



Meadowbank School

Board of Trustees Newsletter Term 1, 2019

It's hard to believe we are now in the second half of Term 1!! We hope your children are all settled in back at school and have enjoyed the swimming programme and other summer activities. We would like to extend a special welcome to all of our new families at Meadowbank School this year. We look forward to welcoming you as part of our Meadowbank School community.

In this newsletter, we cover:

- What does the Board of Trustees do?
- Board of Trustees Elections 2019
- Club Meadowbank celebrates its 10th birthday
- New classroom and admin block on the senior campus
- Q&A with Phil Toomer

What does the Board of Trustees do?

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the school which is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the school. The Senior Management Team then implements this strategy. Broadly speaking, the Board oversees the school's finances, property, staffing, health and safety and curriculum. We discuss each of these matters at every Board meeting. Copies of the minutes of Board meetings are available on the school website.

2018 was an extremely busy year for the Board, with the ERO review, building project and the appointment of a new Principal on top of the Board's usual workload. We are looking forward to another exciting year at Meadowbank School in 2019!

Board of Trustees Elections 2019

The three-year term of the current Board is coming to an end and an election for six parent representatives will be held on Friday 7 June 2019. Despite some of the recent media coverage, the role of school Boards of Trustees is still very relevant, and the recommendations from the Tomorrow's Schools Review have not yet been adopted. It is vital to the ongoing success of Meadowbank School that an effective Board is elected in June. Most of the current

members of the Board are not standing for re-election as their children have already left, or are about to leave, the school, so the school is relying on other parents to put their hand up and stand for election. We are looking for trustees who reflect our community and its values, who are focused on supporting professional leadership, teaching and learning, and the ongoing improvement of student achievement. Is this you?

The key competencies for the role include being a strategic and analytical thinker, a good communicator, a practical person and a great team player. Board members should have a range of experience and skills and reflect the diversity of our school community. In addition, it is helpful if Board members possess a range of the following skills:

- Strategic expertise
- Financial understanding
- Legal understanding
- Risk management
- People management
- Knowledge of the education environment

If you are interested in finding out more, please come along to one of our monthly Board meetings. Our next meetings are on Wednesday 20 March 2019 and Wednesday 1 May 2019, at 7.00pm in the Senior Staffroom.

The New Zealand School Trustees Association is also planning a forum for people interested in joining a Board, to be held at Epsom Girls' Grammar School one evening in Week 1 or Week 2 of Term 2. We will post details of this forum on the School App and Facebook page once the date and time are finalised.

Alternatively, feel free to contact any Board member if you have any specific questions about being a member of the Board and what it involves – our details are on the back page of this newsletter.

Nominations close on Friday 24 May 2019. Further information on the election process will be provided closer to the time.

Club Meadowbank Celebrates its 10th Birthday!

Club Meadowbank was established 10 years ago by former Principal Peter Ayson and the then Board of Trustees. We owe a debt of gratitude to them for their decision to develop our own before school, after school and school holiday care programme. The direct result of this decision is that it has provided a superb level of activities for our children, which has the extra added convenience of being onsite at Meadowbank School. Club Meadowbank has generated \$1,385,893 in profit over the last 10 years. Every cent of that money has been put back into the school to provide for the exceptional extracurricular opportunities that our children enjoy.

Club Meadowbank continues to run a range of excellent programmes such as Tennis, Painting Classes, Coding Classes, Chess, Gymnastics, Speech and Drama, Football and Scrapbooking and Crafts as well as our popular School Holiday Programmes. Should you wish to get more information about what Club Meadowbank offers, please check out the website – <https://www.meadowbank.school.nz/club-meadowbank-programmes/> or contact the Club Meadowbank Manager Sheetal Lawrence (phone 520 3739 / email clubmeadowbank@meadowbank.school.nz).

New Classroom and Admin Block on the Senior Campus

It is great to see that progress is finally underway with the building project on the Senior Campus, with the demolition of the old Admin Block in January. Senior Management and Board representatives are working with the Ministry of Education to finalise the design of the new building and we are expecting construction to start in Term 3. As the Ministry only provides funding for the bare necessities of the project, community raised funds will be required to complete the project to the specification desired by the Meadowbank community.

Please support FOMS and all of their exciting fundraising activities and watch this space for upcoming events and initiatives!

Q&A: Phil Toomer, Principal

Each newsletter, we profile one of our Board members. This newsletter we asked our new Principal, Phil Toomer, who is our newest member, to complete the Q&A.

Q. When did you join the Board?

A. Although I started as Principal at the beginning of this year in January, I attended a few Board of Trustees meetings at the end of 2018 as part of the transition process.

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

A. My wife and I have lived in Meadowbank for 13 years. Having lived in the area, I have had a few connections over the years with some families (sports etc) although it has been only this year that I have found myself in the heart of this vibrant and supportive school community.

Q. Why did you join the Board of Trustees?

A. A key difference between school and corporate governance is that the Principal is in fact a board member. This allows the significant sector specific knowledge and expertise to be fully utilised at a Board level.

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

A. I really enjoy the strategic aspect of the role. Having a high level view of how curriculum, finance, property, personnel, etc all serve the vision and values is really exciting work.

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

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

A. One thing I have noticed very quickly about Meadowbank is that whilst we are a very large school, there is a very obvious community feel. I think that our unique split site helps enable this strong community aspect. The scale of the school also gives us the ability to provide the outstanding enrichment programmes. This is something I hear our families rave about all the time!

Contact Us

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