SOUTH PADBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

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SOUTH PADBURY
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Pursuit of Knowledge and Friendship

School Governance

With the implementation of IPS and living in a society where everyone's encouraged to have and share an opinion on everything, it's important to keep in mind and be cognisant of the fact that we are still operating under the provisions of the *Western Australian School Education Act 1999.* Under the act, it is very clear that the principal is responsible for the school, working within the prescribed guidelines of the act and the associated regulations. Schools are not designed to operate as democracies, and this is a good thing. It ensures that the people making the decisions are appropriately qualified and schools don't lose sight of their core business.

Of course, in running our school I do delegate responsibilities to other staff members who act under my authority and do consult widely on a whole range of issues. Camp is an example of this. After camp, I consulted with the staff who attended camp, parents/caregivers of the students on camp, students who attended the camp and the school board to ensure that the fiscal and time investment was worthwhile. Based on advice from these 4 sources, I formed the on-balanced judgement that the camp experience was worthwhile and would continue for the 2019 Year 6 cohort.

Having used the camp as an example, there are other areas where I may not consult as widely. Finances are an example. I've had vast experience managing multi-million dollar budgets in schools, central office and private enterprise. In 2019 our total operating expenditure will be in the vicinity of $4 000 000. I need to be mindful to trust myself, my experience and my expertise in this area and not seek or take advice from persons who may have a deficit skills set in this area in comparison to mine.

Curriculum development and implementation is another area where I am more selective in taking and heeding advice. I strongly believe in a student centred, cross curricula, open ended approach to curriculum development and delivery and the implementation of a broad range of pedagogies with a focus on *First Steps* instructional strategies. I also believe in Direct Instruction for students requiring extra support, but not as a whole of school approach. Having implemented these approaches as a whole school strategy in 2013, our school's results over this period demonstrate the effectiveness of our whole of school approaches to literacy and numeracy. Again, I'm always open to on-going improvement and in-put, but only from persons with a comparable or superior skills set.

The role of the school board in all of this is just so important as the board members, in carrying out their due diligence, seek and report back to the board and advise me on issues such as camp, school dress code and a whole myriad of other issues. In regards to finance, I share every detail with the board so as that they can verify that the school's resources are being properly directed to the areas of greatest need and the school is keeping to its core business.

BYOD Community Forum

Tasha Donnelly and I have had to change the date of the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Community Forum from Thursday 22 November 2018 to Thursday 29 November 2018 from 9am to 10am in the school's staffroom, due to a clash in my schedule.

Year 6 Community Forum

Today's forum was terrific. It was really informative and positive and 2019 Year 6 is looking great.

End of the year

With 3 weeks to go the schedule is jam packed and my focus has turned to Year 6 Graduation and welcoming in our new kindergarten students.

David Knox
PRINCIPAL

21 November 2018