

8 May 2007

Greetings from the new Board

Your new Board of Trustees thought we would write a short report to you all to introduce ourselves and tell you what has been happening since the election.

Six parents of children at Kerikeri High School were elected to the Board. They are Lane Ayr, Haana Barker, Wendy Butler, Nici Curtis, Rick Palmer and Greg Price. Wendy is the only parent representative continuing on the Board. In addition John Olson returns as Staff Trustee, Ivan Ravlich as the Student Trustee for 2007 and both Elizabeth Forgie and Joan Middlemiss as Principals, who together share one vote on the Board.

At the first Board Meeting held in the first week of term the Board was required to elect a Chairperson from the Parent Representatives. This was difficult given the number of people new to the Board who had little idea of what the job entailed. It was agreed that there would be a Chairperson appointed to the role for the first three meetings and Wendy Butler, who was Chair of the previous Board, kindly agreed to fill that position. This will allow business at the School to continue in an orderly fashion while allowing new members to learn more about the School and the role of the Board and Chair.

Our first meeting was followed quickly by a full day's training with an external consultant to lead us through the roles and responsibilities of the Board. It was, and will continue to be, a steep learning curve for all new Parent Trustees. A key part for the Board to understand is the practical difference between management of the School, which is up to the Principals and Senior Leadership Team, and the governance of the School, which is the responsibility of the Board. One matter that the new Board wishes to address is the community's understanding of the Board's role and that is something you will hear more from us about in the coming months.

An early task for the new Board is to continue the strategic planning process. We will be giving all parents an opportunity to contribute their views on the draft Strategic Plan. We live in challenging times in all sorts of ways and providing a balanced education for our children within the current funding constraints is a prime example of that. However, your Board has a feeling of purpose and energy and we look forward to the challenges ahead. We look forward to the next three years and expect in that time we will see continuing improvements in the School for the benefit of all current and future students.

Naku noa.

The Board