

# Campbells Bay School

## Board of Trustees

Term Two Newsletter - July 2013

---



Dear parents and community members

Following the recent elections and the initial Board of Trustees' meeting we are pleased to bring you the first of what will be a regular end-of-term update from your elected Board. These regular updates are to inform our community on matters of school governance to ensure you are briefed on the key focus areas for the Board. Of course, we will produce newsletters more often if and when the need arises.

At the end of term two this newsletter focusses on the new Board, the growth in our school roll and property matters.

### **The Board of Trustees**

The Board is the Crown entity responsible for the governance of the school and as such has a vital strategic role to play. Hence, in forthcoming newsletters you can expect to read about significant decisions the Board makes and the rationale that underpins such decisions.

### **Chairperson**

Our first meeting in June commenced with the election of a chairperson. I thank all members of the Board for the confidence they have shown in me by electing me to this position.

### **Board portfolios**

For our governance structure to function well, each of the Board members holds a portfolio aligned to a key area of strength or interest for the member. In July these portfolios will be allocated amongst Board members. These portfolios include: property, finance, human resources, communication, strategic planning, student achievement and attainment and health and safety. This portfolio allocation ensures a watching brief is maintained across key strategic areas for the school as well as a fair distribution of workload.

### **Roll numbers**

Predicting student roll numbers is a fraught business; part science and part art. In the past ten years the Campbells Bay School student roll has been noteworthy for consistency of student numbers that has seen the roll at the end of each year within ten, either way, of 700.

This trend of predictable roll numbers changed in 2012 with a significant and unexpected upturn in the roll. This increase in roll numbers is not confined to CBS – it is also taking place in neighbouring schools. While student roll prediction might be

expected to be straightforward, given information that is available from early childhood centres in our area, enrolment at an early childhood centre in our area is only part of the equation. We are faced with enrolment unknowns that include: families moving in or out of our area – moving into houses that are being vacated by ‘empty nest’ couples; Government migration policy influencing the number of families moving into the area from outside New Zealand; internal migration (within New Zealand and within Auckland); the return of New Zealand families from abroad because of various factors; and, of course, the birth rate.

Accurate data is not as available as we would like it to be. This is, in part, because the last census data available to the Ministry of Education, who has responsibility for tracking population trends and informing schools in a timely manner, was from 2006 – eons ago in terms of useful enrolment information.

At this stage, the best information we have is that our student roll will be 764 at the end of 2013 (726 in December 2012 and 696 in December 2011). This information is based on current enrolments, expected new entrant enrolments and predicted enrolments and withdrawals based on 2012 data. The Campbells Bay School enrolment scheme is helping to manage enrolments and aside from students who reside within the boundaries of the enrolment zone, only siblings of current Campbells Bay School students are being enrolled from outside the zone.

At this stage we do not know if the 2012/2013 student roll growth is an aberration (a bubble) or the start of a new trend. October 2013, when we traditionally experience a surge in confirmed new entrant enrolments, will be a telling time in terms of being able to more accurately assess the student roll for 2014 and beyond. In the meantime, the vexed question of how temporary is temporary in relation to the accommodation on the field can be answered, in part at least.

### **Property matters**

We are very proud of our school and the environment within which our teams work and our students learn. A key focus for us is ensuring that we balance the accommodation requirements for our school with the current uncertainty in our roll growth. This, as well as current building works, has created the need for temporary accommodation and our aim has been to achieve this with the least disruption to employee and student life.

### **Temporary accommodation**

Currently there are three drivers behind the need for temporary accommodation within the school, namely:

- (1) With the administration area being unavailable as a result of the ‘leaky building’ work we needed a temporary staffroom. While there is also a temporary staffroom in the resource room it is not large enough to accommodate our whole team, especially at morning interval when most use the staffroom at the same time.
- (2) The need for roll growth accommodation with the opening of two new entrant rooms.

- (3) The need to accommodate students from Rooms 15 – 17 when these rooms are either removed or demolished to make way for a new eight classroom block in the area. Because of this work, it is likely that a further two temporary classrooms will need to be added to the northern end of the existing temporary structure.

The appearance of the less than architecturally flattering rooms on the field has caused understandable comment. The decision to add to the school's accommodation in this way and the location of the accommodation was not one that was taken lightly. The far side of the field was selected for the temporary accommodation as this was deemed to be the least intrusive area within the school's boundaries as far as children are concerned. The rooms do not interfere with the highly valued rugby and soccer pitches so, apart from the questionable architectural merits of the buildings, the negative impact on the life of the school is negligible.

### **Administration area - return to normal**

Following the leaky building works it is expected that the administration area will be available to the school from mid-August, meaning the staffroom can return to its rightful place on the second storey of the existing two storey building. This will free up one of the three temporary rooms on the field.

### **New eight classroom block**

The new eight classroom block is an exciting development in the property portfolio of the school. The classrooms will be built to the new Ministry of Education's 'modern learning environments' criteria that provides for more flexible use of the floor space depending on the teaching and learning needs at any given time. This will be a great improvement on the accommodation that Rooms 15 – 17 provide as they near the end of their useful life. While a time line has yet to be confirmed it is likely that work will commence during the latter part of this year.

When the new eight classroom block is available to the school, hopefully sometime in term three 2014, it is expected that there will be sufficient accommodation for the roll needs of the school without the need of the temporary accommodation. This would then mean the temporary accommodation would be removed during the summer of 2014/2015.

However, if the Ministry of Education will fund the upgrade of a set of classrooms (most probably Rooms 18 – 21) to meet the new Ministry of Education 'modern learning environment' standard, the temporary accommodation on the field would remain until the upgrading work had been completed. This is something that will depend on the Ministry of Education and a decision is some way off.

If you would like to view preliminary drawings of the proposed new two storey block please go to: : <https://sites.google.com/a/cbsprimary.org/campbellsbayschool/home/school-notice>

The school will benefit with a set of eight rooms that meets the 'modern learning environment' criteria' and we will continue to monitor, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, the level of student enrolments to better inform what needs to be done in terms of the number of students being enrolled at Campbells Bay School.

We hope that this update has been useful to you. As mentioned earlier it is our intention to ensure our community is well informed regarding the key focus areas for the school.

Best wishes and have a safe and enjoyable term break during July.

**Roger Jarrold**

**Chairperson on behalf of Campbells Bay School Board of Trustees**