



Board Talk

Term 3, 2019

Kia ora and welcome to the first 2019 update from the new Governors Bay School – Te Kura ō Ōhinetahi Board of Trustees (BoT). This newsletter works in parallel with the published BoT agendas and minutes on the school website, to keep you up to date with what we are working on.

Introduction of the new members of the BoT

Following the recent BoT election process there have been three new parent trustees appointed to the board. Judy Cooke as Principal and Liza Rossie as Staff Representative still continue on the board. Please find below their introductions.

Sally-Ann Fitzhardinge (Board Chairperson)

We have lived in New Zealand for the past five years and now call Governors Bay home. I am passionate about ensuring each and every child gets the best opportunity to learn and grow within our community. Professionally, I am also very lucky to be able to work close to home just down the road at Cholmondeley Children's Centre. I have 15 years' experience working in Marketing and Communication for a number of corporate organisations both here in New Zealand and Australia.

Terry White

After many years of travelling, we returned to NZ to raise our young family. Having grown up in Christchurch, I knew of Governors Bay, and its stunning location appealed to us when choosing where to "settle down". We didn't realise just how right our choice was until we were able to move here and get to know the community and amazing school at its centre.

The recent opportunity to become a member of the new BoT, was too good to pass up. With one little Tui already loving her days of learning and another just a year away, I saw this as a chance to become more involved in the community and hopefully make a difference in some small way behind the scenes.

I look forward to getting to know more of our community and watching our kids, and school, grow over the coming years.

Simon Collins

I am a Governors Bay local with two young children. The oldest attends Governors Bay School.

My work history as a Management Consultant, Chief Operating Officer and Managing Partner has provided me with a range of experiences in many different organisations. I am hoping to support our school's great executive and teaching team through strong decision making support, insight into planning, strategy, and management.

I also serve on the Executive Board of Eat New Zealand. A national collective of food growers and producers, hospitality and tourism operators working to bridge the gap between New Zealand's Food and Beverage and Tourism industries.

In order to work effectively the BoT rely on your support and feedback. Throughout the year we may ask you for your feedback on our school policies and procedures (SchoolDocs), our curriculum direction and our communication strategies. Your voice is crucial in providing us with the information we need to make informed decisions for our school. We highly value and appreciate your feedback and look forward to hearing from you in 2019 and beyond.

Our Initial Focus

We have been very fortunate as a new Board to continue to be supported where needed from those that have recently left the board. So firstly thank you to you all and we really appreciate the ongoing support as we come up to speed on the year to date. Coming in as a Board halfway through the year will allow us to spend some time becoming more familiar with our roles as Board members and ensure we continue to drive towards the strategic vision that is currently in place and ensure each and every child is given the opportunity and support they need. We are also coming in mid way through the exciting school build which is definitely well and truly underway and whilst a large amount of the key decisions have been made, we are all keen to ensure it stays true to its initial scope and timelines. We again are grateful for the support the previous board members provide which is invaluable during this time. This is definitely an exciting time to be part of the board.

Building Update

As you can all see each day, the school building project is coming along nicely. It is still very much on track for completion. The school is very lucky to be working with a team who are able to ensure that we keep our children's safety a priority. They have been accommodating and worked with Judy so she and her team can continue to put the needs of the children within the school first as well as ensuring there is as minimal disruption as possible. Unlike most construction sites, the direction can change depending on class and/or children's needs and recently changes have been made to the order of construction to ensure this continues - however this does not impact the overall timing and delivery. Please continue to support the teachers and children by ensuring safety notices and boundaries are being adhered to.

Number of Board Members

You may have noticed that only three Parent Trustees have replaced the previous five parent Trustees which make up the Board of Trustees along with the Principal and Staff representative. This is due to only three successful nominations been put forward. As a smaller sized school this will still provide excellent coverage for the effective governance of our school and believe will be a more appropriate size of Board for our school.

We do however value the feedback of the wider school community on the topic to move forward with only three representatives.

Please take a moment to complete the following survey to put forward your voice as to whether three or five parent representatives is suitable for our school size. It is important to note that once community consultation is complete by way of the survey we will move forward with the general consensus at our next board meeting which is due to be held on 23rd September. Please bear in mind if you are indicating that our school should continue to operate with five parent representatives we need to recruit two more representatives, and to date have not been able to fill these positions, if a preference of three representatives is the way forward, then this will be a permanent decision and we will lodge our change with the New Zealand School Trustees Associations, this can be changed at a later date if our school grows or we feel more appropriate governance would be achieved by increasing our numbers. If you have any questions or interest in joining the board please feel free to contact me to discuss further. Further information can be found [here](#) in regards to the number of parent trustees.

[Survey Link](#)

Our Board agendas and minutes can be accessed on the [website](#).

Kind regards,
Nga mihi nui,

Sally-Ann Fitzhardinge
Board Chairperson