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## Board of Trustees Update

November 2020

Hello everyone

Recently you were asked to complete an annual community survey. Each year this survey provides us with a useful snapshot of how people are feeling about the school and provides the Board with guidance on the direction we should be taking. We realise this hasn't been a normal year and that might have influenced some of the responses, but it is still an important tool for the Board to have.

It was pleasing to have 151 respondents this year and there were some clear themes coming through. The overall results are available on the school website; however I would like to outline several highlights.

We asked several questions about the school's response to the Covid-19 lockdowns. Even though the school has a pandemic plan, this is the first time such a significant event has occurred and it was important for the Board to know how the school responded. Overall 100% of respondents felt the school communicated effectively, while 91% believed the school effectively supported student learning during the lockdown. This clearly shows that Mark and his team did an outstanding job during a very difficult time.

Two key themes that came through from survey responses were roll growth and road safety. The two go hand in hand, as the roll grows more traffic comes into Spey Place during drop off and pick up times. We have been exploring a number of options for addressing roll growth, and this year three new teaching spaces were created. Despite this there is still considerable pressure on space at the school.

We are pleased to advise that the Ministry of Education has approved four additional teaching spaces for Papakowhai School. Our aim is to have those in place during Term 2 of 2021. We are currently working with the Ministry to determine the best place for those. The Board is adamant that additional buildings should not result in the loss of play space for students so it's important we ensure this is done right. We will release more details as they become available.

We have asked Mark and his team to explore some options for addressing traffic and road safety. While Spey Place is outside the school grounds there are still some things the school can do to help alleviate

the issue. Any solution would be implemented from Term 1 next year. Parents play a part in this as well, as it's not uncommon at school pick up time to see illegally parked cars, or cars stopping in inappropriate places to pick their children up. These things increase the risk of an accident by reducing visibility for cars and pedestrians.

We appreciate everyone taking the time to complete the community survey. The information we receive from this, as well as a similar survey for teaching and support staff, is invaluable for the Board.

Historically we have done a single survey in Term 3 each year, however as some of the questions are specific to things like reporting, the Board is exploring options for having a number of smaller surveys spread across the year. This will allow us to develop a more accurate snapshot from the community as the year progresses.

Kind regards

Rodney Strong  
Chair