

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Greetings All

What a wonderful summer it has been. I hope that you all found time to enjoy the stunning days and that the rain after the term started was in time to help those of you who are farmers!

Given that for some of you this will be your first newsletter from the Kerikeri High School Board of Trustees a bit of background about the Board, its members, and its function might be helpful.

The Board of Trustees comprises 9 members. There are 6 parent representatives who serve for a three year term. That term will expire around March 2010. In addition the Principal is a trustee together with a staff trustee and a student representative trustee.

The current trustees are as follows:

Lane Ayr (parent representative) – Lane owns Kerikeri Canvas & Shades. He is Chair of the Board's Finance Committee. Together with the members of that Committee he is therefore charged with the unenviable task of cutting the School's cloth to meet the funding it receives. In addition Lane sits on the Property Committee.

Manu Bains (student trustee) – Manu is in Year 13 at the High School and was recently appointed a prefect. Manu's role is to bring a student perspective to the Board table and we look forward to working with her this year.

Haana Barker (parent trustee) – Haana owns Vibra Train in Kerikeri and some of you will be used to her shaking you up on a regular basis. In a bicultural School with a strong recent record of achievement with its Maori students she holds the important role of Maori liaison on the Board.

Wendy Butler (parent trustee) – Together with her husband, Wendy owns well-known local fishing charter business Earl Grey. Wendy is Chair of the Property Committee so has had a huge amount on her plate with the exciting new classroom block development on top of the ongoing property issues that the School needs to address.

Nici Curtis (parent trustee) – Nici is a clinical psychologist working in Kerikeri. She is the Deputy Chair of the Board. Nici is Chair of the Sports Committee and also shares the lead of the Discipline Committee.

Elizabeth Forgie (Principal) – Elizabeth, as Principal of the High School for over 15 years, needs little introduction. She brings a wealth of expertise and experience in education to the Board and is the interface between the Board and the School. In addition to the multitude of roles she undertakes as Principal, as Board member she also sits on both the Finance and Property Committees.

Su Neave (staff trustee) – Su is a well-known teacher in the Maths Department. She is also Dean of the new Year 13 who she has been with since Year 9. Su brings a valuable staff perspective to Board discussions.

Rick Palmer (parent trustee) – Rick is a partner in the law firm Palmer Macauley. He is Chair of the Board. With Nici he leads the Discipline Committee and also works with Elizabeth Forgie in the role of interface between Board and School.

Greg Price (parent trustee) – Greg shares the ownership of the well-known local bakery Kerikeri Bakehouse. He is a member of the Property Committee.

The role of the Board is sometimes a difficult one to grasp, including for Board members! Its role is to govern the School. That means it is involved in setting the strategic direction of the School while the Principal and her Senior Leadership Team are charged with the day-to-day management of the School. If the School was a ship the Board might be involved in setting the destination ports that the ship is to go to. The running of the ship in getting to those ports is the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team.

As part of its responsibility for the governance of the School there are numerous obligations that the Board has to meet which are set by the Education Ministry or by statute. The Board is also looking forward to the results of the recent surveys to get input from parents, staff and students as to the strategic direction the Board will take moving forward.

It was very exciting at our first Board meeting for the year this week to be given the provisional NCEA results for the 2008 year. The Board was delighted to note that taken as a whole there was once again an improvement not only in overall pass rates at Level 1, 2 and 3 but in those passing with either a merit or excellence endorsement as well. Of particular note were the results achieved by last year's Year 12 students (this year's Year 13 students) who had an extremely successful year on all three counts. The School was ahead of its decile comparison schools in the overall pass rates at all NCEA levels.

The collation of the Parent Survey is almost complete and the results will be presented to the next Board meeting. Many thanks to all those who have completed the survey. The Board really does value receiving that input. A paper recording the results of the survey will be prepared and will be available to all.

The Board received an update from Deputy Principal Mike Clent as to the School's Gifted & Talented Programme. Mike is to liaise with the PTA to provide a presentation to parents on the Gifted & Talented policy and there will be an opportunity for parental involvement and feedback at that point.

The Board is also, on a case-by-case basis, either reviewing existing, or formulating new, School policies. It is up to the Senior Leadership Team to create procedures to give effect to those policies. At the last meeting a policy on sponsorship was adopted. Given the funding restraints that the School operates under, sponsorship from the community is always welcome. Sponsorship of one of our top teams allows for use of funds that would otherwise be required for that team to be utilised either for more junior teams within that code or across other sports or activities. The School seeks to give proper recognition to its sponsors realising that there is a significant difference between sponsorship and donation. If you are interested in being involved either as a general sponsor or sponsor of a specific team or group within the School please contact either the Principal or one of the Deputy Principals.

There is no doubt given the economic calamities of the past 6 months that we live in uncertain times. The Board does appreciate that the start of a School year is not cheap with stationery and often new uniform to be paid for, together with course fees. The School donation is, however, crucial to fund much of what the School seeks to offer its students and collectively makes a massive difference to the education environment that we are able to offer the students. A reminder that the School donation is both tax deductible and can also be paid by instalment.

The Board wishes you all a good 2009. The core business of the School is raising student achievement and the Board will continue to work as hard as possible to meet that goal.

Naku noa
The Board