



# Trustee News

## April 2019

Kia ora te whānau

### UPCOMING BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION

As I have mentioned in the past few newsletters, next term the triennial Board of Trustees elections will be held. This is an opportunity for everyone who has children at the school to have a say in the strategic direction of the school.

You can do this in two ways:

- **Put yourself forward as a candidate in the upcoming election.** If elected, you will be part of the board, which will work on behalf of all stakeholders and be accountable for the school's performance.
- **Vote for candidates.** Every person's vote counts so that we can have a board that reflects all of the voices in our school community.

The NZ School Trustees Association will be running an advertising campaign to encourage people to "Step forward for our schools" and nominate themselves for a position on the board of trustees.

To find out more about what the Board does, we have been inviting people to come along to observe a meeting and see the type of work that we do, the topics that we cover and the how meetings are run. It has been great to have some new faces come along to these meetings, but with just one more meeting before the election we have decided to hold a dedicated information evening for interested whanau and community members.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday 2 May at 7:30pm**. We will provide an overview of the governance role that the Board of Trustees carries out for the school, and answer any questions that community members may have.

Following the meeting we will summarise the all questions and answers that came up and circulate that to the full community. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but have have questions that you think we should address, please email me on [chris.montgomerie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:chris.montgomerie@xtra.co.nz) beforehand.

The election process will then follow the dates below:

Call for nominations	Friday 10 May
Nominations close	Noon, Friday 24 May
Voting papers, listing candidates, sent to all school whanau by	Wednesday 29 May
Election day (voting closes)	<b>Noon Friday 7 June</b>
Votes counted by	Thursday 13 June
Board takes office	Friday 14 June
First board meeting for new board	Thursday 20 June

## WHAT THE BOARD DOES

The Board of Trustees is made up of 5 elected representatives, a staff representative and the principal. Elected representatives are usually parents or whanau of children at the school. The board is elected for three years and sets the vision for the school and ensures that it complies with legal and policy requirements so that every child can achieve their potential.

Through our role in strategic planning we have a say in the type of school our kids attend, and the types of learning experiences that they will have. And as representatives of the school community, we ensure that we reflect your aspirations by leading the annual survey on a range of relevant topics every year in term 4.

While the new board will have the freedom to structure itself however it likes, recent Kilbirnie School Boards of Trustees have found it useful for members to hold various portfolios (areas of responsibility where they have professional experience or interest). Previous portfolios have been: Finance, Human Resources, Property and Policy.

We are looking for people who can work well together as a team and who will be able to bring some of the skills and attributes listed below to the table. Obviously no one candidate will have them all, but a balance of many of the attributes will ensure a well-rounded board.

If the new board feels that there is an important professional area missing, it is able to co-opt a member of the community for a specific length of time for a specific purpose.

### **Personal Skills**

- Good communications
- Practical
- Analytical thinkers
- Strategic thinkers
- Leadership skills

### **Job related**

- Knowledge of education
- People management
- Risk management
- Legal
- Financial
- Communications
- Technology

### **Personal Attributes**

- Honesty
- Courage
- Integrity
- Collegiality
- Motivation to improve
- Availability
- Passion for the school
- Interest in education

You can find out more about the role of the Board of Trustees at <https://www.trustee-election.co.nz>

Alternatively please contact any of the current board members directly.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Chris Montgomerie</b>	Chairperson/Property	<b>Tamsin Wilkins</b>	Personnel
<b>Derek Blair</b>	Finance	<b>Jane Lamb</b>	Policy
<b>John Denton</b>	Projects/Education	<b>Lucy Corry</b>	Communications
<b>Tony Austin</b>	Principal	<b>Peter Dobson</b>	Staff representative

Ngā mihi

Chris Montgomerie  
Chair, Board of Trustees