



Ellerslie School

EST 1877

"To be the best we can be."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

March 2021

WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome back to all our students and whanau for 2021. It has definitely been an on again, off again start to the year and it feels as though we are only now getting back into the swing of school life properly as we come towards the end of the term.

With the disruptive start to the year with two lockdowns, it has once again put the spotlight back on online learning and I continue to be proud of how the school has been very quick with communications and the standing up of online learning. Unfortunately, the more times we have to do this, the more opportunity you have to make this process succinct. The school's leadership, teachers, teacher aides and support staff continue to do an amazing job in this space and as a board we want to thank them all for how they have reacted to this situation. This continues to be impressive in the context that our staff also have to balance their own lockdown situations as well.

This year is shaping up as an exciting one. With the dust settling on the impacts of Covid-19, there will continue to be a lot of focus on attainment of educational goals for our Tamariki. The Covid lockdowns have clearly been disruptive for a number of our Whanau and the leadership team have been working with the board on the impacts of this and how we continue to improve student achievement. We will continue to work on the finalization of the schools masterplan for property and work towards starting work on a new classroom block, whilst continuing work that has been allocated for the school investment package grant the school has received from the government.

PROPERTY

We continue to work with the Ministry of Education to confirm a design for the school's masterplan. A draft design has been developed. Engineering and land inspections of the school have been undertaken with the next steps being a more detailed design of the plan to be presented to the board by the consulting engineers.

Whilst this process is being undertaken we continue to work toward further investment in the school infrastructure and property and you will be starting to see more work underway. This will include the following:

- A new 18m x 35m basketball / netball court. This is currently out for quotes, but we are expecting this project to get underway ahead of the upcoming netball season. The court will be located at the back of the school behind the current portacoms.
- The current heritage block is being remodelled to create an additional two breakout spaces for teachers and our students. This will be important to be able to provide additional flexibility for the wide variety of learning needs across our children and teachers.
- The 24 classroom block is aiming to create eight new breakout spaces, which is again aimed at providing more flexibility for the learning needs of our students. There will also be four new folding doors between pod spaces, which is designed to decrease the amount of noise between each of the pods.

FAREWELL CATHERINE MURRAY AND FOUAD EL-CHIKANI

It is with sadness that we farewell both Catherine Murray and Fouad El-Chikani from the school board. Catherine has been on the board for the last four years and in that time has been heavily involved in several changes through her role leading the Human Resources portfolio. In that time there has been the hiring of Nick, Kate and Mark, three key leadership roles. These are very key leadership roles that have a huge impact on the performance of the school and Catherine's experience has brought great rigor to these processes. Catherine has also provided excellent continuity between the change from the old and new boards, with now being a good time for her to step back and allow some new blood to join the board.

Fouad was co-opted on to the board just under 18 months ago to utilise his vast property experience to complement the rest of the board's mix of skills. In that time Fouad has brought both passion and great operational and strategic structure to how the property portfolio is operating and leaves this in a good state as we move forward with the masterplan and a big year of movement in property.

Ellerslie School Board of Trustees By-Election

Nominations are now being invited for the election of one parent representative to join the Board of Trustees. Standing for election to the Board of Trustees is a great way to get involved in supporting the education of all the students at Ellerslie School. A nomination form and a notice calling for nominations has been sent to all eligible voters. You can also go to the election website if you are interested in becoming a candidate. <https://ellerslie.boardelections.nz/>. The election schedule is:

- Nominations start Friday, March 19th, 2021, 12:00pm
- Nominations close Friday, April 9th, 2021, 12:00pm
- Voting starts Wednesday, April 14th, 2021, 12:00pm
- Voting closes Wednesday, May 12th, 2021, 4:00pm
- Results due Tuesday, May 18th, 2021, 1:00pm

If you would like to know more details of the role Boards play in New Zealand state school please refer to the Ministry of Education website [here](#).

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Board has 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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETINGS

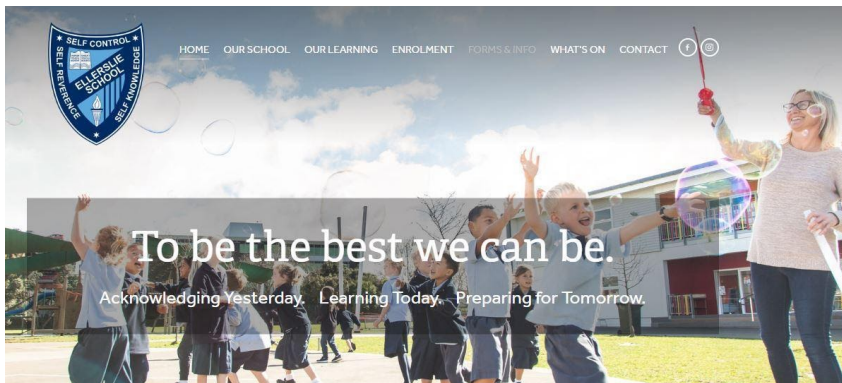
The next Ellerslie School Board of Trustees meeting is Monday 17 May, 2021. These are public meetings. If you wish to raise an item at this meeting, please contact Rebecca our Chair prior to the meeting. Email: board@ellerslie.school.nz

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rebecca Chenery – Chair
Shelley Bardsley – Staff Representative and Health & Safety
Nick Butler - Principal
Fiona Dow – Cultural Responsiveness
Dipak Govind – Finance
Grant McKendry - Human Resources

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