

## **Board Update – February 2019**

### **Building Project**

The building project has progressed well over the summer period with significant progress being made on the Hall space and new toilet block. The Board is now working through the next stage of the project – the Takahe Block and the impact this will have on staff and students.

The upper playground will be further reduced in size to allow for the builders compound to be moved, we know this will impact on the time the Tui Syndicate spend outside the classroom, but it is one of the challenges of trying to keep the school as functional as possible during the construction. We are also looking at the furniture required for the Hall and Library while they are being used as classrooms.

### **Landscaping**

The detailed plans for the tree area have now been finalised and will be sent out for tender shortly. We are committed to making sure the work is undertaken as soon as possible so that the children can use the area later this year. Finalised plans will be posted to the website.

### **Donations**

You will have recently received a letter and request for the Board's voluntary contribution. As a Board we are committed to providing the best possible equipment, staff and resources but many of these are not funded by the Government. To provide the high level of education that you expect from Brooklyn School, we need your support. Last year we raised over \$80,000 from the donations.

### **Review of Tomorrow's Schools**

Late last year the Minister of Education released the review of the governance and management of schools. The Board is currently in the process of developing a submission on the review, which will be shared with the School Community. The Board has concerns over the proposal, and in particular the loss of direct parent and community input into key decisions in management, recruitment and curriculum. The Board acknowledges that at Brooklyn we are fortunate to have a pool of parents prepared to contribute and that not all schools do. However, the move to Hubs of 125 schools to manage most of the activities of the school will leave parents with few tasks other than fundraising. We would encourage anyone with views on the review to contact the Board.

### **Paid Union Meetings**

Following on from the teacher strikes last year, NZEI has advised us of upcoming Paid Union Meetings. We are currently working through the options to see if we have enough staff cover to keep the school safe and open during these meetings, or if we will need to close for the afternoon. We will keep you advised of the situation.

### **Board Elections**

Just a reminder that the elections for the Board of Trustees will be held in May this year. A number of current trustees have indicated they will not be seeking re-election so there will be a number of vacancies to fill. Any one interested in standing should feel free to contact current Board members on what is involved and the level of commitment.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7.00 pm Thursday 28 March in the Staff Room.

**Board of Trustees:** Dan Ormond (Chairperson), Liz Rhodes (Principal), Mary-Ann Butterfield, Debbie Chitty, Chandra Littlewood, Nick Simcock, Mark Vivian, Mike Brown and Glen Burdon (Teacher Representative)