



Wadestown School

Board of Trustees

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News from the Board – June 2011

Principal

The Board advised the school community at short notice on Friday 27 May of the resignation of our Principal Steve Allen.

Mr Allen's last day at Wadestown School will be Friday 8 July. He is to take up a position with Ministry of Education as a Student Achievement Function Practitioner. The main role of a SAF Practitioner, as part of a regional team, is to build the capacity of kura/schools to undertake and sustain improvement initiatives designed to accelerate progress and achievement.

The Board wishes Mr Allen all the very best for this new endeavour and thanks him for his contribution to the school over the past two years.

The process of appointing a new Principal is well underway. National advertising has commenced and already there has been a solid level of inquiry from potential applicants. Applications close on 15 July, following which the Board will be seeking to interview a short-list of candidates.

It is premature to comment on when a new Principal may commence but we will continue to keep you informed as we are able to. Please be reassured the Board is acutely focused on appointing the best person available as Principal and we are confident that Wadestown School will attract strong candidates.

At this stage, no decision has been taken to appoint any person (an external party) as an interim Principal as was done previously. If any decision to do so is made, it will be later in this term after applications have been reviewed and timeframes considered.

From an operational perspective, day to day matters attended to by the Principal are being assigned and delegated to leadership personnel within the school. The Board has 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 the children. We wish to acknowledge the support and professionalism of the teaching and non-teaching staff through this change.

New Classrooms

In our newsletter of 25 May (refer www.wadestown.school.nz/Newsletters/NewsfromtheBoardMay2011.pdf), we announced the Board had, with Ministry of Education support, 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).

We indicated the earliest start date could be the second week of June.

By way of update, we expect to receive the Council consent confirmations and final Ministry approvals any day, following which site works will commence shortly thereafter. Children shifting out of rooms 13 and 14 will be relocated as previously advised and there will be approximately a 10-12 week work program for completion of the new classrooms.

Since our past newsletter (which contained artist's impressions/plans of the new classrooms), we have been able to add further decking and verandahs to the new classroom at the main school, joining up with existing decking and extending around the northern side of rooms 13 and 14.

We all look forward to these works commencing and being completed.

School Uniform

The Board made the decision early this year to introduce a school uniform at the start of term one, 2012. Please refer to previous 'News from the Board' from February and May. We undertook to keep the community informed as to progress.

The Uniform Committee established from interested parents volunteering to be involved has been working very hard over recent weeks on matters to do with the uniform such as style, colours, design, supply arrangements and cost/quality.

The Committee continues to work to a timeframe whereby decisions about the uniform will have been made by the end of term 3 and items available for purchase in term 4 ahead of the introduction of uniform at the start of 2012.

There are many details regarding uniform that will be provided to parents/caregivers over coming months. The Board will continue to make references to uniform matters so that the community is clear as to expectations and next steps.

The Board is very appreciative of the work being undertaken by Committee members. Jennie Johnstone and Philippa Williams are co-chairing the Committee.

Kind regards



Neil Paviour-Smith
Chairman, Board of Trustees