



Meadowbank School

Board of Trustees Newsletter Term 3, 2018

Welcome to Term 3! We hope the children all had a fun break and are looking forward to the second half of the school year.

The Board of Trustees wanted to provide an update on some of the things we have been working on this year. This newsletter provides information on some of the outcomes from our Board of Trustees Community Voice Survey, the ERO review, an update on our building project, and includes a Q&A session with David Fehl, who looks after the Property Portfolio.

Board of Trustees Community Voice Survey

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Community Voice Survey held in Term 2. We received over 330 responses, which is a significant increase from last year. On the whole, the responses and comments were positive, and affirmed the strategy that the Board has put in place, which is being implemented by the Senior Management Team to improve educational outcomes for our children.

There were some common themes that came out of the survey that we wanted to share with you:

1. Drop-Off Zone

There were many comments about the frustration caused by the Drop-Off Zone. This issue has been addressed in numerous school newsletters since the Drop-Off Zone was created. While this problem is not unique to Meadowbank School, it is a significant issue.

The area is designated for pick up and drop off only between 8.00am – 9.00am and 2.30pm – 3.30pm on school days. During these times, drivers must not stop for longer than 2 minutes and drivers must not leave their vehicles. This area is being patrolled by Auckland Transport as it is outside the jurisdiction of the School – it is not the role of staff to enforce the road rules.

In short, if you stay longer than 2 minutes and/or leave your car (for whatever reason), you are breaking the law. Please respect the law and other people, and set an example to your children by following the road rules.

2. Walking to and from School

Also related to transport and congestion at the school gate, we received a number of helpful suggestions relating to the Walking School Bus and children walking to and from School. It is great to see lots of children

walking to and from School already. As every child who lives in the School zone lives within walking distance of the School, the Board is keen to increase the number of children walking to and from School. We are working with the Walking School Bus Co-ordinators on a number of initiatives to encourage more children to walk to and from School. Watch this space!

3. Class Co-ordinators

Following feedback last year, and the introduction of the new Communication Strategy at the beginning of this year, class co-ordinators no longer distribute emails to parents, as this is done centrally by teachers and support staff. There were some suggestions in the survey that the role of class co-ordinators should be re-established.

The Board and the Senior Management Team are looking at having one parent per class act as a "Class Representative" to arrange social events for parents to get to know each other and build connections within the Meadowbank School Community. This will be particularly important for parents of junior school children. If you are interested in being the "Class Representative" for your child's class, please contact your child's teacher.

4. Lunches and Healthy Food

There were a few comments in the survey about having other lunch options available for children at School. It goes without saying that the introduction of other lunch options is dependent on having volunteers to organise the lunch (both "behind the scenes" before the day, and serving the lunches on the day).

With the comments from the survey in mind, the Board approved a proposal from FOMS to trial a Tasty Pot Soup lunch for Year 5 and 6 students at the end of Term 2. It is not clear at this stage whether the soup lunch will be repeated, as any repeat will depend on confirmed volunteers to assist with the ordering, preparation of food and serving of food. If you are interested in volunteering to help with other lunch options, please contact FOMS (email foms@meadowbank.school.nz).

There were also some queries regarding the School's healthy food and drink policy. The School actively encourages children to only bring water to School to drink, and the overwhelming majority of children only drink water at School. Water is the only drink currently sold or otherwise provided at Meadowbank School. FOMS no longer sells fruit juice with the fortnightly sausage sizzles, and there is no longer fruit juice provided at FOMS Discos.

5. Senior Playground

It is great to see the new Junior Playground being enjoyed by the junior children at morning tea and lunchtime. There were some comments in the survey regarding the state of the Senior Playground. Following the outstanding success of the Quiz-A-Thon organised by the Senior Management Team raising

over \$32,000, we are in the early stages of planning for a redevelopment of the Senior Playground. We'll keep you updated as to progress.

6. Comments, Feedback and Queries

If you have any comments, feedback or queries regarding the School, please let the School know!

- If the matter relates to a teaching issue about your child, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance.
- If the matter relates to a management issue, please contact a member of the Senior Management Team (Peter Ayson, Moira Blair, Matt Aukett or Jane Butel).
- If the matter relates to a governance issue, please contact a member of the Board of Trustees.

Education Review Office

We have now received the final ERO Report following ERO's visit to Meadowbank School at the end of Term 1. A link to the ERO Report is available on the School website.

The Board is very proud that the School received a 4-5 year review, and would like to thank the Senior Management Team, teaching staff and support staff for all the hard work that went in to the ERO review. It is an intense process that requires many hours of extra work and we really appreciate all the effort that was put in by everyone involved. The Board held a special morning tea in May to thank staff for all their extra work.

Property Update

Work is continuing on the Senior Administration/Classroom building project and the detailed design is now being progressed. RDT has been appointed as the Project Manager, and GHD has been appointed for the design. Representatives of the Board and Senior Management Team are attending project management and design meetings every fortnight to progress this project. Members of the Board recently visited Newmarket School and saw the design of their new classrooms, which will be similar to the classrooms in our new block.

Q&A: David Fehl, Property Portfolio

Q. When did you join the Board?

A. I came *on board* in June 2016 following the election.

Q. How long have you been a part of Meadowbank School Community?

A. Our eldest started at Meadowbank School in 2008 and the family has been part of the school community since then with two other kids going through. Our youngest is now in Year 6 so we are close to the end of our time closely connected to the School.

Q. Why did you join the Board of Trustees?

A. Of particular note in my decision to stand was the need for some property experience and expertise on the Board given the upcoming building project. In addition, I recognised that there were a number of people stepping down and I felt it was a good time for me to contribute and put some time back into the School. I had been very impressed with the energy and effort that I had been privileged to see the staff put into the 2016 Year 6 camp, which helped cement my decision.

Q. What do you enjoy most about being part of the Board of Trustees?

A. I have really enjoyed getting to know more about the workings of the School and getting to know some of the senior staff better. A key difference for me compared to the corporate governance that I have been involved in is the fact that the School is all about the children – as it should be. The effort that the teachers and non-teaching staff put in, especially given the restraints of Government funding, is fantastic.

Q. In your view, what elements of Meadowbank School make it special?

A. The key aspect that I believe makes the School special is our wonderful staff. We are also lucky to be able to generate significant community raised funding which allows us to expand the curriculum, develop the grounds and facilities and invest in ongoing professional development. This in turn helps us attract and retain the wonderful team and leadership we have.

Board Meetings

All meetings are held at 7.00 pm in the Senior Staffroom and are open to the public. Our meetings for Term 3 are being held on:

- Wednesday 1 August 2018
- Wednesday 29 August 2018
- Wednesday 26 September 2018

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To think, to learn, to achieve and to consider others.