



## **Board News Update – Term 4, 2019 – Board Election Year**

The purpose of this update is to highlight some of the main developments for the governance of the school.

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

### **Board Elections**

Since the Board of Trustee elections in the middle of the year, we have welcomed Clinton Geeves, Estelle Jaine and Sarah Sims onto the Board as new parent trustees, joining Mark Palmer and Christian Hawkesby as re-elected from the previous Board. Sarah Smart was elected as the new staff trustee, joining the Principal, Raewyn Watson, to complete the seven-member Board.

### **Board handover and induction**

The Board of Trustees work as a team to govern the School. The ultimate goal is student achievement and wellbeing. A key first step has been a handover and induction programme delivered by the previous trustees, supported by tailored training from the NZ School Trustees Association. The Board has also held events to meet the Syndicate Leaders and all staff.

### **Values, Vision and Strategic Priorities**

A key role of Board is to set the Strategic Priorities for the School, informed by the Values of the school community and the Vision for the school, and to track their delivery. In March each year, these are set out in the school's Charter and Annual Plan submitted to the Ministry of Education.

In preparation for a thorough review of the Charter next March, the Board has begun gathering input from students, staff, parents and guardians into a refresh of the school Values. Thank you for your contributions. We plan to share how this is developing in the new year.

### **Other initiatives and changes**

- The Board supported the Principal's decision to change the classroom allocations for Tui in 2020 to a mix of single and double classes. While we believe that three-teacher spaces can be very successful, and are proud of the innovative teaching that has occurred, we also acknowledge the challenges of the past 2 years. We reflected on feedback from students, parents and teachers, and considered the wellbeing of students and staff.
- The Communications Review undertaken by the previous Board is being taken forward, with a new Ngaio School website in the pipeline.
- We have changed the accounting service provider for the school from Education Services to Accounting For Schools, to receive more timely and cost effective advice on the school's finances.

- The Board is considering adopting the services provided by SchoolDocs, to have more streamlined Policies and Procedures for the school that keep pace with relevant legislation and best practice.
- The Board received a presentation from Bikes in Schools, a charitable trust, about the potential for a bike track and fleet of bikes for the school. This is being explored further with staff and the PTA, and any proposed plan will be brought to the community.
- The Board are exploring options to resurfaced the aging Astroturf at the school, including through a grant application with advice from the PTA.
- We were delighted to have the prefabs at the top of the school finally removed by the Ministry of Education to their new home at Johnsonville School. This will enable the Board to consider options to develop this area around the Abbott Street Entrance. Thanks to Peter the caretaker for installing a ramp.
- In December, the Government announced the School Investment Package, which should result in Ngaio School having access to an additional \$300k to spend over the next 2 years, to accelerate or upgrade projects already planned as part of our 10 Year Property Plan (10YPP) with the Ministry of Education.
- *Volunteers:* The Board would like to thank all the many volunteers who support the school, including the excellent work of the PTA and its supporters. The school would not function without this type of help. We are currently in need of field waterers, pool testers, and road patrol support for next year. If you are able to assist in any way, please contact Helen Shields in the school office.

The Board would like to thank the community and staff for their support of James McMullan this year. His wife Tracy passed away late last month after a long battle with a severe and complex illness. Our thoughts are with James and his daughter, Amber. We are looking forward to seeing James back at school in Term 1.

We would also like to acknowledge the very special contribution of Liz Blackwell to the school over the past 20 years. Liz has accepted a team leader position at Brooklyn School, and we wish her all the very best in this new challenge.

Finally, congratulations to Sarah Simpson for her appointment as Deputy Principal, replacing Amanda Frater.

To all parents, caregivers, teachers and support staff: thank you for your contribution to the School and wishing you all the best over Christmas and the New Year.



Christian Hawkesby, Chair

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On behalf of Clinton Geeves, Estelle Jaine, Mark Palmer, Sarah Simms, Sarah Smart, and Raewyn Watson.