



## **Board News Update – Term 1, 2019 – Board Election Year**

It has been a busy start to the New Year, and Term 1 is already in full swing.

The purpose of this update is to highlight some of the main developments for the governance of the school in 2019. The most important of these is Board of Trustee elections.

But first we would also like to say a special welcome to those parents and caregivers that are new to Ngaio School.

### **Board Elections**

The three-year term of the current Board of Trustees comes to an end in the middle of this year. 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, at least three (Jo, Lucy 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.

It is essential for the future success of the school that we have a strong governance group to challenge and support management. This requires having a diverse mix of people around the table, with different backgrounds, experiences, perspectives and roles within the community – combined with a real willingness to work closely as a team, and determination to retain an unwavering long-term focus on student achievement and wellbeing.

Nominations for the elections close at midday 24 May.

If you are interested in putting your name forward (or know someone who would make a great candidate) we would strongly encourage you to talk to one of the existing trustees to better understand the role. Attending a meeting as an observer is another great way to gain a better insight. The next meetings ahead of the election are scheduled for 25 February and 28 March.

For more background information, a link to a Parents' Guide to the Board of Trustees from the NZ School Trustees Association (NZSTA) is provided below.

<https://www.nzsta.org.nz/assets/Information-for-parents/A-parents-guide-to-the-role-of-the-board-of-trustees.compressed.pdf>

### **Charter Review and Annual Plan**

To support the ultimate goal of student achievement and wellbeing, each year the school submits to the Ministry of Education its Charter and Annual Plan.

The Board of Trustees met at the beginning of February, and reaffirmed the *Strategic Goals* in the existing Charter:

1. To personalise learning.
2. To exploit the richness of the NZ curriculum, supporting a strong foundation learning.

3. To explore 21<sup>st</sup> century partnerships, relationships, learning spaces, tools.
4. To support and encourage excellence.
5. To strengthen the culture of continuous learning for teachers and education leaders.
6. To further develop equity and diversity.

The Board also discussed the *Key Priorities* for 2019, and supported a plan from the Principal to put focus and emphasis this year on four themes across the school:

1. Writing.
2. Effective use of assessment data and analysis.
3. Staff culture and wellbeing.
4. Developing and strengthening collaborative teaching practices across the school.

With a new Board of Trustees in place by the second half of this year, we would recommend a more thorough review, including consultation with the community, for the school's updated Charter in early 2020.

### **Other Updates:**

- **Staff Trustee:** Our staff trustee, Amanda Frater, has embarked on an exciting opportunity with a secondment to the Ministry of Education for terms 1 and 2. While the school will still have informal access to Amanda's inputs and insights, there is a formal requirement for Amanda to step down from the staff trustee role for the period of the secondment. We will ensure that there is a continued staff presence and input at Board of Trustee meetings over the period until the elections.
- **Parent Communications Review:** Through the course of 2018, Jo Hughson chaired a working group for the communications review comprising members drawn from the admin staff, teaching staff, the Board, PTA, and parents with extensive expertise in communication. The proposals of this working group will see the launch of a new Ngaio School website during 2019, parent portal, and a clear communications policy and procedures for staff.
- **NOSCAR Review:** During the second half of 2018, Mike Letts completed an internal review of our after school care programme (NOSCAR), with a focus on ensuring there are sound policies, procedures and systems to support the management team. These will shortly be communicated to parents with children in NOSCAR.
- **Tui Review:** Over the end of 2018, Chris Rowan from Impact Education undertook an independent review for the Board on learnings from our experience utilising the new Tui Block, drawing on insights from the teachers and children. This was presented to the Board in late January, and key insights are already being used by this year's students and teaching group led by new Tui Syndicate Leader, James McMullan.
- **Education Review Office (ERO):** ERO will be on site in the week beginning 18 March to begin a scheduled review of the school. It is reassuring to have the continuity brought about by having Lucy Elwood on the Board, who was also a trustee at the time of the last review in 2014. This latest ERO review will be an excellent opportunity to showcase the strength of the school's teaching practice. It is also a good chance to be provided with insights into areas to enhance. We have observed a trend across the education sector towards ERO reviewing at a shorter frequency than 4-5 years.
- **Property Update:** The western side of school field was re-sowed in October, and there is a program underway of watering and spraying. The eastern side of the field is due to be re-sowed in the April school holidays. There has been no news on the prefabs on the top school fields, where the timing of their removal is dependent on when the Ministry

finds them a new home. The Board continues to work closely with the PTA to identify suitable projects to be funded with community involvement.

To all parents, caregivers, teachers and support staff: thank you for your contribution to the School and all the very best for the rest of the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C Hawkesby', written in a cursive style.

Christian Hawkesby, Chair

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