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Tapanui School Board of Trustees November Bulletin

16 November 2011

Hi Everyone

The term is racing by and already we're more than half way through what must just about be the shortest term in history !

Our school board met Wednesday last week. The mid term Trustee election process is now over, so it was great to welcome Julia Body as an elected Parent Trustee and Malcolm Hancox back for another term. Julia up until this point has been a co-opted Trustee. In approximately 18 months time, there will be another election when a further three members will retire by rotation. As those members will have completed three terms and will be nearing the end of their time having a child in our school, it is unlikely that they will seek re-election. Consequently, if being a Parent Trustee is something you may like to consider, have a think about it and if you decide "yes", please express your interest to any of our present Trustees. If you'd like to find out more about the work of the Board, we welcome your attendance at any of our meetings. In addition, once elected a full orientation process is worked through for new Trustees.

A key focus for us at this time is school staffing for 2012. The Ministry of Education recently confirmed our school staffing for 2012 at a level less than the beginning of this year. Given what we expect our school roll to be at the beginning of 2012, the Board have provided an assurance that the school staffing for the beginning of 2012 will be no less than 4 full time teaching staff plus a Principal.

Presently the Ministry of Education (MOE) project that our school roll for 2012 will be 81 students on the 1st March 2012. They also project that our school roll will average 83 students throughout the year.

The best information available to us at this time indicates that we will start 2012 with 93 students and climb through to a peak roll of 106 students as a result of new entrant arrivals.

I'm sure that you will agree that there is a large discrepancy between what the Ministry of Education predict for us versus the best information available to us at this time. The decision made by the Ministry has been challenged twice with supporting information provided. Unfortunately, they are not prepared to change their decision.

The good part is that we will be allocated extra staffing once roll returns throughout 2012 confirm students are in our school, but the bad news is that we have to use Board reserves to staff the school in the interim.

If we were to staff the school based on the changing staffing allocation MOE provides us with throughout the year as our school roll grows, we would have to reconfigure our classrooms three times in addition to the room they were in at the start of the year. We like you find this to be unacceptable and too much of a disruption to our children's learning.

Consequently, the Board has provided an assurance that we will start 2012 with 4 teachers. We have also given an assurance that if current predictions prove correct, it is the Board's intention to fund a 5th teacher from day 1, term 3. (A roll review will be completed late term 1 when this decision will be finalised) At the moment, indications are that our school roll will reach 101 students late term 3. Once the school roll reaches 101, the Ministry of Education will fund the 5th teacher. By the Board providing funding, it means that only one re-organisation occurs. At present, it appears that a re-organisation will occur at the beginning of term 3, rather than part way through it. Ordinarily, we have a re-organisation at this time to provide for new entrant arrivals.

The risk the Board is carrying in terms of money when making this decision is a minimum of \$7,000 through to a maximum of \$31,000. The actual amount is determined by the timing of our school roll reaching 101 students.

In reaching our decision, enhancing student learning and achievement is always at the forefront of our decision making process. We are also very mindful of the fact that our decision making has to be on the basis of providing a sustainable solution.

If you would like to know more about how all this works, please don't hesitate in contacting me.

I'd just like to conclude this time by saying a special thank you to our PTA, students and teachers for all the effort that is going into the school site at the A & P show this weekend. It looks like it is going to be a great show – see you there.

Regards
Marianne Parks