

Omanu School Support Group

Background

The School Support Group was first established in 1990 when the Board of Trustees 'self-management' model for school administration was established by the Government (Before this the a PTA (Parent Teacher Association) supported the work of a 'School Committee').

The Board of Trustees (5 parents, 1 staff rep and the Principal) is responsible for the overall Governance of the school). The parents representatives on the Board are elected every 3 years.

The School Support Group functions as a team of parents who volunteer their time, energy and expertise to contribute to facilitating the partnership between home and school. A 'co-ordinator(s)' is established to monitor the planned activities for the year and to delegate specific roles where required. A secretary takes responsibility for noting the decisions made and preparing a summary to share through a notice(s) to parents.

Interested parents meet once a school Term - or as needed (usually in the 2nd week). An agenda is prepared to help facilitate the meeting and usually includes:

- a summary of fundraising/activities recently completed
- a Principal's report/staff rep report
- activities/suggestions for the coming Term/rest of the year
- items of interest/school activities.

The School Support group does not operate its own bank account - but all money raised and spent is accounted for through the Board of Trustees finance system - and reported to the School Support Group regularly. A budget of School Support Group incidental expenditure is maintained within this system.

To Summarise

Aim To facilitate the involvement of parents/caregivers in the school by co-ordinating the following activities.

1. Arranging for interested parents to meet at least once a Term to plan activities, share ideas, to be shared with the Board of Trustees/Staff.
2. Fundraising: Establish a focus for fundraising initiatives and plan suitable activities to raise money needed to contribute to the project(s). (Ideally, this should be an established part of the overall process of the Board of Trustees preparing its annual budget (November each year) so that School Support Group activities can contribute to the overall Development Plan for the school).
3. Contribute to planning for 'Information' sharing meetings about Educational/Community/Social/Parenting issues that may impact/support the school and children's learning.
4. Help support the school in a 'practical sense' through planning working-bees to maintain and enhance the school environment.

5. Encouraging parents to support classroom and school programmes where they can.
 - eg. Lunch scheme
 - Banking scheme
 - Library help
 - Classroom help
6. Contribute to school (BOT) Consultation issues as they arise.
7. Communicate with the Board of Trustees, as necessary, by way of:
 - the Principal reporting/tabling School Support Group's news/initiatives through the Principal's regular report to the BOT
 - making formal submissions to the BOT, through the elected parent representatives
 - a BOT parent rep attending the School Support Group meetings.

General Information

Some of the past projects contributed to/planned for by the School Support Group, with the BOT.

- Multi-Purpose Room build (now Rms 6,7,8)
- Adventure Playground construction (3)
- Shade-sail sun protection
- Hall construction
- Hall facilities (staging) (Audio) (lighting) (flooring) (curtains) (tables)
- School signage
- Computer Equipment
- Digital equipment
- Audio-Visual equipment/multimedia equipment
- Outdoor seating
- Visual Arts Centre - and equipment
- School sports uniforms
- Instant shelter tent
- Outside chess set
- Fitness station construction
- Junior sandpit upgrade
- Crazy Catch Phys Ed equipment
- Sports equipment (eg. table tennis tables, gym equipment)
- Kapahaka uniforms
- Junior Reading Room extension

Fundraising Projects Undertaken

- Chocolate sales
- Firewood cutting/deliveries
- Special Lunches
- School lunches
- Sausage sizzles
- Fashion Parade
- Quiz evenings
- Cabaret/dance evenings
- Ball
- Raffles
- Duathlon evening
- Discos
- Community events support eg. Port of Tauranga Triathlon, Port of Tauranga Promo Day
- Pizza sales
- Commercial product sales eg. cards
- Recycle Clothing Bin
- Cartridge recycling
- Spellathon/Mathesathon
- Garage/Jumble sale
- Cooking class
- Cakestalls
- Musical Recital
- T-Shirt sales (Omanu)

Working Bees Undertaken (School Environment)

- Enviro Group activities/projects/gardens
- Tree trimming
- Re-barking Adventure playgrounds
- Swimming Pool repaints
- Sandpit refill

Grant Applications(?)

- Pub Charity
- TECT
- Green Thistle
- NZ Community Trust
- BOP Trust etc.