

Board of Trustees News March 2018

Welcome to all our returning and new families in 2018. We are looking forward to a productive and enjoyable year. Our priority as a Board is to ensure each child is learning to the best of their ability in a happy and safe environment. Please find below details of discussions from the first few Board meetings of 2018.

Student Achievement

The Board reviewed comparative data from the last three years for all students as well as by year groups, gender and ethnicity. Targets groups were discussed including those students who require Individual Education Plans. Student progress and achievement will be monitored closely throughout the year.

ERO

Last week we were visited by the Education Review Office for our external review. The review took place over 4 days and included interviews with the Principal, Senior Leadership Team, Staff, the Board of Trustees, children and some parents, as well as a significant amount of data analysis and discussion. The process is a useful time to really reflect on where we are as a school, what we are doing well and where we think we could do better. The Board is extremely appreciative of the amount of work our Principal and staff put in to preparing for this review. Our discussions with the review team at the end of the week were extremely positive. We look forward to being able to share the full report with you in the coming months.

Property

Septic system: The Board has been trying for some time to secure an agreement to discharge waste from the much needed new septic system off school grounds to free the entire school field for use. We have recently been advised this will take longer than we would like. The Board has therefore decided to progress this project in two stages. Stage 1 will involve installing a new septic system on school grounds in the next 6 months. Stage 2 will involve simultaneously progressing plans with the Ministry of Education to enable the discharge to be pumped off site. We will keep you informed of progress.

Library/Artec: Plans for the redevelopment of the Library/Artec space are going ahead. The Board is now considering detailed designs, costings and value for return.

Health and Safety

Three minor property maintenance items were identified and resolved during February. One student received treatment for an injury in the first two weeks of the school year. No hazards were identified as a result.

A new 'Student Wellbeing Plan for 2018' has been devised and is being shared with our school community. This follows discussions with students, parents/caregivers, staff and the BoT in term 4

last year on how to significantly minimise bullying in our school. The plan includes definitions of different student behaviours (conflict, rudeness, meanness and bullying) as well as details of our processes for dealing with any potential or actual bullying and our communications procedures for parents/caregivers. Students have also been surveyed on their 'level of wellbeing' and these results are being used to further inform strategies to support student wellbeing. This is an aspect of care the Board is absolutely committed to and will be monitoring throughout the school year.

Further information can be found in the 20 February School Newsletter at:

http://www.coatesville.school.nz/uploads/4/8/9/2/48925841/newsletter_3_-_20february.pdf

Hautu self-review tool

The Board is working through Hautu – a Maori cultural responsiveness self-review tool for Boards of Trustees. We have made contact with a local Marae who we hope will be able to guide our school in this process, providing some professional development for the Board and staff, and supporting us in a number of initiatives at school. A key focus for this year is strengthening Te Reo at Coatesville School for both staff and students.

Finance

All income and expenditure is as expected. Thank you to all families who have paid school donations in part or in full. This is greatly appreciated as it helps us provide a range of activities and support for the children such as teacher aide time, sport and music.

Policy review

The Board has reviewed and approved a number of school policies including: home learning, personnel, equal employment opportunities and physical restraint.

Friends of the School

The Friends of the School (FoTS) organise a number of fun activities throughout the school year for both children and adults. They are the fundraising arm of the Board of Trustees and funds raised go directly to the School for the benefit of the children. In recent years, funds raised by FoTS have gone into: new playgrounds; drop down blinds which keep children and bags dry in wet weather and provide additional learning spaces; digital technology for classrooms; and sports equipment.

FoTS meet every month in the staff room and new members are always welcome. The AGM is on Thursday 15 March in the staff room at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Please come along.

The next Board meeting is on Tuesday 20 March at 6.30pm in the staff room. Anyone is welcome to attend but only board members have speaking rights. Contact details for board members can be found at: <http://www.coatesville.school.nz/board-of-trustees.html>