



Chelsea Primary School Board Newsletter, Term 1, 2019

Tēnā koutou

We welcome those families new to the school and the new staff who have joined us recently. We hope that you and your families are enjoying being part of the Chelsea Primary School Community. The following is an update on some of the areas the board is currently focused on.

2019 Strategic Plan for Chelsea Primary school.

The board has had a busy last few months with respect to school business. A key role of the board is to set the strategic direction for the school to ensure that every child is able to reach their highest possible standard in educational achievement. The strategic direction is set based on feedback from our community survey, staff and from student voice. Resourcing and priorities for the school can, therefore, be planned with respect to these goals for our children.

The board has worked closely with the senior leadership team to ensure there has been a collective approach with the development of this year's schools strategic plan. The strategic plan is now complete and has recently been submitted to the Ministry of Education (MoE). It will be made available to the school community once approved by the MoE. The role of the board for the rest of the year is to monitor the schools progress against this plan.

Tomorrow's Schools Review

As you are probably already aware, the Government is reviewing 'Tomorrow's Schools' (this is the name which was given to the reforms that changed the governance, management and administration of our schools nearly 30 years ago).

An independent task force reported their findings to the Minister of Education late last year, and the report has been released for public consultation- refer to the link:

[Their report: Our Schooling Futures, Stronger Together | Whiria Ngā Kura Tūātitini.](#)

The Taskforce's report covers eight key issues which include: Governance; Schooling Provision; Competition and Choice; Disability and Learning Support; Teaching; Leadership; Resourcing; and Central Government Agencies. The report makes a number of significant recommendations for changes to the current education system.

Stakeholder feedback on the report and its recommendations will be critical to inform Government decision making in 2019, therefore it is important that you have your say.

Have your say

An online survey is now open for you to provide feedback on the key issues and recommendations, [click here to have your say.](#)

Written submissions or queries can be emailed to tomorrows.schools@education.govt.nz

Taskforce-led consultation meetings will take place in February and March 2019. [Click here for more information.](#) Consultation closes on 7 April 2019.

As the School Board, we are very interested in providing feedback regarding this report, as the suggested changes will have a significant impact on the education of our children in the future.

As a community member, there are opportunities for you to find out more about this Taskforce report and provide your feedback.

You are invited to attend a public meeting on the Future of Education in New Zealand hosted by Hon Nikki Kaye (National's spokesperson for Education) and Dan Bidois (MP for Northcote).

Date: Venue Birkenhead Primary School Hall, Thursday 14th March 2019 7-9pm RSVP to dan.bidois@parliament.govt.nz

The Chelsea School board will be discussing this report particularly with respect to governance of the school, prior to their next board meeting. You are most welcome to join this discussion Monday 25th March 6:30-7pm, venue to be confirmed but will be on the school site. Please RSVP to

sandra.cotcher@chelsea.school.nz

There is also a link online where you can submit any feedback.

School Hall update

Members of our Board have been working with Maynard Marks to have a feasibility study carried out on our hall. We now have the report, which gives detailed pricing for the two options we have, to either remediate or demolish and rebuild the hall. As you can imagine, both of these options carry fairly hefty price tags. The complication with the hall is that it is owned by the school in its entirety. The Ministry of Education has no vested financial interest in it, and this is problematic in terms of accessing funding. An added complication is that although the ministry doesn't have a vested interest in a financial sense, they do have control over what the school chooses to invest our funds into. Members of the Board have met with the Ministry to talk through options, and are meeting with them again this week to have further conversations. Once we have clarity on where to next, we will be looking to invite the school community to contribute to decision making.

Update on the 10 Year Property Plan (10YPP)

We are in the process of having our 10YPP finalised by the Ministry of Education. Funding is allocated to schools based on roll numbers and square meterage of our Ministry owned buildings.

As a school, we then employ various property experts and providers to perform condition assessments on our buildings and grounds to determine priority projects in line with MoE guidelines:

We must prioritise:

- health and safety work that keeps buildings safe
- essential infrastructure works

and then:

- plan for maintenance work
- plan for any potential changes in roll numbers
- plan to modernise learning spaces
- request other capital funding, if available, such as new teaching spaces for roll growth.

Some of our key projects to be completed over the next 5 year period:

- Urgent replacement of some air conditioning units
- Electrical upgrades throughout all blocks
- Carpet replacement
- Toilet refurbishments
- Replacement of clear sheet roofing
- Fire alarm upgrade
- Upgrade to Spaces 1-11 (floor and wall coverings, acoustics, updating)

Thanks

Simon Raistrick has resigned as a trustee. We thank Simon for his contribution over his term on the Board and wish him all the very best. The Board have decided that we will not fill this vacancy until the triennial elections that will take place in June.

2019 School Board Elections- aspiring board of trustee members

This year there will be three (3) parent representative positions available to be elected on to the board in the mid-year elections held in June.

The board along with the New Zealand School Trustees Association (NZSTA) would like to encourage parent and whanau participation on school boards in order to help shape and support the education of their children. To that end, the NZSTA will be rolling out the **Korari Programme** for anyone interested in finding out about standing for the school board elections and having a say in the education of their children. The following resources are available on the website www.nzsta.org.nz.

1. Korari: a programme that provides you with governance training to help you understand the role of school boards of trustees. NZSTA will be rolling out information sessions for Korari in terms 1&2
2. Korari form: NZSTA will support anyone who advises them they are interested in becoming a trustee, by way of the workshops but also providing access to our Learning Management System where online modules re. school governance, student achievement etc. can be completed. The Korari Programme form can be emailed to korari@nzsta.org.nz

<https://www.nzsta.org.nz/assets/Information-for-parents/Korari-programme-form-cover.jpg>

3. Community member guide to the role of the board of trustees: This explains a lot of commonly asked questions and information about becoming a trustee.

<https://www.nzsta.org.nz/assets/Information-for-parents/Community-member-guide-to-the-role-of-the-board-of-trustees-2019.pdf>

Further information about the Chelsea Primary School board and areas of expertise required on the board will be posted soon.

Thank you

Jill Caldwell (Chair), Amanda Douglas (Principal), Rebecca Hedges (staff rep.), Raymond Hayter, Farah Adam & Dean Weaver (parent trustee reps).

Board of Trustees

Chelsea Primary School