraiser spends between one and two full days at the school interviewing a number of staff, board members and the Principal as well as assessing documentation and survey results completed by all staff and board members. The Principal is assessed against the professional goals agreed following the previous year's appraisal and against the Professional Standards for Primary Principals. In late 2015, Roger Harnett from The Education Group conducted an appraisal of our principal Richard Johnson. Roger presented his findings to the Board at our meeting last week. Roger is very impressed with the leadership shown by Richard, by his commitment to and enthusiasm for a strong learning vision for the school and by the staff's support for his leadership. The recommendations which have resulted from the appraisal will be used to inform the Principal's Performance Agreement for this year.

Coatesville School Masterplan: On Thursday 3 March the Board will host an evening at school to launch our Masterplan and School Charter. Every year, the Board must review the school charter which sets the direction for the school over the next three years. This is submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval. This year, the Board is combining the launch of this document with another – our school Masterplan. The Masterplan summarises where we have come in the first 100 years of Coatesville School and sets out exciting plans as we begin the next 100 years at school. The plan brings together the wish list of our students, teachers, parents and wider community. It sets these within the physical environment of Coatesville School and presents a desired timeline as well as fundraising goals for achieving them. We look forward to sharing the details with you. Please come

along for a 6.30pm start. Babysitting is available in room 1. Following the information session there will be time for small group Question and Answer sessions as well as wine and nibbles.

The Board would like to acknowledge and thank Petar Milivojevic and colleagues from GHD for their contributions to this process and the final document.

Centenary: Coatesville School will celebrate its centenary in October this year, coinciding with our annual Ag Day. There is a small group of very dedicated school and community members who meet once a month to organise the events around this celebration. If you wish to get involved in any way, please contact the school office. There are opportunities to assist on the committee but also to choose a particular event over the weekend of 14-16 October to help organise.

Sports uniform and school logo: The Board decided last year to use the opportunity of the school centenary to review our school colours, particularly those in our sports uniform, our logo and motto. Our first priority was to look at different options for our sports uniform and use this to inform our logo development. Our small school size means off the shelf products are more cost efficient. The Board has reviewed suggestions from several uniform companies and has an option it will share at the Masterplan launch evening this week and at the School Assembly on Friday. We welcome your feedback.

Board Elections: Coatesville School has five parent representatives on the Board of Trustees. Elections for these positions take place every three years. The next Triennial School Boards of Trustees Elections take place this year. The Board has set an election date of 13 June 2016, which sits within the election timetable set by the Ministry of Education. We have also appointed Chrissie Dunn, a former school parent and member of the Coatesville community, to act as Returning Officer for this year's elections. Chrissie will advertise the elections, receive nominations and run the election as well as keep the community informed with all relevant information. If you are interested in standing for election, please feel free to contact any current board member.

In addition to the parent representatives on the Board, there are two other board members: the principal and a staff representative.

Property: The Board's key priority is to find a solution to our wastewater disposal system. We would like to find a solution which negates the need to have dispersal fields on the school field. We are in discussions with the Auckland City Council and the Ministry of Education to find a resolution.

Progress continues on developing alternative playground options for the school. Currently, developments are taking place in the forest area. Children have enjoyed spreading cushion fall in preparation for the new equipment which was delivered earlier this week. We hope they enjoy exploring and playing. There seems to have been quite a buzz so far.

The Board will meet again on March 22 at 7pm in the Staff Room. Anyone is welcome to attend but only board members have speaking rights. If you wish to contact a board member, our contact

details can be found on the school website at: <http://www.coatesville.school.nz/board-of-trustees.html>