



Wadestown School

Board of Trustees

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News from the Board – July 2011

1. School Principal

Further to recent News from the Board, Trustees wish to update the school community as follows:

- An Interim Principal (ie an external person) will not be appointed
- Our Deputy Principal Sally Barrett will be Acting Principal until further notice and will organise school management issues as required
- Applications for the Principal position close on 15 July – a large number of requests have been received for application packs and Trustees are pleased with the calibre of potential candidates

We reiterate our recent comments confirming the Board's confidence that, despite the transition in Principal, there will not be any significant disruption to the school, and most particularly to the highest priority being the teaching of children.

2. Community Consultation - Principal Qualities

A reminder that Trustees seek your feedback on what key qualities you believe make for a good educational leader as Principal of Wadestown School. Your feedback will be considered as the Board develops a Person Specification to assist in appointing the next Principal.

Please use the following link: www.surveymonkey.com/s/Principal-Qualities or address your comments to the Board via the school office.

Feedback is sought by 9pm on 13 July please. Thank you to the large numbers who have taken the time to submit valuable comments so far.

3. New Classrooms

In our newsletter of 25 May (refer www.wadestown.school.nz/Newsletters/NewsfromtheBoardMay2011.pdf for details and artist's impressions), we announced the Board had resolved to proceed with the construction of a new classroom at the side school (approximately in the position currently occupied by the small playhouse/bark chips) and a new classroom at the main school (adjoining the two current classrooms down next to the tennis courts).

In our newsletter update of 17 June we indicated delays in the commencement of construction due to the need to wait for Ministry of Education final sign-offs.

It is very frustrating to report that we are continuing to await these final sign-offs. This is despite papers being lodged with the Ministry in May, no indication of anything outstanding, builders poised to commence and classes in rooms 13 and 14 still waiting for their temporary relocation into the school hall. Trustees, school management and the architect have been in contact with the Ministry several times urging the paperwork to be processed.

4. Community Consultation – School Uniform

A reminder that the Board seeks your feedback on the matters detailed in the Uniform Consultation document sent out recently (copies available from the school office). Your feedback will be considered as the Board makes final decisions regarding school uniform ahead of its introduction to the school at the beginning of 2012.

Please use the following link: www.surveymonkey.com/s/UniformConsultation or address comments to the Board via the school office. Feedback is sought by 9pm on 14 July please.

Please note – a function of converting images of designs from the designers' computers through to the reduced-sized mock-up images in the consultation document means some of the detailing and colouring was lost. In order to present a more accurate mock-up of the different colour/design options, please refer to the back 3 pages of this newsletter which we hope will assist you with any comments you wish to submit. Trustees wish to point out that we seek feedback on all matters in the consultation document and not simply the alternative colours/designs.

5. Important: Misuse of Private Information

Trustees are aware that the red-coloured school register containing private information has been misused by an anonymous member of the school community to directly contact many parents/caregivers with comments about the school uniform.

We are concerned about this breach of privacy. The information in this register has been provided by parents in good faith for use for school purposes and not for the personal opinion sharing or private business of individuals.

We are disappointed that this divisive action has caused distress to many in the school community. Acting anonymously will only cause negative speculation and finger-pointing.

We have written to the anonymous person's email address and requested they cease this activity.

We wish to assure you all that the Board will do all it reasonably can to prevent misuse of private information. Managing privacy is a fundamental obligation of school Boards.

Trustees point out that the forum for providing feedback about matters in the school uniform consultation document is detailed in item 4 above. This is where Trustees will focus their attention when considering feedback.

6. Main School Field

The School has a very positive association with the Wadestown Tennis Club and continues to work with the Club to consider mutual issues, especially around the tennis courts.

The Club has approached the School with a concept plan for conversion of the lower field at the main school into an all-weather or astro-turf type surface, enabling tennis courts but also other year-round usage such as hockey, junior soccer etc. There are many issues to address with this but there is potential for community-based funding via the Club to help in potentially realising this vision.

This field is largely unusable for significant chunks of the year. It is a grossly inefficient asset due to drainage and mud issues. Trustees believe that an appropriately structured arrangement converting this field into an all-weather surface could produce a very positive outcome for both the Club, the School and the local community. If this was to occur, consideration would be given to whether and where grassed areas should be located.

As in all these matters, there will be much work to do. But Trustees are determined to make improvements to the physical environment at the main school, as outlined in previous Board news.

Kind regards



Neil Paviour-Smith
Chairman, Board of Trustees





