



## *DEC's B.O.T. Flyer*

### **Combined Board of Trustees Kelston and van Asch Deaf Education Centres**

Update for parents of children enrolled at or receiving services from Kelston & van Asch Deaf Education Centres

(Issue 3. October 2016)

In this update:-

- Minutes of Combined Board of Trustees meeting held

**18<sup>th</sup> September  
2016**



## INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the combined Board of Trustees, I'd like to thank you for taking the time to catch up with what's going on in Deaf Education in Aotearoa/New Zealand. The last few months have been a really busy time for us as a Board, taking office in June and then stepping straight on to the learning curve.

You'll have seen that we have been visited by ERO, who are in the process of giving us some very constructive feedback about what they see our priorities and next steps should be, we are negotiating next year's funding with the Ministry of Education, and we are focussing hard on the quality of our workforce, and our continued access to well trained, experienced staff to work with the 2200 children and young people enrolled at or receiving services from the two Deaf Education centres.

This is our third update, and our hope is to provide you with information following each meeting that gives you a sense of what is going on throughout the whole country in Deaf Education, and what the Board is working on. We would love to hear from you – if you think this update is great or if it's not. Let us know what you would like to know more about. Feel free to offer your views, and don't forget that you are always welcome to attend the 'in public' part of any Board meeting. You can contact Jill Le Prou for details of upcoming meetings, or head to either of the DEC websites.

Nga Mihi  
Rachel Douglas  
Combined Board Chair

### **Summary of Minutes of Combined Board of Trustees meeting held on 18th September 2016**

#### **CANTERBURY SCHOOLS REBUILD**

Bernie Mulcahy-Bouwman gave the Board an update on the Canterbury Schools Rebuild. She has spoken to the Property Case Manager and is assured that the money for the van Asch main rebuild is available. However money has not been factored in for provisions at Hagley and Hillmorton High School sites. The MoE are doing some work around this and will report back to her with a solution.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

After the completion of the successful ANZCED Conference there was a surplus. It was agreed that the Principals bring recommendations to the Board for use of the money. The Board stated that it would like to see this money used for staff Professional Learning and Development (PLD)

Funding for Interpreters is \$200,000 with 50% allocated to van Asch and 50% to Kelston. It was suggested that the centres should start to look at other options like the Video Interpreter Service (VIS - which is free) for smaller meetings and try and reduce some of the interpreter costs.

Happiness Fund mid-year updates were Received



### **School Donation and Activity Fee**

A discussion took place around the Donations and fees paid each year to both DEC's. It was noted that a review of the Donation requests for enrolled students had not been done for approx. 3-4 years. It was agreed that the Principals consider the current situation at each centre in relation to the School Donation and Activity Fee and bring the Board a Proposal for these fees with a view to future alignment.

## **Funding Applications**

The Board resolved to support a number of funding applications from Kelston Deaf Education Centre for up to \$40,000.00 towards external enhancements to the entrance of the new Ruaumoko Marae and its surrounding area.



## **BOARD CO-OPTIONS, TRAINING AND REPRESENTATION**

A discussion took place around how finances are reported to the Board.

Currently there is a Finance Committee made up of the two Principals and two Executive Officers who meet once a term. In addition, auditors provide a yearly report. The Board considered co-opting someone with financial expertise as a Board Trustee. It was agreed that a better option would be to bring in an external accountant to sit on the Finance Committee rather than co-opt to the Board. The Finance Committee will investigate this option.

## **TRAINING NEEDS**

It was proposed that the Board look at training for its members around matters relating to Board business and relevant Legislation. This could then be reviewed to identify any gaps. Training in Deaf Culture and Deaf Awareness was also proposed.

It was also agreed that the Board consider some financial training for Board members to increase their confidence and knowledge in managing the centre budgets and help them understand their responsibilities and liabilities.

## **BOARD REPRESENTATION**

**Maori Representation** – The issue of ensuring Maori representation on the Board was discussed. It was suggested that the Board would contact Deaf Maori to ask them to be a part of the process of finding a suitable person for this role. The decision was made to Co-opt a Maori Rep with the knowledge and understanding of the Sector and Deaf Community.

**Deaf Community Representation** – It was noted that in previous years the Board had co-opted to ensure adequate Deaf representation. However it was felt that this current Board has more Deaf Community representation than previously and Deaf Community representation is strong enough.

## **Parent Representation/Regions**

The Board considered whether there was sufficient representation from parents of children currently enrolled at or receiving services from the two DECs. Discussions included:

- Whether there is a way we could work with the Parents Federation to enhance the discussion and decisions made by the Board.
- Whether there needed to be representation from parents of both Core schools on the Board.
- The view that the current Board is dominated by NZSL, due to the work plan and what has come from the MoE, and the perception that other aspects are being 'forgotten' about.
- The Board discussed co-opting more parent representatives and whether this would help.
- This is an ongoing conversation.

It was agreed to invite Roisin Connolly, the Community Engagement Officer, to attend the public part of Board meetings as she is a key liaison for the Board with parents around the regions. (She may not be co-opted as she is a staff member.)

**DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE** – currently at van Asch, Disciplinary Committee members are members from the previous board with the Board Chair joining the Committee when required. It was proposed that the Board consider reviewing this situation.

## **DRAFT RESOURCE NOTICE 2017**

The Draft Resource Notice 2017 from the Ministry of Education was received. The principals and executive officers will be working on the draft budget for our next meeting using the resourcing offered in this notice.

## **ECE TRUST BOARD**

Memo received re: 2nd Quarter Meeting Summary – 5 September, 2016.

The Board approved a recommendation that the Parent Trustees on the ECE Trust Board be paid a fee for attending meetings in line with that awarded to Combined Board of Trustees members.



## **TEACHER OF DEAF TRAINING 2017**

The Board agreed to fund the second year of training for the nine trainee teachers of the Deaf currently being funded by the Board (in addition to the placements offered by MoE).

## **ERO TIMEFRAMES**

It was noted that the draft report from ERO was expected within the next 2-3 weeks. ERO made many positive comments and suggestions about the Board's future direction. The matter will be discussed in more detail at the Board's next Strategic Planning Day.

**Sector Advisory Group** - An update from the Sector Advisory Group (SAG) was received.

## **VAN ASCH – CAREER GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR**

The Board gave its approval for the recruitment of a full-time Career Guidance Counsellor at van Asch.

## **STUDENT TRUSTEE ELECTIONS**

The Board Secretary Jill Le Prou advised members that Cha'nel Kaa-Luke had been elected unopposed as the Student Trustee for van Asch. There were two nominations for the Kelston position so a vote was required. Voting papers had been sent out with a closing date of Friday 23rd September at noon.

For further information about items listed in this flyer please contact:-

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For copies of reports mentioned in this Summary please contact:-

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