



M.E.N.P.S. Matters

School Board Newsletter

APRIL 2019

Tomorrow's Schools – What can you do?

The Tomorrow's Schools report outlines a radical approach to alter the NZ education system. Responsibilities of parent-based school boards will substantially move to government appointed hubs. While the Board agrees with the report's intent; ensuring NZ children access to high quality education, we're concerned about how it plans to do this.

The proposals represent a complete overhaul of the current education system in NZ. The question must be asked: Why fix something that 82% of schools in New Zealand say is not broken? Further, the few struggling schools already under government supervision seem to have gained little benefit.

Parts of this proposal have the potential to compromise MENPS quality of education. We encourage you to submit feedback to the taskforce on this extreme proposal.

The following proposals in the report are of key concern:

- Reducing schools' ability to gain income through school donations. With conservative ministry funding this will negatively impact on the resources the school is currently able to offer.
- Many of the functions currently undertaken by community appointed boards of trustees will be assumed by ministry hubs. This minimises local input and participation.
- One of the main functions the ministry hubs will take over is the appointment of principals and teachers, potentially removing local knowledge and input.
- The hub could move principals and teachers between schools, disrupting school culture, continuity and student learning.
- Each hub would be responsible for 125 schools, leading to a one size fits all, systematic approach.
- Greater problems in our education system remain unaddressed by the report, such as teachers struggling for a liveable wage. Extra layers of bureaucracy will not assist this problem.



The Community Schools Alliance, which MENPS has aligned with is actively seeking support to oppose the proposals of concern in the report. For a good source of information, you can visit; <https://www.communityschools.nz/> or <https://www.facebook.com/CommunitySchoolsNZ>

The MENPS board is also finalising a submission, which we will make available to you on the school website. Input on the report must be received by Sunday 7th of April. We strongly suggest you take this opportunity and stand up for maintaining the quality of our education system.

Online submissions can be made at: <https://consultation.education.govt.nz/tsr/survey2019/>

A fun day at the fair

To many the highlight of the MENPS year is the Food & Fun Fair. The level of preparation only adds to the expectation and excitement. The fair day always dawns with community wide excitement led by the children. The events in Christchurch were recognised by a minute's silence and a condolence book, both signs of our national unity and shared grief. A big thanks to Emma Wallace & everyone involved in bringing it all together - truly a great celebration of our community.

Board elections – Your school needs you!

Hopefully you've had time to consider helping our school by becoming a board member. Please diarise the following, as it's important you supply the documentation by the due dates.

BOARD ELECTION TIMELINE

- Friday 10th May:** Nomination forms for prospective board members will be mailed out to all parents/caregivers on our school roll
- Friday 24th May 12 noon:** Nominations close. To nominate yourself or someone else for MENPS school board, please complete the nomination form and submit with a candidate statement of up to 400 words. Submission details are on the nomination form. If nominees exceed vacancies an election is held.
- Wednesday 29th May:** The election process begins where all parents on the school roll receive voting papers along with the candidate statements.
- Friday 7th June 12 noon:** Voting closes
- Thursday 13th June:** Results advised

If you have questions and/or would like to discuss any of these topics please don't hesitate to contact: Virginia Parsons, Board Chair at: admin@mteden.school.nz

