



BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE Term 4, December 2019

Introduction

Horsham Downs School Board of Trustees (the 'Board') meets twice a term, and at the last meeting (on 4th December 2019) agreed that we would like to recommence communication with our school and wider community. As a result, parents, caregivers and whanau can expect Termly Updates to be sent home with students, and also on the HDS website.

Board Positions

HDS's Board was elected in May 2019 and has seven members including the school principal, a staff representative and five parent representatives (plus a secretary):

Steve Dunsmore (School Principal)	Andy McOnie (Finance)
Christine Hommel (Staff Representative)	Stacy Mahon (Property; Policy)
Robert [Rob] Dol (Chairperson)	Justine Steele (Funding; Communication)
Sue McConnochie (Deputy Chairperson; Health & Safety)	Carolyn Akerboom (Secretary)

The Role of a Board

It is a school Board's role to:

- Act as a steward on behalf of the stakeholders
- Be responsible for the performance of the school and strategic leadership
- Set the vision for the school and ensure compliance with legal and policy requirements
- Ensure Board policies are at governance level and clear delegations are made to the Principal
- Ensure leadership/management roles are well documented and understood
- Have the Principal report to them regularly
- Be proactive and not involve itself in the day-to-day running of the school

In summary, Boards govern and ensure, whereas Principals manage and assure. Feedback is essential to improvement - therefore, if parents, caregivers or whanau wish to discuss the general operation of the school, then the Board would like to strongly encourage you to go directly to Steve - either in person, on the phone, or by email principal@horshamdowns.school.nz

The Board's Vision

Horsham Downs School's Motto is "...building pathways for success" and our Vision is "Learners aspiring, growing & succeeding". The Board continuously support all school staff and the Management team (Steve, Rachel and Christine) to ensure that this remains to be everyone's focus ... that every child at HDS will have the highest possible level of education.

Fundraising and the PA

We would like to acknowledge the school's Parent Association (the "PA") – a group of parents who give up a lot of time (and energy) to raise funds for our school. The work you do is highly appreciated, and the Board wish to sincerely thank you all. The PA are always keen for new parents to join – so if you have any interest in attending a meeting then please contact Megan on megan@orangecross.co.nz

...building pathways for success

4 Martin Lane, R.D.1, Hamilton, 3281. Phone: 07 829 4700
office@horshamdowns.school.nz, www.horshamdowns.school.nz

Fundraising and the PA (cont.)

Of course, the Board also hugely value the support of our parents with regards to all of the various fundraising projects. We will be sure to regularly share with you what the money raised is going/has gone toward. The Board are fully aware of further things that could be undertaken around the school – and there has recently been a (long!) list of project ideas assembled by the staff, the Board and the PA. Our school is in very good order, but there are always improvements that can be made. If any parents wish to share ideas of where you would like to see money being spent, then please contact Steve. Furthermore, the PA is a registered charity, therefore should anyone wish to donate further money to the school, this is a very tax efficient way to go about it.

School Donations

The Board has decided that, for a second year in a row, there will be **no increase** to school donations in 2020. In addition, we would like to note that targeted donations for photocopying, copyright and class consumables have been removed for 2020. The money that comes from school donations is critical in providing all children with the highest level of education. As a Board we would like to offer our thanks to the large percentage of school families who have paid their donation to date this year. If you who haven't yet had the opportunity, your 2019 donation can still be made at the school office.

We would like to remind you that school donations are allowed as tax rebates. Up to one third of donations made may be claimed (see the Inland Revenue's Personal Tax Rebate form IR256).

Future Developments

The Board would like to thank and acknowledge previous Boards and Board members for their contribution over the years. It always has been, and continues to be, a focus for the Board to maintain the character of our "country school", however we must also continue to future proof for the many years ahead. As everyone knows, the school has extremely limited learning spaces, including two classes in the Multipurpose room, and after school care also being held in the same space. It is not an ideal situation, as it puts pressure on both students and teachers.

After many meetings and much negotiation, the Ministry of Education (MOE) have informed the Board that they have **acquired land adjacent to our site**, on behalf of the school. This will allow a much-needed extension to our sports fields, give us room to build much needed new teaching spaces and free up land to address the waste water issues that we have been managing for over two years.

Additionally, on the 26th November, the MOE advised us that HDS will be provided with **two new prefabricated classrooms by the end of 2020**. The Board are working through what this looks like with the MOE and their construction team. Exciting times ahead!

Conclusion

HDS's Board intend to retain the essence of Horsham Downs School - as a country school, even as the expansion of North Hamilton continues. We are proud of all that we offer – smaller class sizes (particularly in the junior area of the school), an extensive programme of education outside the classroom, Agricultural Days, whole school productions and school camps, to name just some.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve, Rachel, Christine and our amazing teachers, learning support staff and administration teams at Horsham Downs School. We look forward to supporting Steve and the whole school throughout 2020, and will continue to provide outstanding opportunities for our students as expected by our community.

We would like to wish all our families and staff a wonderful Christmas, and a safe and relaxing holiday – and we look forward to an extremely exciting 2020.

Justine Steele

On behalf of Horsham Downs School Board of Trustees

...building pathways for success

4 Martin Lane, R.D.1, Hamilton, 3281. Phone: 07 829 4700
office@horshamdowns.school.nz, www.horshamdowns.school.nz