



M.E.N.P.S. Matters

School Board Newsletter

AUGUST 2019



We hope you enjoyed the winter break



Board members Richard Pook, Mathew Gribben, James Powell, Brad McMahon (staff trustee), Josephine Easingwood, Fleur Longley (Chair), Murray Streets, (Deputy Chair), Annette Quesado, Alan Jackson (Principal).

Introducing our school's new board

Thanks to everyone who participated in the board elections. It was great to see the large number of parents that put their hand up to assist their school. Our new board brings a blend of proven as well as fresh faces. We are lucky to have a diverse skillset spanning project management, finance, law, communications to name a few.

New group meetings have embraced the prior board's direction with members settling into their new roles. The school's strategic plan and board policies are available to view on the school website.

Property update

Our building project, refurbishing the lower Block one classrooms is well underway. The lower gate on Valley Road will remain closed until these works are completed. We are looking forward to the fresh, bright and modernised classrooms. The Year 1 boys and girls toilets are also currently closed while they undergo a revamp. All of these works are anticipated to be completed by the end of this term.

Teacher support

A great thanks is extended to the school community for the support they provided during the teacher strike action over pay scale and working conditions. Your assistance with this matter culminated in what became one of NZ's largest ever protests. This helped highlight the increasing pressure we face to provide high caliber education in NZ and assisted teachers in gaining an equitable solution.

A summary of what you have helped our teachers reach:

- A new unified pay scale across the sector, pay parity has been restored with future protection.
- By 2021 teachers will have received a minimum 18.5% pay rise.
- Eight teacher only days over three years without extending the school year.
- Removal of some of the appraisal burdens added to their workloads.

STOP PRESS! Our primary principals do an amazing job yet have faced similar challenges to teachers in getting pay parity with their secondary school counterparts. At the time of writing the sixth offer has been accepted by the primary principals.

Primary school principals have accepted:

- A new unified pay scale, aligning base principal salary for primary and secondary principals.
- Additional staffing funding for principals of the smallest schools (up to 50 students.)
- A new annual \$300,000 professional development fund for primary principals.
- A government accord to engage on issues including workload & complexity of the principal role.

Donations

Thanks if you have paid your 2019 school donation. Payment is voluntary, however it's essential to our school's smooth running. As a Decile 10 school MENPS receives a lot less assistance from the government. We are highly reliant upon fundraising and the generosity of our school community to ensure we can maintain our school's high standards. Your donation is needed and much appreciated. Finally the new board would welcome your attendance at our board meetings. Please check the website for our meeting dates, usually the second Wednesday of each month.

If you have questions and/or would like to discuss any of these topics please don't hesitate to contact: Fleur Longley, Board Chair at: admin@mteden.school.nz