

# **BOARD OF TRUSTEES TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS**

## **How about becoming a trustee and using your skills and experiences to help shape a positive future for our children?**

*"Board members are entrusted by the community to ensure the success of our schools and a bright future for our children. We need an education system where all children are expected to succeed and one where we all take shared responsibility in ensuring this happens. As a member of a school board you can make things happen - you can make a difference."*

**- Lorraine Kerr, NZSTA President**

## **What do trustees do?**

- Work with the principal and consult with staff, students and the community
- Set the educational goals and strategic direction of the school
- Monitor progress and inform parents on how the school is progressing against its annual targets and on the development of the students
- Decide how the school's funding will be spent
- Select the school's principal and support the development of all staff
- Ensure the school is a physically and emotionally safe place for all students and staff, and is inclusive of and caters for students with differing needs
- Oversee the management of staff, property, finances, curriculum and administration.

## **What sort of skills do trustees need?**

Trustees are active leaders in their schools and need a balance of skills and experiences. They need to work well in a team, be able to put plans in place for the school's future, ask challenging questions and have good communication skills. It helps to have strong links to one or several of the school's communities, as well as an understanding of financial matters and the education sector, and experience in managing people.

## **What are the roles within the board?**

### **Parent representatives**

- represent the parent community. They do not necessarily need to be parents of current students at the school/kura, but must be nominated by someone who is on the school/kura's electoral roll
- ensure the best possible outcomes for all students at the school/kura

### **Board chair**

- cannot be the principal, staff/student representative
- leads the board
- chairs the meetings
- works closely with the principal to ensure seamless communication between governance and management

### **Principal**

- is a full member of the board
- is the educational professional leader of the school/kura
- is the CEO and the board's chief adviser

### **Staff representative**

- is elected by the staff (teaching and non-teaching)

- is not a staff advocate (they must make decisions in the best interests of all students at the school/kura using all the information available)

#### **Student representative**

- is not a student advocate (they make decisions in the best interests of all students at the school/kura, using all the information available)

#### **Co-opted trustees**

- provide the board with specific expertise – eg. finance, strategy, gender or ethnic balance Proprietor's appointees
- are appointed by the school's proprietors or by bodies corporate which have been approved by the board for this purpose

#### **Proprietor's appointees**

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## **What does the work of the board look like?**

Boards of trustees' key areas of contribution are representation, leadership, accountability, and the employer role. For more details about what the work of the board looks like view the information online at <http://www.nzsta.org.nz>

#### **Accountability**

Student progress and achievement, review, financial monitoring, resource management

#### **Leadership**

Governance model, clear purpose, roles and responsibilities, effective meetings, relationships

#### **Employer role**

Good employer, performance management system, effective relationships, health and safety, recruitment

#### **Representation**

Community consultation and engagement, board consultation, trust and relationships

## **How do I become a trustee?**

There should be information about who is on the board and how to make contact on your school's website. You can also ask your school about going along to a board meeting to see how it works. The board chair or any other board member can also answer questions about what the board does. Contact your school if you want to find out about standing for election, nominating someone else or voting in the election.

For more information or to lodge an expression of interest please email [board@darghigh.school.nz](mailto:board@darghigh.school.nz) OR phone Alana at the school office on 09 439 7229 OR approach any one of our current board members, they will be happy to help!



Back row: Brenden Nathan, Wini Froid, Charlie Pirini, Neil Hopkins  
 Front row: Mike Houghton, Kim McCahon, Shirley Baume, Kyah Suckling  
 Absent: Tracy Holster