



St Joseph's Catholic School
Board of Trustees Newsletter
Winter 2021



The Board of Trustees (BOT) would like to tell you a bit about who we are and what we do for the School. We hope to put out a newsletter to the school community once a term. We welcome your ideas and suggestions in response to anything we include.

In New Zealand, schools are governed by a Board of Trustees. We draw up a Charter every year which we send to the Ministry of Education. This sets out what the school plans to achieve over the coming year and how we intend to reach our goals. The Principal and Staff put those plans into action.

The BOT have to keep an eye on the School Finances and also make sure that all policies are kept up-to date. We have to review policies following a cycle. You can help with school policies by logging into School Docs where our policies are stored and making comments where you think they might help.

Board Members

Nikki Taylor (Chairperson), Shannon Van Groenedaal, Christelle Penny, Jess Hutson. They represent the parents of children in the school. We have a vacancy for one more Parent Trustee.

Mary Scobie, Paul Buist and Father Joseph. They represent the Bishop! As a State Integrated school with a Special Catholic Character, the Bishop actually owns the buildings – he is the Proprietor. His representatives have to make sure that the school's character is Catholic and that his buildings are well looked after. We have one vacancy for a Proprietor's Representative.

Suzanne Downey as Principal is also on the BOT and the Staff are represented by Pam Boroevich.

Community Consultation

As you will be aware, the BOT carried out a detailed consultation with parents before Christmas 2020. We were very pleased with the response which was significantly higher than that experienced by many schools. The full report is on the school website. Most of the replies were very positive but the BOT discussed some of the issues raised at our last meeting.

- Some parents felt that they didn't know much about what their child was currently learning. This year, parents should be receiving termly and weekly information on Seesaw from their child's teacher.
- Many replies wanted girls to be able to wear grey shirts instead of/or white shirts. There was also interest in a long-sleeved grey shirt for winter although this was available in the past but withdrawn because so few parents were buying it. The girls' skirt options are also a matter of interest for many. The school is now talking to an alternative supplier who plans to bring samples so the BOT and you can think further about changes. Any changes would be gradual so no-one would need to go out and buy a new set all at once.

Centenary Celebrations

The BOT does not organise this event but is following the plans keenly and looking forward to supporting the volunteers who are involved. We hope everyone will want to “get on board” in some way.

Fencing

The BOT is hoping to finance a fence around the school and provide a safe place for the little ones to play. Any suggestions or comments would be helpful.

ERO Review

The beginning of term 2 MOE initiated its first steps of the review process for the school. A new evaluation for improvement approach introduced in 2021. There five phases are

1. Initiating
2. Exploring and focusing
3. Designing
4. Evaluation for improvement
5. Reporting and planning

St Joseph’s is currently working Lyn Duffin from the Ministry of Education. We are at the exploring and focusing phase.

If you would like to know more about this operating model check out www.ero.govt.nz

Please remember that if you have something you are concerned with about your child, your first “port of call” is their teacher. Usually, problems can be sorted out at this stage. If you remain unhappy with that response, then we have a Complaints Procedure. This is sent out termly with the school newsletter. It is not the role of the BOT to deal with individual problems.

HE WAKA EKE NOA We’re all in this together..... If you have any ideas or thoughts that you would like to see happen at our school, Please do let us know!