

# North Beach Primary School Board



Isn't the year going so quickly? We have just held our first Board meeting for Semester 2 and it was a busy one!

## **Workforce Management and Business Plan overview**

The Board reviewed the Workforce Management Plan 2015-2017 and noted there are a number of challenges ahead for the school in managing its workforce, including the impact of the small cohort of children who attended kindergarten in 2015. The school has some excellent strategies in place to respond to these changes and will continue to monitor this closely. This also linked into the overview of the "Maximising the Use of Physical and Human Resources" section of the Business Plan. The strategies listed in the plan are being implemented and we are on track to meet our Key Performance Indicators, which is fantastic to see.

## **Attendance and Teaching Hours**

Attendance and performance are of course, a focus for the school, as well as the Education Department. Mrs Halleen has previously published data that demonstrated the amount of time children who are regularly absent from school miss throughout their student life. I found it astounding (and quite frightening) that an average attendance rate of 90% (5 days absence a term) equates to missing one year from their education.

I have also only recently become aware that our teachers are required to teach face to face for 1550 minutes every week. We love all the extra-curricular activities that students at North Beach participate in, but we need to be mindful of the impact this can have on our teachers' ability to educate our children. Sometimes there are simply not enough hours in the day, and the Board touched on this issue at its last meeting. Rest assured there are no drastic changes planned, but please be confident the school is working hard to ensure the right balance of academic and extra-curricular activities to meet all the needs of our children.

## **Voluntary Contributions**

Every year the school seeks voluntary contributions from families to assist the school in providing resources for our children. The most common way to make this contribution is by including it as part of the Champion stationery and booklist order form. The maximum amount that can be charged is \$60 per child. The Board were asked to review the current sliding scale arrangements and consider endorsing a flat, per child amount instead. The Board agreed that the sliding scale arrangement is difficult for the school from an administration perspective and importantly, confusing and difficult for parents to make these contributions for second and third children on the Personal Items List order form.

The Board endorsed the school's request to implement a flat amount of \$55 per child from next year. This voluntary payment will see parents of two children paying exactly the same as on the sliding scale and parents with three or more children will pay slightly more, if they are in a position to do so.

The school is in great shape, our finances are sound, our children are happy and well balanced and we will see some great improvements around the grounds with the recent approval of grants. We continue to achieve well across the academic, artistic and athletic arenas – a huge credit to everyone in our school community.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, interest in the Board or would like to provide any feedback, please contact me at [kelster456@gmail.com](mailto:kelster456@gmail.com).

Have a great second half of the year!

Kelly Riddle  
North Beach Primary School Board Chair