

EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL BOT  
Meeting Report Term 3 2020

The Board of Trustees met on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm and again on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in the school staffroom.

Term 3 was our first full term of the year but it was far from being immune from the impact of Covid-19. There has been much disruption to normal life, including children's winter sport, cultural activities and trips that were greatly reduced or didn't proceed due to a cautious approach with social distancing within the Bush Cluster and the wider area. We can now safely say this was the correct approach as we were thrown into the second Level 2 lockdown just recently. These changing alert levels could be the new normal for some time to come.

The benefit of experience was evident in this second lockdown as our school was able to react quickly and efficiently to put a plan in place should we have had to proceed into more restrictive alert levels. Melinda and the team used the teacher only day on the 21<sup>st</sup> August to review our Pandemic procedures and ensure we were fully prepared for what may lie ahead.

Other points to note from our meetings were:

- Midyear school achievement results were very positive despite the disruptions to teaching and learning in the first two terms of the year. These were published in the newsletter in Week 6.
- Parent Teacher meeting attendance was well down at 57% but since Covid-19 there have been more informal meetings taking place and staff feel well connected with whanau.
- Since the mid year testing staff have been doing a lot of work around school wide assessment to ensure assessment of children is accurate.
- End of year reporting to parents will be earlier in Term 4 at week 6, followed by Parent Teacher meetings in week 7.
- Policies reviewed and accepted were Learning Support, Appointment Procedure and Child Protection.
- We said farewell to Stephen Drysdale our dynamic caretaker and Matua Warren our much loved Newman Bus driver. We welcome Ryan Seator as our new caretaker.
- We have decided to continue with the current staffing of 6 teachers for 2021 even though we may not meet the roll requirements set by the ministry. We are in a strong financial position which means we are able to make-up any short fall to cover staff salaries.

EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL BOT  
Meeting Report Term 3 2020

- Our Kia crossing on Albert Street has been completed and after some teething troubles is almost fully functional and will be a great addition to help keep our children safe.
- The new entrant room has had a new heat pump installed and new pin boards are intended for the hall.
- School Investment Package has been finalised to include converting the boiler room to storage, landscaping and new playground equipment.
- Nireaha Bus is causing concerns with overloading and Melinda is consulting with the Transport Contract Manager to try to resolve this issue.
- Health and safety is current with drills being run, playground safety being monitored and the BOT having had a walk through this term to identify any issues.
- We were offered a trial from the ministry of a free school lunches scheme, however, after much discussion we chose not to accept the offer as we feel well placed as a community to support our children and already have the additional support of Kids Can in our school.
- Term dates for 2021 have been set and will be published in the newsletter.
- In the wider Bush Cluster Learning Support Coordinators have been appointed at Tararua College and Pahiatua School. Eketahuna School has been allocated one LSC to cover Eketahuna, Alfredton and Pongoroa.
- The Kahui Ako has appointed new leadership of Caroline Transom from Kumeroa School and Iain Anderson from Tararua College.

We have two further meetings this final term, watch for the dates in the newsletter as you are all welcome to attend.

Maree Redington

Board of Trustees Chairperson