

Newtown School Board of Trustees

Meeting minutes

Wednesday 9 August 2017, 6.15 pm, school staffroom

Present: Mark Brown; Annette Gittos; Julie Bennett; Kelvin Harper; Victoria Esson; Daniel Petersen; and Jo Gould (minutes).

Apologies: Lucy Kebbell and Karen O'Leary.

1. Karakia

Daniel conducted the karakia.

2. Previous Minutes and Actions

Minutes of the 26 July 2017 Board meeting were approved and the action items were discussed and updated.

For the item on the refurbishment of the school pool, Mark advised that he had spoken to the Wellington City Council - their advice was that the Council has no additional funds available to cover the costs of strengthening the southern wall, but that the original grant of \$435,000 is still available. Mark noted that this could be spent on the roof, southern wall and the filtration system, with work on other items (ramps, floors etc) being delayed until additional funding could be sourced. The Board was interested in exploring what other options are available, particularly to remedy the southern wall, even though exploring additional options will come with a cost.

ACTION: Mark to explore what other options are available and report back in due course.

3. Conflicts of interest

None declared.

4. Principal's report

Student achievement results (mid-year data for 2017)

27/9/17 

Kelvin presented on the student achievement results, using PaCT data from the end of last term. Children need to have completed 20 weeks of learning to be included in the data. Reporting for Year 1 - 3 depends on the number of weeks the children have been at school, which impacts on the data presented.

Kelvin observed that, for the teaching staff, there was nothing in the results that was surprising - the students that need additional support already have interventions in place.

The Board discussed student progress as well as achievement against the standards. It is important that students and parents/caregivers are informed of progress, even though a student is not achieving, or is not on track to achieve, a particular standard. One option was to include a cover letter with the reports to explain both elements, and what the achievement assessment outcome means. Victoria noted that SWIS has such a document that she was happy to provide a copy to Mark.

ACTION: Victoria to provide Mark with a copy of the SWIS cover letter that accompanies mid-year school reports.

Moderation of data - there are four teachers are involved in the moderation process, which adds to its robustness.

A student Achievement Plan for 2017 has been developed and is in place.

Mark pointed out that energy is being put into both ends of the achievement spectrum - accelerating children that have potential to perform well above the expected standard for their age is also a focus for the school.

The Board also discussed progress on the Ministry targets. There are four of these targets, three of which are school-wide - Year 2 Reading (male), Year 4 Writing (male) and Year 5 Maths (males and females) - and one for Ngati Kotahitanga (Te Reo (oral)).

Support for students with English as a second language, and students coming into Ngati Kotahitanga with limited Te Reo, was discussed, including the investment the school has made into teacher aide support for these students and the expected positive impact of that support over the next 2 - 3 years.

ERO visit preparation

Daniel provided an outline of the powhiri process for the ERO visit on the first day. Daniel and Fraesar will be the main speakers on the school's behalf. Children will be involved, including with singing the waiata.

After the powhiri the Board has an hour with ERO to focus on what has changed since their last visit. Annette and Mark provided an overview of what they plan to highlight to ERO during this discussion. A

summary of the ongoing improvement in learner outcomes since 2014 will be part of this, which Kelvin will speak to. Members of the Board will also be able to meet with ERO on Thursday to get an interim report of ERO's findings.

School values

Mark reported that the children had provided some comments on the new values - they responded to effort (rather than persistence) as a school value.

A circular design for all the values has been developed and will be socialised with the students.

5. Policy

Victoria reported on the Schedule of Delegations (based on the STA template) that has been developed, covering matters that the Board has responsibility for under the Education Act 1989 and other legislation that are either retained by the Board or delegated to the Principal.

The board APPROVED the Schedule of Delegations (moved VICTORIA, seconded JULIE).

6. In-Committee

The Board moved into committee at 8:10 pm to discuss personnel and other matters. The Board and moved out of committee at 8:25 pm.

7. Any other business (including correspondence)

Mark tabled provisions of the Children, Young Persons and Their families (Oranga Tamariki) Legislation Act 2017 covering investigations involving children - the emphasis continues to be on the child's well-being and best interests, which are paramount. Investigations under the Act can be carried out in the school environment. Under sections 66 the school is required to provide information that relates to, or affects, the safety or well-being of a child in certain contexts (for example, to determine if a child is in need of care or protection). In addition, investigations can be undertaken without parents' or guardians' knowledge. Staff have been briefed about their professional responsibilities.

8. Closing karakia



Next meeting: 27 September 2017