

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER, AUGUST 2021

The Board want to extend a huge and heartfelt message of thanks to all our staff, led by Associate Principal Mike Clent while our Principal Elizabeth Forgie is on sabbatical this term. Mike's calm and professional leadership was evident from early Monday morning and continued as events unfolded and in the days afterwards. All the staff worked together to make sure all students were safe, when many of the staff were not aware of the events leading up to the lockdown.

Like our community, the Board was outraged by the recent events which forced the school to go into lockdown. At our regular scheduled meeting two days afterwards, we fully discussed the lockdown and parent feedback. The Board have asked the school for a full report including restricting access, and we will respond to our community afterwards.

The Board were also disappointed with some of the media reports which were factually incorrect and have since been clarified for parents and caregivers with Mike Clent's communications. The school and the Board intend to follow this up with the media group in question. Rumour and hearsay are no help to anyone.

The Board last wrote to our families and whānau in May, and we talked about our students' success and wellbeing which are always at the heart of everything the Board does, just as they are for our staff. We spoke then to endorse the words of the school around vaping and bullying, neither of which are acceptable at Kerikeri High School. We noted then that as a result of several incidents involving drug dealing, intimidation and threats of violence, the Board had taken a strong stance and expelled or excluded five students. We continue to take a hard line. Submissions on the survey on the school's Bullying Prevention Policy have closed and we are now in the process of reviewing the responses.

We talk often of community here at Kerikeri High School. To our whanau and friends and the wider community; we acknowledge and thank you for your contribution to our school which is vital as we are all working together for the same goal. We continue to have significant support from families of children at our school and also our extended community. We all play a crucial part in raising our young people and setting expectations around behaviours and standards.

We welcome your feedback, whether that's in person or in writing. The Board email inbox is monitored by the parent elected Trustees; we are not employees of the school and are engaged in our own businesses during the day, so it will be a few days before we can respond.

Hei konā mai and goodbye for now.

Sue Richards (Parent Trustee; Board Chair)
Wendy Butler (Parent Trustee)
Mariao Hohaia (Parent Trustee)
Axel Mabidikama (Student Representative)
Emma Wise (Staff Trustee)

Elizabeth Forgie (School Principal)
Chris McLellan (Parent Trustee; Deputy Board Chair)
Roger Ludbrook (Parent Trustee)
Haylee Rhodes (Parent Trustee)