Kia Ora everybody

It’s good to see the Board is fully up and running and numerous members have recently undertaken professional training to give us all the skills required to better understand our roles.

So what does the Board do?

The function of your Board is as follow

* set and, as needed, modify the vision, mission, and values of the school
* protect the special character/values of the school
* ensure a sensible and feasible strategic plan
* approve and monitor the annual plan
* develop and review the general policy direction
* monitor and evaluate student learning outcomes
* appoint, assess the performance of, and support the principal
* act as a good employer
* provide financial stewardship
* oversee, conserve, and enhance the resource base
* approve major policies and programme initiatives
* manage risk
* commit to a programme of professional development that includes new trustee induction
* build a broad base of community support
* exercise governance in a way that fulfils the intent of the Treaty of Waitangi by valuing and reflecting New Zealand’s dual cultural heritage

As you can see, it’s a very big and wide ranging role, but I think can be easily narrowed down to the following statement

* Supporting and ensuring that our Principal and our staff have the resources required to deliver first class educational and cultural opportunities to all our students.

With this statement in mind, the board has already met with Ministry of Education representatives and secured approval and funding to tackle some of the real pressing property issues at the School, namely, the upgrade of the junior block toilets and the School hall. We are hoping to have this work undertaken in Xmas holiday 2016/17.

We have also been in discussion with the Ministry regarding the poor state of our current ‘Tech Block’ and working with them on different options available to the School. Watch this space!

On a personal note, I have recently accepted a position which will see Kirsty and I relocate north.

I will be relocating mid this month and Kirsty will stay on to finish the year with her beloved new entrant class.

We are disappointed to be leaving Eltham School and my apologies for the short notice, it was not an opportunity that we saw coming.

I have expressed a desire to remain on as BOT chair until early 2017 as I want to get some of these serious projects that we have already started, firmly “bedded down” and the Board has allowed that to happen. I shall stay in communication via e mail and phone and shall be travelling down to attend regular meetings, so my sincere thanks to the Board members for working with me on this issue.

I am passionate and enthusiastic about the many future opportunities for Eltham Primary and the Board is committed to taking up these opportunities for the advantage of all our students.

Eltham Primary has a very good and effective BOT and some very capable and wonderful staff led by an extremely committed Principal. If we have any weakness, it would be our community involvement could be improved.

I am committed to leading a very transparent Board and as such, encourage parents /caregivers/whanau to get involved with our children’s education. If at any time you have concerns I am more than happy to welcome direct communication with either myself or Kathryn. Please contact Maria in the office for our details.

pā atawhai

Murray Bain

BOT Chair