



Board Update May 2018

Kia ora

It is hard to believe we are almost half way through the year. We had a Board meeting a couple of weeks ago, which included presentations from staff and Lisa McPhail from the Home and School. This update provides some highlights.

Developing a vision for Khandallah School in 2025

As I have mentioned previously, Khandallah School needs a new strategic plan. Our current strategy has the new Kaukau block as a key focus. With the Kaukau block build nearing an end (October), it is the perfect time to develop a new strategy.

At the family engagement meeting on Monday we will be launching our strategic plan development. Key to this is getting your views and developing a vision for Khandallah School for 2025. Following the family engagement meeting we will be sending out a broad survey with the aim of developing key themes that can then be explored further.

Please come along to the board session on Monday evening if you are interested in finding out more.

Supporting our Teachers

We are extremely fortunate at Khandallah to have such a high calibre and dedicated teaching team. Someone mentioned to me that it is a miracle that the school operates as efficiently as it does every day on the smell of an oily rag. In many senses this statement is true.

Teachers across the country are entering collective bargaining with the Ministry of Education to, among other things:

- **Recognise teachers for the work they do (increased pay).** Our teaching team work incredibly long hours ensuring our children succeed, engaging with the community and running extra-curricular activities. Teachers are paid considerably less than other professions.
- **Free up teachers to teach.** By far the biggest concern that teachers bring up is workload. We simply need more humans in schools, whether that's specialist teachers, support staff or classroom teachers.
- **Make teaching a desirable career.** We currently have a teaching shortage in New Zealand. Teachers want to make a sustainable career framework to attract and retain people in the teaching profession

At the last board meeting a group of teachers presented their own personal reason for supporting the campaign. A few excerpts are presented below:

"I love teaching but to put it simply if my partner did not have a well-paid job we, as a family, could simply not afford to have me teaching."

"I don't have enough time to do everything I need to in a day. My classroom release time is fully taken up by testing and anything I don't get done I need to catch up on in class at the cost of other children's learning."

"I work at least 10 hours a day and then there is still more to do in the evenings and weekends. My family generally end up coming last on the list."

The Khandallah School Board of Trustees fully supports our teachers collective bargaining campaign and encourage you to support it too. We know that this may inconvenience you at times, but that we will try to ensure that this is kept to a minimum.

As noted in the last school Newsletter last week, teachers will be attending a second Paid Union Meeting on the afternoon of Tuesday June 19. This time our teachers will go together to the one meeting so that they can discuss and respond to any offer on the table. The meeting is at 2:00pm.

We ask that you pick up your child(ren) from 12:30pm on Tuesday June 19 so that teachers have time to travel to the venue.

Clubs policy

A couple of months ago the Board outlined that we were looking at developing a religious instruction policy. It became apparent after embarking on this process that the policy we wanted to develop was much broader than just religious instruction and that it would be useful to broaden the scope of the policy to include all clubs. The clubs policy will include a section on religious instruction.

We are currently in the process of finalising the clubs policy for community consultation and will get this out to you following the next Board meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at the parent engagement evening on Monday – I will be helping out the Home and School with pizza and then at the board's vision session. If you can't make it and have feedback or ideas for the board, you can contact us at bot@khandallah.school.nz.

Shaun Twaddle (chair)

on behalf of the Khandallah School Board of Trustees