

Greetings everyone,

Welcome back to 2017.

With the refreshed rooms, additional resources, new staff and new principal in place I am required to assess whether it is time for the end of the intervention to be considered.

Matters I consider are the following.

1. Is there educational leadership in place that is likely and capable of improving student learning outcomes (achievement)?
2. Is there a pool of interested and committed whanau who are willing to form a Board of Trustees?
3. How confident can I be that both of those are sustainable over the next 2-3 years in the absence of a Commissioner?
4. What support might be required to ensure progress is sustained?

Here is my thinking to this point.

Educational leadership - I am satisfied that there is educational leadership in place that is likely and capable of improving student learning outcomes and that that leadership is sustainable over the next few years. There is plenty for Eric and his staff to do, but we are on the path to improvement.

A pool of whanau to form a BOT - I am satisfied that that is indeed the case. There are parents and caregivers who have attended meetings, indicated their interest and some who have taken a growing interest in governance matters.

Confidence around sustainability - my reservation is around the sustainability of effective governance. There are two issues to address to build effective and sustainable governance in my view. Do we have enough people and can we get them on the path to effective governance in time?

What support is required? - Eric has access to support but parents/caregivers, who are out of the governance habit, need preparation and ongoing support. So what might that best be?

I have in mind the timeline below for a BOT election. Note that this does not mean there is going to be an election; it means only that if there is to be an election it might follow this timeline.

In other interventions I have been involved in, this transition to a new BOT is the weakest point in the whole process. A group of parents/caregivers who have endured the hiatus of an intervention, get elected and are expected to exercise effective governance immediately.

As well, within 7 days of the election the Commissioner is either reduced to an LSM (so there remains some ongoing support), is gone altogether (almost never happens) or the person who has worked with the community as the Commissioner is replaced by another person who brings expertise and support more effectively than the Commissioner (this can work well).

I want to build on the interest and commitment parents/caregivers have already demonstrated and not wait until you are elected as a BOT before getting support and learning about the role underway.

I propose to offer any parents/caregivers who may wish to stand for election in May some introductory sessions to core issues at the heart of effective governance. These sessions would start when you are ready.

The two areas for support and tutorials are:

1. **Governance** - STA recently established tailored support for BOTs coming out of an intervention. This means we have access to a Regional Governance Support person from STA (free). I have met Carol Murray-Brown to explore a possible introduction and support programme for the intending BOT people. Just what that might mean we shall see; and
2. **Managing Policy** - this is, for many trustees, an area wherein many hours of frustration are spent. A colleague who is an experienced Commissioner and LSM and BOT Chair has offered to work with the BOT in two 1 ½ hour sessions to give you confidence to manage policy formation and use. As the school pays for these sessions I have committed to two and will leave it to BOT to decide if they wish to purchase any additional support.

I would attend the first session on Policy then leave it to you to carry on.

My thinking is that if we were to run some learning sessions we would aim for Thursdays at 7 pm at the school?

If you are interested in standing for election as a trustee and are prepared to attend a few tutorials before the election, whenever that might be, please send me an email (copy to Lisa for the record) and I will be back in contact. Please indicate if you are okay to attend a few Thursday evening sessions.

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I believe that this investment of your time will prove valuable for those of you who are elected or seconded to the BOT. You will be able to get up to speed over the rest of 2017 and be well placed for increasing the appropriate role of parents/caregivers alongside school leaders.

We have received advice that our next 5 year property plan is up for renewal later this year. This gives the new BOT a wonderful shot at setting priorities for improving the classrooms and some money.

For your information, here is the DRAFT timeline for an election I have in mind.

EVENT	DATE
Fix Election Date by	Soon
Select Returning Officer by	Wednesday, 12th April 2017
Close Main Roll	Wednesday, 13 th April 2017
Call for Nominations by	Tuesday, 2 nd May 2017
Close Supplementary Roll	Wednesday, 3 rd May 2017
Nominations Close	Monday, 15 th May 2017
Voting Papers Sent by	Friday, 19 th May 2017
Voting Day	Monday, May 29 th 2017
Count Votes	Wednesday, 31 st May 2017
Board Takes Office	Wednesday, 5 th June 2017

I was at the school last week. What a wonderful feeling to walk into the new rooms and the tidied up junior room. And a clear swimming pool was surely something to see.

Thank you all for your support and patience. I do feel we are underway now and that things will get steadily better.

Thanks

Ken Wilson
Commissioner
Dalefield School