



Ellerslie School

EST 1877

"To be the best we can be."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

April 2019

WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Kia ora koutou, as always, we have had a flying start to 2019 and seemingly overnight we're nearly at the end of term one.

Principal Recruitment Process

As you are aware, Lisa Harland resigned as Principal of Ellerslie School earlier this term. The process to recruit a new principal is now well underway. Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete the survey and provide your perspective on the qualities that you would like to see in our new principal.

Key dates for the recruitment process are:

15th April - applications close

18th May - interviews concluded

Week beginning 20th May - public announcement of appointment

School Trustee Elections

Later this year the triennial elections for positions on the Board of Trustees will take place. There are five elected trustee positions available on the Ellerslie School Board. The role of a School Board is one of governance and oversight. The Board does not get involved in the day to day management and running of the school. Rather, the role of the Board is to ensure that every student at the school is able to attain his or her highest possible standard in educational achievement.

Essentially this means the board is tasked to:

- Establish the purpose of the school as set out in the **charter**;
- **Allocate funds and resources and approve spending** to enable the implementation of the charter goals;
- **Establish the schools identity** in the community and ensure that consultation takes place;
- **Report** to the government and the school community;
- Ensure that all **legislative requirements are met**.

Further details on the nomination and election process will be sent out closer to the elections. Enjoy the upcoming school holiday break and travel safely if you are heading out of town.

Rebecca

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION CONVERSATION



As part of the national Education Conversation (Kōrero Mātauranga), the Government is reviewing Tomorrow's Schools – the name given to the reforms that changed the governance, management and administration of our schools nearly 30 years ago. An Independent Taskforce has been appointed to lead the review and report back to the Minister of Education in November

2018. The report will establish any case for change, and the recommendations will lay the groundwork for more detailed policy work which will lead to further consultation with stakeholders in 2019.

The Independent Taskforce's report: [Our Schooling Futures, Stronger Together | Whiria Ngā Kura Tūātinini](#) has now been released for public consultation. There are 32 recommendations over the 8 key issues: Governance, Schooling Provision, Choice and Competition, Disability and Learning Support, Teaching, School Leadership, Resourcing and Central Agencies. There are multiple ways to [have your say via the website](#), there have also been meetings for the public, leaders and teachers during Term 1 2019. The Taskforce will report back to the Minister on the 30 April 2019.

BOARD of TRUSTEES ELECTIONS: 2019

Both parents and people from throughout the wider community can be school trustees. It is important that boards represent the diversity of their school communicates to ensure a bright future for all our children. The trustee elections give parents of children at state and state-integrated schools the opportunity to vote for candidates who will make a positive difference for

all students at their schools. It is an important responsibility, and all eligible parents should use their vote in an informed way. Our Ellerslie School elections will be held on June 7th 2019 and the school will need five parent/community representatives to be elected, there is no limitation to nominations.



If you are interested in learning more about the role an elected member plays on a Board of Trustees [click here](#). More detail around the election process and specific dates for Ellerslie School will be sent out in Term 2.



OUR CHARTER 2019

Ellerslie School Strategic Direction

Each year, one of the Board's key functions is to evaluate and determine Ellerslie School's strategic direction in the short, medium and long-term future. Every state school in New Zealand is required to produce a charter. The charter is the key planning document that sets out a school's objectives and targets. It guides teaching and learning programmes, and the activities of the school.

The Board and the senior leadership team carry out strategic planning over the course of each year. The fast pace of change in these times makes foreseeing beyond the medium term extremely difficult, so increasingly the Board's focus has been on ensuring that it has the skills and networks to sense what lies ahead and to adjust the strategic direction to respond to changing circumstances.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the 2018 survey's that the Leadership Team sent out. The information we gathered has informed the strategic thinking process and has directly impacted on the priorities and number of the changes that you have already seen implemented. The 2019 Ellerslie School Charter was sent to the Ministry of Education on the 1st of March and will be shared with the wider school community, once we have received confirmation of its receipt from the MOE.

Student Achievement: 2018

One of the first tasks of the Board this year was to review student achievement data from 2018 with the leadership team, with the goal of ensuring a thorough analysis and identification of next steps. These discussions contribute to the strategic planning for the 2019, and allow us to assess the allocation of resources and professional development for the next 12 - 18 months for leaders and teachers.

The table below is a simple breakdown of the number of students AT or ABOVE in reading, writing and math from the last few years. This is the information that is required by the Ministry of Education.

