



Board of Trustees Newsletter - February 2017

It has been a busy start to the year for the Board. Thank you for your support in welcoming Adelle and for your understanding (and happiness) at her lovely baby news. Thanks too to our fantastic teachers for a very successful 'meet the teacher' evening. It was great to see many of you there.

2016 was a productive year for the Board: we appointed a new Principal, commenced extensive renovations of the School buildings, retained our sixth teacher and (subject to audit) returned the School's finances to surplus. The Board's plans for this year include: a focus on connecting with the School community; rebuilding parent representation on the Board (see by-election below); investing in the capability of the Board; reviewing our zone to support our present classroom structure; and making a start on improvements to the playground.

Property

Phase 1 of the building project is almost complete and everyone will be back in their proper classes on Monday morning (Feb 27). This is one week later than we had initially hoped as there were a few unforeseen bracing issues that needed addressing but we are delighted with the work that the D S O'Leary team have done. As the project has progressed there have been a number of necessary variations to the original plans but the building team, along with Lars Stannard (architect) and Lee Ashby (project manager) have been fantastic to deal with and we have kept nicely within our budget which is pleasing. Once the main school area is handed back to us work will start immediately on Phase 2 of the project, which involves structural and cosmetic improvements to the school hall and a full refit of the hall kitchen. A huge thank you must go to our understanding and flexible staff, and of course to our amazing kids who've dealt with portaloos, extra noise, and reduced play space with their customary enthusiasm.

Donations

It is that time of the year where we ask parents for a voluntary donation. Roseneath School is a Decile 10 school which means that we receive the minimum amount of Government funding to run our school. These funds are sufficient to cover the core infrastructure and operations of the school. Beyond this, the school has to meet its own needs.

Last year, more than a quarter of our operating revenue came from the school community through parent donations and fundraising. These funds make a huge difference to our School. Last year they supported our additional teaching programmes (e.g. learning support, second languages) and curriculum resources and equipment (e.g., library books, computers, and sports equipment). Don't forget too that by filling out an IR526 form you can claim 33% of this donation back from the IRD.

More information is included with this week's school newsletter.

Changes to the Board of Trustees

Roni Saul and Jon Wall resigned from the Board earlier this month. We thank both of them for their contribution to the Board over what has been a very busy time.

Pat Gilligan has kindly volunteered to help the Board with the preparation of the Annual Report and end of year reporting due to the Ministry of Education by end-March. The Board has co-opted Pat to the Board until the end of the year. He will also stand for election in the by-election.

Pat has three children at Roseneath School in Years 2, 4, and 7. His background is in the finance industry, an industry that has seen the introduction of significant regulation over the past few years so he has some experience on the governance side of things that is of value to the Board. Pat is looking forward to contributing as a member of the Board.

Board of Trustees by-election

Following recent resignations, and the resignation of Richard Powell as Chairman and a Trustee in September last year, the Board has resolved to fill the vacancies by holding a by-election. The election date is set for 31 March 2017. Wayne Jamieson from Canterbury Education Services has been appointed our Returning Officer.

Key dates

Roll closes: Friday, 1 March
Nominations: Friday, 3 March - Friday, 17 March
Votes cast: Wednesday, 22 March – Friday 31 March (poll closes at 12 noon)
Result declared: Thursday, 6 April

Nomination forms will be posted out to all parents on the roll on Monday, 3 March.

It is an exciting time to be joining the Board. We have been working closely with the New Zealand School Trustees Association ("NZSTA") to improve the way we work and to understand our roles and responsibilities. The NZSTA has put together a Professional Development Programme for us that will start in April. Both new and current Trustees are expected to complete the programme. It is designed to support and build a common understanding of our role and responsibilities to the School community. It will be delivered by way of on-line learning, a series of workshops and participation in open courses run by the NZSTA.

If you are interested in standing for election please check out the NZSTA website (www.nztsa.org.nz) or get in touch with one of us for more information if you think you have the sort of skills that could help the Board and benefit the School and its Community.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Noho ora mai

Na

David, Adelle, Luana, Pat and Andrew