



BOARD TALK

ISSUE 1, 2016

Hi and welcome to the first Board Talk of the Marshland School Board of Trustees. The purpose of this publication is to keep the community informed about some of the things we are working on as a Board of Trustees during the year. We hope to put a board talk out once a term to share some of the things we are working on.

New B.O.T. Member - Andrew Osborn

My name is Andrew Osborn and I am a new member of the Board. I have an education background and my role on the Board is Personnel Support and Community Liaison. Being on the Board has so far been really interesting as although I have a fair bit of inside knowledge on how a school works, there are things that you just don't see as a teacher. It has also been an advantage to compare things that I see in my day to day role with ideas/decisions and data that are presented to me. Part of my role is to help with the appointment of new staff and to communicate with the community. You may run into me at SCG meetings as I hope to be involved with this aspect of the school. One of the first things we want to implement is this publication once a term to share things with you.

The New Board...

As a new member the process of electing a Board of Trustees seemed to take a while getting to the election and then you are pretty much straight into it the following week. Marshland School has a Board that is elected Bi Annually which is a positive because you get to keep 3 members while 3 are elected/re-elected in with the process happening every 18 months. Experience is handy on a Board and to potentially not have a clean sweep of members every 3 years is definitely a bonus. It was great to have a number of people show interest and to run for the Board. The number of Schools that do not have the need for an election due to numbers less than needed is quite high, so it is a great sign that we have people wanting to take on these roles. We have a full Board with 6 elected members, Staff representatives, Principal and Minute Secretary. Some Schools have less than that with the minimum being 3 members from the community. The other new members are Brendan Cowles, George Mottram as staff representative and Tanya Joyner. Debby Rosevear was re-elected and is Chairperson. You may hear from them over the next few issues of Board Talk as they share a bit about themselves.

Surveys

As a Board we are looking at innovative ways to raise participation in surveys. Our last community voice survey was returned by a lower percentage of parents than we would have liked (25%), and while the information gleaned from this is useful, we are keen to get the views of more people. There is a huge amount of important information we gain from surveys and they play a key part in deciding on where to dedicate our efforts in the future, so it is vital we get as many views represented as possible.

King of the Ring

The “Marshland School Boxing Night Committee” (which is a combination of the SCG and the Sport Committee) are organising a boxing event fundraiser to raise funds to buy a vehicle for our school to transport students to and from events or sporting commitments they may be involved in.

The event, called “King of the Ring 2016”, will be held at Cowles Stadium on the 26th November 2016 in the evening. Tickets will be sold towards this event in due time. Corporate tables will be available and this would be a great option to host clients or staff for their Christmas staff function. The Board really commends this group of Marshland parents for the tremendous hard work they are prepared to put in to make the occasion a success. Good luck to all who are involved with this event.

Future Direction of Funding for Schools

One big issue for all Schools in the media lately has been the proposed global budget for schools. It is worth having a look at the facts and then implications for the future running of schools.

The Government is proposing a "global budget" for education that removes the split between funding for staff and funding for operations. Schools could be forced to trade off the costs of teaching staff against other costs, which could mean:

- fewer teachers and bigger class sizes
- no consistent student:teacher ratios for year levels
- increased casualisation of teaching jobs
- utilising less support staff
- passing the buck for issues like class size onto schools
- increased inequality – bigger and richer schools can raise funds to hire teachers, while smaller and rural schools will struggle.

Teachers have been to Paid Union Meetings over the last 2 weeks and this has been reported in the Media. It is important you have a look at the facts and see what could replace the current funding model. I would put it is important that you look at all perspectives and possibilities of these changes to the Education Act before they happen. (Given these are the facts according to NZEI)

Traffic Management

Outside Marshland School

Some of our neighbours have complained to the council about parents parking over their driveways at drop off and pick up time. This is likely to result in visits from our community constable and the issuing of tickets. Please help us to be good neighbours by not doing this. Park in neighbouring streets and walk to pick your children up, or try dropping them off at a nearby street and have them walk into school. We are really looking forward to when we can have our car park back once Stage 2 is completed (13th January 2017). This will give you an enter, drop off and drive out option, and should greatly relieve parking pressure. Jacqui has worked hard since the middle of 2015 to get the council to agree to putting in a Kea Crossing and a 40 kph sign (like we had at the old school). The funding for this has now been approved, however the Council will be seeking approval from our neighbours. Unfortunately, until consent has been gained, the school is not legally allowed to provide a crossing for its children. We understand this is frustrating, and we thank you for your patience.

We have recently seen the increased amount of traffic now Te Korari Street is back in action, so it's important that we as parents join with the teachers in making sure our children know how to ride their scooters and bikes safely as they go to and from school. The daily notices highlight this to children every day and there are safe scooting posters up in the hubs. We also run a safe cycle programme, as we will look into a walking school bus, so we urge you to take part in these programmes if you can. We will talk about these programmes at the School Coffee Group meetings. Working together we can keep our children safe.

As a Result of the Survey Data.

As a result of the community survey as a Board we are aiming on becoming known better to members of the Community, so each edition will have a profile from somebody on the Board.

This was an area of need shown in the survey. This edition has profiled myself Andrew Osborn, as I have compiled it.

Marshland School Board of Trustees.