



# Ellerslie School

EST 1877

*"To be the best we can be."*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

**December 2021**

### **WORD FROM THE CHAIR**

As we enter the last week of the year, on behalf of the board, I wanted to pass on gratitude to management, teachers, support staff, students and our wider whanau in the Ellerslie community. Although we have had lots of practice in being in lockdown, the last four months have certainly provided a number of challenges for everyone concerned. As a Board we continue to be proud at how the school's leadership and staff have handled all the changes that have been thrown at them, particularly in light of the changing health and legislative environment. Quite often the leadership team and teachers are dealing with implementation of these changes based on information that has only come to hand in the previous days, often having to interpret the guidance given. They have done an amazing job in difficult circumstances, whilst balancing their own home situations.

I would also like to acknowledge our wider whanau, who have sacrificed a lot to keep our tamariki able to keep doing their schoolwork, often balancing other priorities at home. The last four months has been longer than expected and the balance of work, schooling and lockdown has been very demanding, but we appreciate the effort put in to keep our students learning. I think it was a relief to most when the option of coming back to school was finally available.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge our resilient tamariki, who have continued to do their best throughout the lockdown. Not being able to see friends and teachers has been hard, but coming back to school has been a great opportunity to reconnect, learn and just have fun. It is a new way of learning and the students have been able to adapt and show resilience beyond their years. Even with split classes and activities being cancelled the students have been showing up everyday with energy, smiles on their faces and wanting to be at school.

With school finishing this week and the borders opening on 15 December I wanted to wish everybody a well deserved break and a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. I look forward to the 2022 new school year providing some more normality and certainty for everybody.

## PROPERTY

We continue to make progress on the design of the new 12 class building. The Property sub-committee have been out looking at other schools who have recently had new classroom blocks built, looking at the design, what works and the challenges associated with new builds. Design options are currently being reviewed, with the aim of being able to present these back to the school community early in the year ahead of construction getting underway.

Whilst the classroom block is the biggest project in progress, we continue to make investment in the school infrastructure and property. Projects that have either started or will be getting underway include:

- A new 33m x 35m basketball / netball court. The size and location of this project has changed with the courts increasing in size to two and will now be located at the back of the fields by the senior playground
- The demolition of the hall and music room wall remediation. This project is currently going through the consenting process and looking at a start in the new year. The use of the space going forward is still to be decided
- The heritage block toilets are being refurbished, with this work being completed over the Christmas holidays

## BOARD ELECTIONS 2022

The triennial board election will be held next year between 5 September and 23 September 2022. This has been changed from May 2022 due to interruptions caused by the pandemic. If you are interested in running for the Board please keep an eye out for more information in Term 1 or you can head to [Board election information](#). In 2022 Board elections will also include provision for electronic voting.

## 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](mailto:board@ellerslie.school.nz).

## DONATIONS

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.

Given the challenges of this year, the board has decided the right thing to do is keep donations for 2022 at the same level as 2021 donations. 2022 donations will be \$340 per child, to a maximum of two children per family.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETINGS

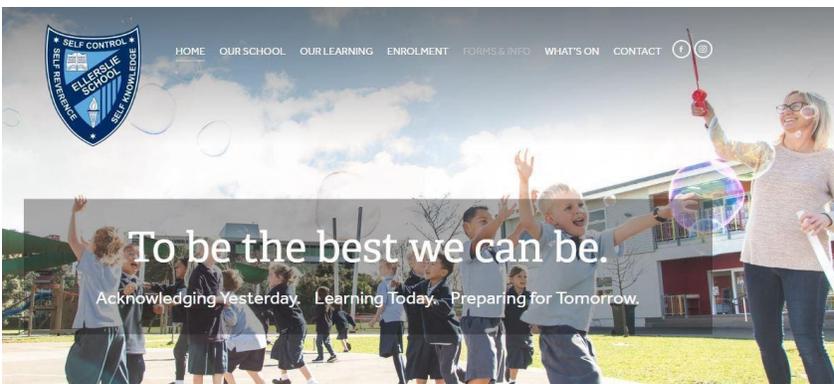
The next Ellerslie School Board of Trustees meeting is Monday 22 February, 2022. These are public meetings. If you wish to raise an item at this meeting, please contact Rebecca our Presiding Member prior to the meeting. Email: [board@ellerslie.school.nz](mailto:board@ellerslie.school.nz)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rebecca Chenery – Presiding Member  
Shelley Bardsley – Staff Representative and Health & Safety  
Nick Butler - Principal  
Fiona Dow – Cultural Responsiveness  
Dipak Govind – Finance/Property  
Ben Green - Property  
Grant McKendry - Human Resources/Communications/Policies

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