

## **KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2022**

We're a little later than we'd have liked in our first newsletter for the year, but even so, all of us on the Board extend a very warm welcome to all our families and whānau. We have been working together since June 2019 when our three year term began. For those of you new to our school this year, alphabetically we are:

- Wendy Butler (Parent Trustee)
- Jacob Fewtrell (Student Representative)
- Elizabeth Forgie (School Principal)
- Mariaio Hohaia (Parent Trustee)
- Roger Ludbrook (Parent Trustee)
- Chris McLellan (Parent Trustee; Deputy Board Chair)
- Haylee Rhodes (Parent Trustee)
- Sue Richards (Parent Trustee; Board Chair)
- Emma Wise (Staff Trustee)

### **New to the Board table this year**

We've had our first Board meeting but some of us were absent isolating, so our next meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March will hopefully be a full meeting when we will all come together to officially welcome our new Student Representative for 2022, Jacob Fewtrell. The student's voice and presence at the Board table is a welcome and constant reminder of why we are all there – for our children, as we work alongside the Senior Leadership Team and staff to ensure educational success for all.

We will also be welcoming Ngāti Rēhia's representative to the Board table. Over the last 6 years our Board have worked to strengthen what is a very close working relationship with Ngāti Rēhia. In late 2019 we agreed in principle to adopt a permanent seat on our Board for Ngāti Rēhia. At our last meeting in 2021, we drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which is to be signed by both Ngāti Rēhia and the Board at our next meeting.

Our feeling is that with a permanent seat at the Board for Ngāti Rēhia, we will always have our Iwi with us at the table. We are very excited and strongly believe that this will be a sustainable change for us all.

### **Board Survey**

One of our focuses this year will be on our Board survey which is included with this newsletter. It is an open-question style for a reason, it allows for a response so that you can say what you want in your own words. We encourage you all to respond; families & caregivers, students and staff – we want to hear from all of you. You can access the Board Survey by following this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/UScQLUZZkA>

### **Acknowledging our School Leaders**

The Board would like to acknowledge all our staff and our Senior Leadership Team. We are fortunate that our Principal Elizabeth Forgie is a longstanding member of SPANZ (Secondary Principals' Association of New Zealand) in her position as an Executive.

The President is Vaughan Couillault who you may have seen on TV speaking on behalf of SPANZ. In a recent newsletter, he said "*Finally, thanks again for all you are doing to support the COVID response.*"

*The way in which school leaders have remained calm, made well-grounded decisions, been the one-stop-shop in their communities, and joined forces to support colleagues and the collective response cannot be understated. The world appears to create more uncertainty for itself with every passing day, but the reassurance, confidence and humanity demonstrated by leadership is making a difference in the lives of those in your community.”* We agree wholeheartedly with his words, and take this opportunity to confirm that the Board stands behind the School, and the School’s Senior Leadership Team has the Board’s full support in all operational matters.

### **Property and Finance**

The Board incorporates a few sub-committees including our Property Committee who are responsible for major building works and ongoing maintenance. It is important to ensure all our buildings are well looked after, so that we don’t need to replace them any more often than is necessary. Just like any household running a budget on the smell of an oily rag.

Our Finance Committee are always working to ensure that the school operates within budget. We are again expecting this year to be difficult financially with the impact of Covid19 on our International Department. In 2020 we opted into the new Government scheme which means that we will not actively seek donations from families, although of course optional and voluntary additional school activities will still have a cost.

### **Acknowledging our School Community**

As we have often said before, we are very proud of our school, here in the heart of our community, and everyone in our school works hard to ensure that your children will be able to achieve success, in whatever shape that may be for them individually.

We look forward to meeting you during the year.

Hei konā mai and goodbye for now.