



MENPS MATTERS

SCHOOL BOARD
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2023



Our next meeting is on
October 18, at 6pm in
the Staff Room.
All welcome!

Future Growth and Diversity...

Kia ora koutou katoa,

The MENPS Board of Trustees are delighted to announce an exciting proposed partnership with Central Auckland Specialist School (CASS). CASS provides tailored education and learning environments for children with special neurological and physical needs within the Auckland region. In recent years, the increasing demand for enrolment at CASS has exceeded capacity, and together with the Ministry of Education (MOE), the school has sought to meet this need by building CASS specialist units within existing schools across our city.

These units allow their students invaluable experiences integrating into mainstream school life and their inclusion provides host schools with incredible learning opportunities for students and teachers alike and a wonderful enrichment of school culture.

In 2022, the Board was approached with a proposal to house a CASS specialist unit at MENPS, projected to open in 2025. After carefully considering the motion, we can now share information about this exciting opportunity with our valued school community.

The Proposal

The partnership proposes a CASS specialist unit for up to 18 students, to be accommodated at MENPS within existing surplus classroom spaces and with the addition of a new secure play space, car access and staff parking. The unit would operate as a standalone school within our school grounds, under the management of CASS principal, Trudy Brocas, and with its own teachers, curriculum, policies and funding.

'The Why'

The MOE's purpose is to provide an inclusive education system to nurture, grow and realise every child's potential and as a Crown entity, MENPS is obligated to accommodate all children within zone, regardless of their needs. This is a special opportunity to offer a bespoke education and environment for students with specific learning needs and recognition as socially valued individuals within a large school community. Additionally, it exposes MENPS students to invaluable life-long learnings on empathy and the many shapes and forms of diversity. Our school has a proud culture

(continued below)

Our Touchstones represent values, attitudes and behaviours that influence learning, culture and decision-making at MENPS.



of inclusivity, as reflected in the MENPS Touchstones, and the Board sees wonderful potential for the schools' relationship to further strengthen these values.

Property Upgrades

Three existing ground-floor Year 3 Block classrooms would be allocated and refurbished to meet the unit's specific needs. In addition, new car access on Sherborne Rd, further staff parking and a safe play space would be constructed.

The Role of the Ministry

The MOE aims to prepare a property solution, in line with MENPS and CASS's educational vision, that provides an environment to support quality educational outcomes for all students. The MOE is responsible for design and procurement, in consultation with the two schools, providing support and communication throughout, and minimising disruption to the host school.

STAGE 1: A Temporary Solution

Currently, CASS is having to turn away families in need, due to a lack of capacity. The Board has agreed in principle to accommodate a small temporary CASS unit within existing unused MENPS classrooms, beginning in 2024 and for a period of up to 12 months. The unit will be staffed by CASS learning support staff and will not require major building or property works.

STAGE 2: Planning a Permanent Unit

The MENPS Board and CASS have agreed in principle to investigate the feasibility and implications of a permanent CASS specialist unit at MENPS, projected for delivery in 2025. Consultation has occurred and an initial concept design has been approved, to be further explored by the MOE. The final decision is contingent on the Board's approval of the completed project design, implementation and construction plan.

Staying Informed

The MENPS Board are entrusted with making decisions on behalf of the school and is committed to ensuring the very best outcomes for its students. We value your trust and endeavour to anticipate questions about the proposal on behalf of our community. FAQs and further information will be posted on the MENPS website, at a time to be advised. Should you wish to contact the Board, please email bot@mteden.school.nz.

And to wrap up...

With Term 3 almost at an end, we would like to wish all our staff, students and their families a wonderful break and we look forward to an exciting and busy Term 4.

Ngā mihi & happy holidays!

Annette, Alan, Richard, Mei, Sean, Fleur, Mike, Anna, Nigel & Virginia

What does inclusivity mean to MENPS students?

"Helping others find friends."

"Using Manaakitanga."

"Letting people join your game."

"Making sad people feel happy."

"Kaitiakitanga, because it means respect."

"Being kind."

"Helping someone who gets hurt."

QUICK FACTS:

WHO?

MENPS & Central Auckland Specialist School, supported by the Ministry of Education

WHAT?

MENPS to host a temporary CASS unit for students with specific physical and learning needs, with plans underway for a permanent unit in future.

WHEN?

Temporary Unit: Term 1, 2024
Permanent Unit: 2025 (projected)

WHERE?

Temporary Unit: TBC
Permanent Unit: Ground floor, Y3 Block