**Board Up-date - August, 2014**

 Our latest BOT meeting was held on Friday the 8th August, at the Civic Theatre with a good attendance by BOT members, staff and their partners.

Seriously, our last "proper" meeting was held on Monday the 11th August with a full attendance (Tanya Day, Rachel Trusler, Lisa Peek, Brendon Duthie, Sam Russell, Andrew and myself) and in spite of the large number of items discussed, we only went over our standard 9.30pm finishing time by half an hour.

Decisions that were made were:

* $250 per term/per student will be charged to any student who catches a school bus to another school when living in our TEZ (Transport Entitlement Zone).  Our TEZ covers the area up to 1108 Centre Hill Road, Chewings Rd (1460), down to 1948 on the Wreys Bush Road, Dipton-Mossburn Rd (1633) along to Selbie Road on the Mossburn-Five Rivers Road (1666), Ellis Rd (500) and along to Sutherland Road (715) on the Mossburn-Lumsden Hwy (699).  See Andrew for a TEZ map if you'd like to find out more.  Unless students have attended another school prior to 2013, move but still wish to attend their previous school or have extenuating circumstances, they are required to pay the $250 per student/per term.  This was decided at the Dome Network meeting last term as a deterrent to people moving their children from school to school unless they have a serious reason for doing so.  Parents are able to transport their children to the school outside their zone or to the boundary of the zone and not pay anything to their Zone school.  A procedure for this will be written and kept with other school documentation.
* A letter be sent to all parents of students who will be attending the 2015 Stewart Island camp who haven't contributed to the fantastic fundraising effort so far, led by Rachel Trusler, inviting them to help out in the last fundraiser (a day's tailing) or pay the camp costs.
* In order to ensure our skiers are safe on the slopes, parent helpers will rotate around the groups they are working with.
* All SCHOOL FEES and other OUTSTANDING MONIES  (Dunedin Leadership Trip etc) need to be paid in order for students/parents to attend the BOT subsidised ski-trip.  Ski-Trip costs also need to be paid PRIOR to skiing.
* Trish Boyle continues to work with our teachers to appraise them.  This has been a fantastic learning experience for the teachers and will also help develop Andrew's skills when appraising staff in future years.  I am working on Andrew's appraisal.  I have asked the staff for ideas on any goals for Andrew to work on.  Attached to the newsletter is a survey for you to fill in and return confidentially in the post-paid envelope. It would be great to have a reply from every parent so that we can give some useful feedback to Andrew. The good thing about Andrew is that he isn't always aware of issues that there are but when they are pointed out, he makes amends and steps up to the challenge.
* We reviewed our Management and Responsibility Policy
* The school house renovations are nearly complete with double glazing, insulation and a new kitchen installed.  $80,000 in improvements and repairs has been spent on the school house over the last four years, which seems a lot, but very little had been spent in the years prior to 2010.  $40,000 of this was funded by the sale of our Short Street house and the remainder is funded by the rent we receive from the school house, which has been raised to market rent. less 25% (standard MOE practice).  The kitchen just needs a coat of paint and a splash back behind the hob and it will be completed.
* Training in Mossburn from the School Trustees Association on using data to direct our school will be held on the 27th August.  Hopefully as many BOT members as possible can attend this as this is our core responsibility.

Please, as always, if you have a concern with a teacher or the principal, talk to them in the first instance.  If you are unhappy with the outcome of your meeting, contact a member of the BOT or myself.  A letter or e-mail is better as then the issue is clearly stated and cannot be misinterpreted, and can provide a useful paper trail.

Regards,

Tracey Cullen