



Board News Update – Term 2, 2019

The purpose of this update is to highlight some of the main governance developments at the school. It has been a busy period, with an ERO Review, upcoming teachers' strike, and forthcoming election of a new Board of Trustees.

But first we would also like to extend a very warm welcome to those parents and caregivers who are new to Ngaio School.

ERO Review

The Education Review Office (ERO) is the New Zealand government department that evaluates and reports on the education and care of students in schools and early childhood services.

An ERO team were onsite at the school for a week commencing 18 March to undertake their first scheduled review of the school since November 2014. The school's management, teachers and support staff did an excellent job preparing all the information required by the ERO team, and helping them with their onsite work.

The review team highlighted many positives about Ngaio School, including: high levels of achievement; gathering the right achievement data; engaging and respectful children; a great atmosphere; well resourced; a strong curriculum; an emerging collaborative teaching culture; and growing teacher voice and empowerment.

The review team also helpfully identified areas for further enhancement, including: extended analysis of achievement data (e.g. to capture progress through time); refreshing the Ngaio Way on common expectations of the teaching approach; strengthening community engagement for learning, especially whanau; and some housekeeping around policies and procedures.

It was reassuring that many of these areas of improvement had already been identified and included in the school's latest Annual Plan.

ERO's final report on Ngaio School will be published shortly. Our expectation is that it will conclude that the school is well placed to deliver its goals, and we anticipate that the next ERO review will be undertaken in approximately 3 years.

Teachers' Strike

The NZEI has advised the Ngaio School Board of Trustees that the principal and teachers at our school will be taking strike action for the full day on Wednesday 29 May 2019.

The Board has carefully considered the availability of teaching staff, and unfortunately decided that there is insufficient staff to provide either the normal teaching services or supervision of children during the strike.

As communicated previously, we are therefore closing the School on Wednesday 29 May 2019.

It is important that you make alternative arrangements for the care of your child/children on the day of the strike.

We know that this is inconvenient for parents and students, but please be assured that student health and safety is our main priority and concern.

The Board of Trustees is not involved in negotiations between the NZEI and the government, and has no role in assessing parent support for or against the strike – our role is to determine whether the school needs to close.

We would note, however, that there has been a noticeable reduction in the number of teachers applying for advertised positions across the country in recent years, including at Ngaio School. In the long term, it is in the best interest of the children and their learning that high quality teachers are retained and attracted to work in the industry.

Privacy of Parent Contact Information

You may have received an unsolicited email recently from a parent inviting you to take part in a survey about the teachers strike.

This was not commissioned or endorsed by the Board, management or PTA. Ngaio School takes the privacy of parent contact details seriously. The Board understands the parent email addresses were obtained from a Google Form to which the person who sent the email was given access.

From time to time Ngaio School gives access to relevant Google Forms to parents that are involved with school related activities (such as the PTA, the Clinic, road patrol, coaching sports and more).

The trustees have met and commissioned a review of procedures around parent contact information.

Trustee Elections

The three-year term of the current Board of Trustees is coming to an end. The election date for all five parent trustees and the staff trustee has been set for 7 June 2019. Alongside the Principal, this newly elected group will make up the full Board.

Of the current group of parent trustees, three (Lucy, Jo, and Mike) will not be putting their names forward for re-election due to their youngest children finishing at Ngaio School during the term of the next Board. The staff representative (Amanda) is also not putting her name forward due to her recent secondment to the Ministry of Education.

I want to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the role of the trustees over the past 3 years:

- **Lucy Elwood:** Lucy has been a trustee for nearly 8 years, including 4 years as the previous Chair. Given this long connection to the school, Lucy has been our institutional memory from everything from property to the history of each school policy. As a Chartered Member of the Institute of Directors, and non-executive board member of a number of other entities, Lucy has brought invaluable governance experience, in addition to her legal and IT expertise.
- **Jo Hughson:** Jo has been a trustee for the past 3 years, supporting management on personnel and overseeing the comprehensive review of school communications. Jo has been a strong parent voice on a broad range of issues on the Board's agenda, including the use of achievement data to track and support the development of each child. As a leading barrister, Jo displayed an eye for detail and a high threshold for concrete evidence that was hugely valuable to the Board.

- **Mike Letts:** Mike has been a trustee for the past 3 years, and initially supported management reviewing school policies before taking on the finance portfolio. Mike also oversaw a thorough review of our after school care programme (NOSCAR). It has been great to be able to utilise Mike's background in law, operations, and management consultancy to a range of issues. Mike's strength has been his very calm, considered, and wise contributions, often paving the way to a consensus and next steps.
- **Mark Palmer:** Mark has been a trustee for the past 2 years, after Robert Stewart retired from the Board after a long tenure. Mark's experience as the business owner and manager of a painting company has been invaluable for all issues for the Board with a practical or commercial angle. Mark has supported management on a range of issues, particularly property, and has been very generous with his time to be available onsite. Mark is standing in the 7 June elections.
- **Amanda Frater:** Amanda has been the staff representative for the past 3 years. The parent trustees were particularly grateful for Amanda's insights into the latest evidence of education practice. Amanda played a key role through the principal appointment process, and supporting Raewyn become established at the school.

Finally, we would like to thank Helen Shields for her role as Secretary of the Board of Trustees, and on behalf of the whole parent community wish Raewyn all the very best in the years ahead.



Christian Hawkesby, Chair

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On behalf of Jo Hughson, Lucy Elwood, Mike Letts, Mark Palmer and Raewyn Watson.