At and above expected curriculum level results: whole school

	CURRICULUM LEVEL		NATIONAL STANDARDS			
	2018		2017		2016	
	%	No. of students	%	No. of students	%	No. of students
READING	91%	653 / 715	83.7%	539/ 644	86.4%	559 / 647
WRITING	81.6%	585/ 715	83.8%	540/ 644	84.8%	549/ 647
MATHS	90.9%	648/ 715	88.2%	568/ 644	85.3%	552/ 647

Ellerslie School remains well above the national averages and is a reflection of the high quality teaching and learning programmes and continued support from our engaged school community. From the Board's perspective, an important outcome of this analysis of the data is to identify those children who need more support to reach their potential. We would like to acknowledge the excellent efforts of our senior leadership team, teachers and support staff in helping our children to achieve their personal excellence.



BEING CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AS A BOARD

At the end of 2018 Māori and Pasifika parents were surveyed as part of the management team's yearly processes, this is only one of the many ways the team ensures they are meeting the needs of our students. The survey was created with both multiple choice and long answer questions based around Tātaiako - Cultural

Competencies for Teachers of Māori Learners (Education Council/Ministry of Education).

Out of the families that responded 80% of Māori and Pasifika parents felt welcomed at Ellerslie School and over 90% of the respondents felt their perspective and values were accepted. The survey also showed that Ellerslie School staff demonstrated a strength in students learning how to respect different viewpoints and ways of doing things. Respondents also thought that our teachers link what they teach to things children can relate to, including aspects of different cultures and backgrounds in the learning programmes. Many survey respondents spoke highly of the Cultural Day of 2018 and mentioned other opportunities the children have had to express their culture and cultures of others. There was a real support to celebrate many different cultures through language, social awareness and the arts.

Overall, this survey demonstrates an improvement in feedback from the 2017 survey. In general, Māori/Pasifika parents and caregivers felt that their cultural diversity is better acknowledged, valued and respected by Ellerslie School. There was acknowledgement that current teaching practice, as well as, whole school activities are continuing to improve and support our school's cultural diversity.

The two main themes that arose as next steps are communication and the use of Te Reo Māori. Whilst it was clear that home/school communication has improved, parents and caregivers would like to further strengthen communication with teachers, particularly in regards to their child's progress and attainment. The use of Te Reo Māori continues to be a focus for our families, particularly in regards to correct pronunciation and frequency of use. This survey is being used as part of the Boards 2019 [Hautū Review](#).

PROPERTY

As the end of the term is upon us, the school wants to remind the community that over the holidays there are several projects happening on the school site. Starting on Monday 15 April, contractors will be:

- Demolishing the 2 old classrooms next to the Innovation Pod (STEAM)
- Building a new middle school playground
- Locating of 4 new 'preloc classrooms' down the fence line of the field
- Repairing the decks and nosing along the front of the main building
- Constructing new shade sails outside Miro Pod
- Carrying out normal holiday maintenance

While all the necessary health and safety requirements have been organised and implemented, we do request that unless students are coming to the holiday programme, (located at the field end of the new building downstairs in Rata Pod 1), then it would be preferable if all other students and families keep away from school during this holiday time. Thank you for your cooperation during this process.

Nick Butler

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Board have many policies and procedures as part of the effective governance processes. You can find the most commonly requested forms on the Ellerslie School website under the [Forms and Information](#) section.

For other policies you require please request these via email: board@ellerslie.school.nz.

DONATIONS

The contributions made to the school through the various fundraising initiatives, many of which have become regular fixtures in the school calendar. Funding from donations and the additional income we receive through fundraising efforts really does make significant difference to the overall financial position of the school and allows us to ensure that the school is as well-resourced as possible. We are also very grateful for the contribution of time from many people in our community. Remember school donations are tax deductible, so please keep your receipt safe if you wish to claim a tax rebate.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETINGS

The next Ellerslie School Board of Trustees meeting is 6:30pm, Monday 6th May 2019. These are public meetings. If you wish to raise an item at this meeting, please contact Rebecca our Chair prior to the meeting. Email: board@ellerslie.school.nz

BOARD MEMBERS 2019

Chair and Finance:	Rebecca Chenery
Dept. Chair and Policy:	Jennifer Perry
Property:	Andrew Buchanan
Principal:	Lisa Harland
Human Resources:	Catherine Murray
Staff Rep & Health and Safety:	Katie Dwyer
Communication, Cultural Responsiveness and Kahui Ako liaison:	Jacque Allen

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