

Board News Update - Term 4, 2019

Our Vision

“Creative, concerned, connected life long learners”

The end of the school year is nearly upon us, Christmas is not far away and many of you will be planning for the holiday break whilst trying to finish last minute work deadlines.

It has been a busy period at South Featherston School, with an ERO review taking place, new Board of Trustee members settling into their roles, staffing appointments for 2020 and of course the successful Fontera Open Gate day.

But first we would like to extend a warm welcome to those parents and caregivers who are new to South Featherston School.

We would also like to acknowledge the professional contribution Pete Hull made over the years at South Featherston School. Pete was a well respected educator-he was the staff trustee on the South Featherston Board of Trustees and the Deputy Principal at the school. We wish Pete, Anna and his family all the best for his new calling.

Coral Burrows Memorial Garden

This garden and the special seat is a moving initiative facilitated by the Friends of South Featherston School. Our thanks to the hard working parents and staff who worked on this project.

Parent Trustee Vacancy

We hope to be able to advise all community members of the outcome of the parent trustee vacancy early in the new year. You can learn more about casual vacancies at www.trustee-election.co.nz/board-respurces/casual-vacancies

ERO review

The Education Review Office (ERO) is the New Zealand government department that evaluates and reports on the education and care of students in schools and early childhood centres.

An ERO team was on site 18 -20 November to undertake their first scheduled review of the school since December 2016. The school leadership, teachers and support staff did an excellent job preparing all the information required by the ERO team, and helping them with their onsite work.

The review team highlighted many positives about South Featherston School e.g. sound teacher appraisal processes, professional learning and development opportunities for teachers and support staff are linked to the school Strategic goals. Children at South Featherston School benefit from a wide range of learning experiences and they are informed of the significance of the local area and its history.

The review team also helpfully identified areas for further enhancement including regular and extended analysis of achievement data, strengthening community engagement learning, especially whanau and the development of a framework for evidence based evaluation.

It was helpful to have these areas of improvement identified many of which will be included in the 2020 Charter, Strategic Plan and Annual Plan.

ERO's final report will be published most likely in the new year. As the Board is working with a Statutory Manager the school is identified as working in the *IMPROVING* phase. This means the Review Office will support and monitor progress towards our goals annually.

Community Consultation

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent community consultation document. We received a total of 12 responses out of 75 (16%).The survey has been analysed and, if you are interested, a copy can be obtained from the office.

Consultation feedback also showed a need for the Board to communicate more regularly.

Less than half of community respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they receive sufficient information /communication from the Board.

One community respondent noted that there was good open communication for those that need/want to raise opinions.

Consultation snapshots

Community respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they **felt welcome within the school community.**

Most community respondents felt that their **participation in school events and activities was welcomed and their contribution valued.**

Most community respondents felt that **culture and identity was recognised and affirmed in the school community.**

Most community respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their **child/children enjoyed coming to school.**

Most community respondents felt the **school was inclusive and a place where children with diverse identities, needs and strengths are welcomed and supported at school.**

The school **sets high expectations of behaviour for its students**

Feedback from one respondent commented on the need for behavioural management consistency and another respondent felt support for students with diverse identities needed to be reviewed as it was insufficient.

All community respondents agreed or strongly agreed that **being involved in their child/childrens' learning and well-being goals at the beginning of the year was important.**

Less than half of community respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the **current home learning activities that their child/children receives were purposeful and supportive of their learning needs.**

Half of community respondents felt they received **enough information to support their child/children at home with their learning.**

Most community respondents found South Featherston School teachers **welcoming, caring and approachable.** Respondents also felt the school **provided appropriate curriculum resources to support student learning and development.**

Most community respondents felt the **school provided appropriate e-Learning devices.**

All responses will be included/considered in the review of the school Charter, Strategic plan and Annual plan. The Board is meeting 8 February 2020 to draft the 2020 Charter. It is an interesting time to be drafting our Charter as there are many Ministry of Education review documents to consider or take into account.

For those of you interested check out the following notices on www.education.govt.nz

The Education and Training Bill 2019 -significant changes to governance
A newly revised edition of the online Behaviour and Learning Guide
Communities of Learning/Kahui Ako strategic goals
The Future of Learning - The Curriculum Progress and Achievement Ministerial Advisory Group emerging ideas.
National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP)

We appreciate that this is a long read in terms of a Board update. We hope you have a better picture of what we as a Board are working on. Our next Board Update will include a review of the 2019 Charter and provide you with a picture of student achievement in 2019

We look forward to meeting many of you at the school on Wednesday 18th December at the Final Assembly. As a Board we look forward to working hard to progress the great learning that is already happening in South Featherston School.

Best wishes for the festive season.

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