

Under the Radar

An important update about Board matters

June 2010

Welcome to this, the third of our regular updates on Whenuapai School from your Board of Trustees. Here are some of the matters discussed at our recent meeting.

Newbies

It's a warm welcome to two new members of the board – and a fond farewell to two outgoing members this month. New parent rep Brendon Harkness and staff rep Mary Anne Carr-Neil have joined the board. Brendon is a water engineer at the Waitakere City Council and Mary Anne teaches a Year 2 class in Room 4. They were voted in after the recent elections replacing Ceilidh Martin and Shannon Corsan who both opted not to stand after several years' service to the board. Thanks, guys, for all your efforts over the years – and welcome to your replacements.

Speak out

Look out for a survey due to come home early in the new term. It's a community survey to parents in which we really want your feedback on how the school is performing in a wide variety of areas. There are questions on the curriculum, communication, social aspects, technology and resources. As well as the multi-choice sections, there is plenty of room for comments – so please take the time to fill them in and make sure you have your say in the future of Whenuapai School!

Standards, Please

By now, you'll probably have seen the mid-year reports in which we provided information on progress against the National Standards. This covered the areas of Reading and Writing. An explanation of the inclusion of National Standards in the mid-year report was provided in the June 17 School Newsletter. If parents have any queries please call your child's teacher for any clarification. Parents with children in the junior School will have the opportunity to discuss the standards at the parent interviews on Wednesday 30 June. Staff have put a lot of time into effectively implementing the standards and we thank them. At our next meeting, the senior management will present a summary of our pupil's performance across Whenuapai school as a whole.

Money, Money, Money

We were presented with our audited annual accounts for 2009. They show that the school ran at a deficit of \$28,000, slightly bigger than last year. However chairman Peter Lamberton reported that our cash position is actually healthier than that might suggest because depreciation makes a large impact. Peter also provided the board with an analysis of accounts going back to 2004. The figures show that we've run deficits for the past five years, though we're in a better position than 2007 when we were \$107,000 in the red. The analysis underlines how important it is that we continue to receive all school donations and seek other sources of funding – which is one of the reasons the board has opted to get the gala going again. All help much appreciated!

What's the plan?

A considerable chunk of the board's time this month was spent considering our strategic plan for the next five years. What do we want the school to look like in the future and how will we get there? The senior management team had made considerable effort to put their ideas together and brought some excellent goals to the board. Discussions on what the final goals will look like are continuing and we look forward to bringing them to your attention in the hope that you'll all get behind them too. Watch this space.

That's all for now – we'll be back with another update after the next board meeting at **7pm on August 9.**

Your board is: Peter Lamberton (Chairman), Warren Spanhake (Principal), MaryAnne Carr-Neil (staff rep), Gregg Carrington-Hogg, Brendon Harkness, Tracy Collins, Les Stockley and Eugene Bingham.