

BOARD ON TOP
Newsletter of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees

15th December 2017

Kia Ora Parents/Caregivers,

It is hard to believe we are at the end of the year, where does the time go!

The School Board met on Tuesday evening for our final meeting of the year. As you will be aware, we have recently completed the Board of Trustee Election process and welcomed two new Parent Representatives onto the Board, Mrs. Alison Sim and Mr. John Halder. Mrs. Leanna McKenzie has also joined us as the Staff Trustee. We are pleased to announce your elected Board Chair and Sub-Committee Delegates as follows:

Mrs. Zita Young	Board Chairperson (Member of all sub committees) & CoL rep
Mr. Will Byars	Deputy Chairperson, Property Committee
Mrs. Charmaine Blair	Finance Committee
Mr. Cliff Brensell	Assurance Committee
Mr. John Halder	Property Committee
Mrs. Alison Sim	Assurance Committee
Mr. Antony Criglington	Principal
Mrs. Leeana McKenzie	Staff Trustee

Special thanks to Mrs. Julia Body (retired) who has been on the Board for seven and a half years including Chairperson for two and a half years. Your hard work is much appreciated by the Trustees and the wider school community. Another huge thank you to Mrs. Alena Stuart (retired) for your three years on the Board including the last one as Chairperson. Your dedication is also much appreciated by all.

Student Achievement Targets

Every year there are Student Achievement Targets included in the School Charter. Target setting is a key part of our planning and reporting process for raising student achievement and takes place across all levels of the school. The on-going reporting we receive helps us to identify groups of students who require more support, the shift we would like them to make and the support required (financial, professional development etc).

The Ministry of Education requires us to set targets that are specific to raising student achievement. Below are the two targets set by Tapanui School and the results. They show that there was considerable success in reaching the target for writing, but results were not as positive for the reading target. While disappointing, a considerable amount of resources and effort were invested in reaching this reading target in 2017. Reading will continue to be an area of primary focus in 2018.

Target Set	Results/Comments
<p>Reading - Students after 2 years and after 3 years at school who are currently below the Government's National Standards in Reading (60%) will make <i>at least</i> accelerated progress <i>or at best, be meeting or exceeding</i> the Government's National Standards' expectations by the end of 2017.</p>	<p>Initially 60% of students in the target group were below or well below twelve months ago. 12 months on this percentage has reduced to 37%. A shift of 23%. The target has not been met although <u>all</u> students have made progress.</p>
<p>Writing - Students in Year 4 and 5 who are currently below or well-below the Government's National Standards (34%) will make <i>at least</i> accelerated progress <i>or at best be at or above</i> the Government's National Standards' expectations by the end of 2017.</p>	<p>Initially 34% of students in the target group were below or well below twelve months ago. 12 months on this percentage has reduced to 13%. A shift of 21% plus accelerated progress. All students have made accelerated progress in the 12 months. This target has been met.</p>

Charter Review

The School Charter is our key planning document and is the basis for all board activity. It is an extensive document which sets the vision and strategic direction of the school. It includes an Annual Plan which sets goals in several areas including Curriculum, Property and Finance and Health and Safety. An Action Plan is developed for each goal. The school set achievement targets in its Charter this year based on the NAG2A requirements in relation to the previous Government's National Standards. We are required to report progress against these targets to the Ministry. Updates are provided to the Board once a term.

At our recent meeting, the Board paid particular attention to the Curriculum goals due to their focus on Student Achievement. It was pleasing to see that the objectives of each Action Plan had been met and that areas of further action required had been identified.

This will be the last time that we will report against National Standards as the new Government is removing them and changing the NAG2A legislation. It can be expected that we will still be required to set targets and report on them, and it has been indicated that these will likely be extended to include other areas of the Curriculum.

Review of Learning Support/Special Needs

- Externally Funded Support - Funding was received from outside agencies to assist twenty six students within our school.
- Board Funded Support - The Board allocated funding to provide teacher aide support in both learning hubs. Teacher aides were used to work with mainstream children in the Hubs allowing teachers to focus on the children at risk. Paying for teacher aides was the largest expense for the Board in 2017 and one we consider vital in supporting children's learning.
- Gifted and Talented - This year the Board funded 35 hours to focus specifically on Gifted and Talented extension opportunities. Workshops were organised in the following areas – dance, drama, science, guitar tuition, mathematics workshops based on coding and creative writing. Teachers reported that the workshops provide valuable opportunities and were enjoyed by the students who took part.

Staffing for 2018

From the start of the year we are fully funded for six teachers - Mrs Jill Crow, Mrs Leanna McKenzie, Ms Kaitlyn Roughan, Mrs Jane Stuart, Ms. Abbie Gibson and Mrs Judy Clayton. The Board has made a commitment to continue funding teacher aide hours in both hubs in 2018 to ensure learning can continue to be delivered to a high standard.

We wish Mrs Penny O'Meara all the best for 2018 as she is taking Refreshment Leave and look forward to having her back in 2019.

Property

Finally, after several years planning and many discussions it was approved at Tuesday's night Board meeting to try and develop a Procurement Plan (so that a project is initiated as soon as possible) for some structural changes to the school. We are firstly going to concentrate on the Matai Hub end of the school, by adding some sound proofing, lighting, lowering the ceiling, creating a break out room and a wet space. This will be several months away from completion. We are also hoping to replace some of the carpet in the Rimu Hub over the Summer holiday break. As more funds become available we will turn our attention to the Rimu Hub.

General

It was great to see so many parents and caregivers at the final assembly today. It was a wonderful way to end the year and to celebrate learning at Tapanui School. Best wishes to the Year 6 students who move on to other schools in 2017.

Thank you to my fellow Board members for your time and effort in 2017. To Antony and staff, I hope you all have a well-deserved break over the holidays. Thank you all for your effort and commitment to the students of Tapanui School.

I wish you all have happy holidays and get to have some quality family time together and make memories!

Looking forward to seeing you all in 2018.

Kind regards,

Zita Young
Chairperson.