

Board Update – September 2018

Building Project

The Ministry of Education and the contractor are finalising the plans and execution of the project. We expect to be able to provide a further update as soon as the contract is confirmed. We hope that work will commence early in Term 4 with the Hall and new exit from the Library being the first stages scheduled. These should be completed in April 2019, at which time the Takahe Block will start.

The Board is excited by the progress and acknowledges the support and commitment from the Ministry of Education in getting the project this far.

We also want to acknowledge the uncertainty that many staff and parents are feeling about the transition to Flexible Learning Environments (FLE). Recently many of the Board and Syndicate Leaders visited Newtown School and saw their recently completed buildings. It was very useful to see their completed and furnished spaces and we are feeling very excited about our new areas.

We have organised an Open Evening early next term 4 (date to be confirmed) for parents to visit Newtown School to see for themselves what FLE classrooms are.

Board Succession

Board elections are due to occur mid next year, subject to any changes the Government makes as part of their review of Tomorrow Schools. A number of Board members have indicated they will not be standing as their children have, or will be, leaving Brooklyn School to go to college. We would encourage parents consider running next year as a way of contributing to the school community.

As part of its succession planning, and to provide valuable skills for the building project, the Board agreed to second parent Mike Brown onto the Board until the next election. Mike currently runs the Planning Team at Wellington Airport – which involves management responsibility for the Airport's growth and Resource Management Act planning- and is also a barrister and solicitor. We believe Mike will bring valuable skills and experience to the Board. Mike, Liz Rhodes and Mary-Ann Butterfield will form a Property Subcommittee of the Board to work with the Ministry of Education, Project Manager, Architects and Contractors on our project.

Landscaping

Following further meetings with interested parents, the Board has now commissioned detailed plans for the landscaping of the existing tree area and its interface with the AstroTurf and basketball courts, as these are largely unaffected by the rebuild. The project will involve the conversion of a small portion of the basketball courts to productive garden, but believe the creation of more green space, without compromising the functional use of the court will provide a fantastic new recreation and learning space for the school.

The funds raised from the last two school fairs will be used for this project; however, we will be seeking grants and doing fundraising for further stages of the work. Applications are being made to the Vodelmorn Foundation and Lion Foundation.

Bus Changes

The Board received a number of concerns and queries about the new Bus Hub and morning 17e service to the CBD that drops the children on Ohiro Road rather than the Hub. The Board is pleased to see that the Bus Hub has now been completed and the 8.25am 17e service will go via the Bus Hub starting next term to allow the children to safely transfer. Thank you to those parents and the Greater Brooklyn Residents Association for their work on this issue. .

We welcome your feedback. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us by email or via the School Office.

bot@brooklynprimary.school.nz

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7.00 pm Thursday 1 November in the Staff Room.

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