



Board of Trustees Update

May 2021

Hello everyone

Traditionally we have undertaken community consultation once a year, usually in Term 3. While this provides valuable information at a point in time, the Board feels it would be better to gather feedback more regularly. If you could take a few minutes to complete a short survey (only 10 questions) that would be much appreciated. The survey link is here <https://forms.gle/mdGCNwBR1LSpAPjb6> and also in this week's newsletter. The closing date for responses is Friday 4 June.

As mentioned in our November 2020 communication, the Ministry of Education (MOE) has approved four additional teaching spaces for Papakowhai School. We originally hoped that the new classrooms would be in place towards the end of Term 2.

Unfortunately, the MOE has experienced significant delays establishing contracts with their suppliers and are unable to provide a definite completion date at this time. We are in regular discussions with the Ministry and will provide updates as timelines emerge.

Given the delay, we are currently accommodating a new entrant class in the staff room. Staff are temporarily taking their breaks in the hall. The Board would like to acknowledge the staff for supporting this move, which also allows the library to remain open.

When available, the new classrooms will be located where the existing Totara and Rimu playgrounds are on the bottom field. The playgrounds will be relocated, and, in some cases, the older equipment may be replaced. We are currently investigating clearing an area at the South-East corner of the field to establish additional play space.

This will result in the loss of a small part of the field but given the limited classroom placement options available we feel this is the best outcome for our school. As the site for the new classrooms will need to be prepared first, there may be a period when the playgrounds are temporarily out of action. At this stage the intention is to relocate the Matai syndicate into the new classrooms.

We are also advancing alterations to expand the staff room this year. The staffroom was originally built for half the number of our current staff, and the space is currently cramped and difficult to use for staff meetings. We are conscious of having too much construction work on school grounds at one time, so these alterations will likely occur later in Term 4.

Finally, responsibility for reviewing school enrolment schemes has shifted from school boards to the MOE. We will be working with the Ministry this year on any proposals they draft, and there will still be the opportunity for community consultation. We do not have a timeframe for when these discussions will happen or when any possible new zone will take effect from. Again, we will let you know as soon as information is supplied to us from the Ministry.

Kind regards

Rodney Strong
Board Chair