

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Greetings All

Welcome from the Board to 2010. What a stunning summer it has been, provided you are not a farmer! I hope that you all found time to enjoy the holiday period.

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 in May this year when Board elections will be held. In addition the Principal is a Board member 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.

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 deals with new property projects and 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 regularly sits on 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.

Hori Kaa (parent trustee) – Hori works at WINZ and was co-opted onto the Board last year, having also served a previous term on the Board.

Su Neave (staff trustee) – Su is a well-known teacher in the Maths Department and was also Dean of the last year's Year 13. Su brings a valuable staff perspective to Board discussions.

George Otto (student trustee) – George is in Year 13 at the High School. His role is to bring a student perspective to the Board table and we look forward to working with him this year.

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

Greg Price (parent trustee) – Greg shares the ownership of the well-known local bakery Kerikeri Bakehouse.

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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 able to use 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 2009 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.

Looking forward this year the Board wishes to continue a focus on maintaining an improvement of the academic record of our boys while ensuring this is not at the expense of an excellent record with our girls. The Te Kotahitanga programme appears to be improving the record not just of our Maori students but that of our boys as well and the Board will need to fight to ensure that the funding the High School receives to operate this programme is not cut as is currently proposed. The Board also wish to continue a focus on improving communication between all parts of the School community.

We will likely have an ERO inspection in the middle part of the year when the School is independently reviewed by the Education Review Office and that will be a welcome opportunity to get feedback on what we are doing well and whether there are areas that still need further attention.

One of the key Board roles relates to the financial governance of the School. 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.

Congratulations to the newly appointed Prefects for 2010 and to the students honoured with the leading roles within that Prefect group. The School has a talented group of students as leaders to be proud of and who will no doubt lead by example.

The Board wishes you all a good 2010. 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