

Newtown School Board of Trustees

Meeting minutes

Wednesday 22 February 2017, 6.15 pm, school staffroom

Present: Mark Brown, Annette Gittos, Julie Bennett, Lucy Kebbell, Kelvin Harper, Victoria Esson, Daniel Petersen and Karen O'Leary.

1. Karakia

2. Previous Minutes and Actions

Minutes of the 25 January 2017 Board meeting were approved.

Matters arising:

- Maria has been asked by Annette to help with redraft of the charter
- Other actions have been progressed

3. Enrolment scheme

"The Board agrees to implement an enrolment scheme for Newtown School and to advise the MOE of this decision." Agreed to via email 16 February 2017 by Victoria, Kelvin, Mark, Lucy, Julie, Annette, and by Karen on 17 February 2017.

Consultation documents have been sent out based on school electoral roll both in school bags and via email. Multiple submissions from one person are unlikely but could happen. It is not a voting system so we can detect and discount anomalies.

Mitzi is leaving the Ministry of Education so will not be available to attend the consultation meeting.

Mt Cook School wants to have a further meeting with Newtown School. They are concerned that the overlap will be taken off them and their zone shrunk.

ACTION: Annette and Mark to prepare media statement for enrollment zone. Annette and Mark to meet with Mt Cook School.

4. French Bilingual Unit

French Bilingual group have been in contact wanting to extend numbers and to have an opportunity to provide further information to the community. Annette has responded saying that the information in the consultation document cannot be changed so numbers are fixed for consultation.

They will have an opportunity to provide information at the consultation meetings but not to present formally.

ACTION: Daniel to arrange Ngati Kotahitanga representation at the meetings with Fraesar. Karen to MC the meetings. Annette will present on the home zone and Mark will present on the special programmes.

5. Maori Medium

Daniel noted there was a fundraising event of a Hangi for Matariki 23rd June. He will be emailing FANS to get support. Daniel has been involved in updating the guidelines and contacting preschools.

Ngati Kotahitanga is looking at entering a kapa haka at regionals.

ACTION: Victoria to meet with Daniel and Fraesar around Matariki celebrations.

6. Health and Safety

Julie reported that Mark met with Darrell Smith last week about H&S. He will be undertaking an audit and providing us with the report.

The School is meeting with Workwise next week. It was recommended that health and safety is a standing agenda item of each regular staff meeting of the school.

A toddler broke her arm on the senior playground. Mark is investigating purchasing signs for the playground.

ACTION: Mark to purchase signs for the playground. Where possible all new signs to be in Te Reo.

7. Fundraising and Sponsorship

Jude Ball has been approached by Karen to help with this.

We need to have a clear direction as to whether this person can apply for gambling and lotteries money.

ACTION: Karen to do some research and make a presentation at a future meeting (tbc when).

8. Dyslexia Working Group

Teacher only day had a 4-hour session on understanding learning difficulties.

- what might a teacher do to make the classroom more dyslexia friendly,
- understanding brain development, and

- follow up sessions.

The school has purchased chromebooks to provide greater access to devices for targeted children. Apps such as Google dictate are available for use by students.

How to spot a dyslexic child? There is a software application that the school has used with a few children that helps to identify learning difficulties typical of a dyslexic. There is a need for more training on how to interpret the results of the test. The school is currently scratching the surface of understanding this. The teaching staff are keen to develop their skills and understanding in this area.

Resource teachers of learning and behaviour (RTL) is funded by the Ministry.

The Board is keen to invest in this area and would like to know what “best practice” looks like for these kids. We may not have the funding now but to have a goal of what we are aspiring to would be good to provide for as a fundraising goal.

ACTION: Website to include a statement about how we include diverse learners. Mark to discuss with Sally to action.

9. Other business

- Te Aro School have reached out to get the boards together – Annette to respond. Te Aro is part of the Community Of Learning (COL), so could be best to leave for this unless there was a specific identified issue.
- Victoria keen for us to enhance the relationship with St Anne’s school before any other school as they are our neighbour. Lucy happy to support.

10. Finance and Property

Draft results for December 2016 set out in property and finance report. 105% income achieved. Spent 97% of budget. Excellent result.

Budget 2017. Proposal to allocate some time at the next meeting to discuss unallocated funding of approximately \$100K.

For the new school build, once the piling has finished it will take 222 days to finish the building. Very varied substrate drilling in the piles – some very hard areas. Currently working on some alternatives.

Asking Ministry for clarification on funding allocation for “environment” as part of the new build.

Resolution: To approve 2017 budget. Proposed Victoria, Seconded Julie. Approved.

11. Annual Plan 2017

Key areas:

1. Identify dyslexic learners and implement plan for dyslexic learners with RTLB
2. PB4L
3. Moderation of assessment – written language
4. Being responsive to ESOL learners
5. Getting behind Ngati Kotahitanga to grow and support the unit
6. Support the establishment of the COL system


ACTION: Mark to look at these goals with leadership team and create measureable actions so we can track progress on these goals throughout the year.

12. In-Committee

The Board moved into committee to discuss personnel matters

13. Closing karakia

Next meeting: Wednesday 22 March 2017 at 6.15 pm

 22/02/2017