

## Update June 2017 (2)

### Board vacancy

Edward Cox, a parent-elected trustee, has resigned from the Wilford School board, having served as secretary from June 2013. The Board is very grateful for Edward's contribution to the school as trustee.

The Board has decided to fill the vacancy created by Edward's resignation "by selection", rather than another by-election, but the Education Act requires the board to hold an election if, within 28 days of notice being given, "at least 10% of the people entitled to vote in an election for trustees advises the board, in writing, that they wish the vacancy to be filled by an election" (s105).

### Ngā Puāwai

At its meeting this week the Board reviewed progress in development of oral skills, reading and writing in our Te Reo immersion unit, Ngā Puāwai. We congratulate the staff on the hard work that has led a significant improvement since the end of last year against the Māori-medium national standards, Ngā Whanaketanga

### Equity policy for consultation

The draft Equity policy is now available on the school's website for any comment from members of the school community before it is finalised at the meeting of the Board on 24 July.

### Limited Statutory Manager

As mentioned in our last update, the Ministry of Education has appointed Keriana Tawhiwhirangi as a Limited Statutory Manager (**LSM**) to Wilford School. Some parents have asked for more detail regarding the LSM appointment.

As an LSM, Keriana assumes Board of Trustees' powers, duties and functions in relation to employment, curriculum management (including student achievement, teaching and assessment) and policies and procedures. She will also give communication advice to the Board.

The Board hopes Keriana's appointment as LSM will enable the school to address our key issues (below) more quickly than the Board could without her assistance. Keriana brings with her a wealth of experience, having been a principal, an LSM and a commissioner, helping other schools overcome their challenges. Keriana is also the current Commissioner for Petone Central School.

#### Why did this happen?

As you may know, the Ministry appointed Keriana as a Specialist Adviser to our school in December 2016, following a request by the Board of Trustees. We sought that appointment so we could get the benefit of Keriana's advice how to address our key priorities. They are strengthening our professional leadership and teamwork, get closer tracking and support for individual students' progress in literacy and numeracy, and to resolve the very real issues we have in developing Ngā Puāwai.

## **The Specialist Adviser's Scoping Report**

As Specialist Adviser, Keriana prepared a Scoping Report describing what she found on her appointment. She identified the key issues facing the school as leadership and student achievement (data analysis). Within those issues, Keriana identified communication, accountability and responsibility for both the Board of Trustees and the Principal as areas of concern.

Keriana expressed particular concern about issues facing Ngā Puāwai and the lack of support provided to it in 2016. She identified the key need for intervention by the Ministry (in whatever form it took) is to step up the urgency for improvement in the areas the board had identified.

On 20 March 2017 the board adopted a rapid response plan for Ngā Puāwai, a key feature of which was immediate employment of additional staff. Koka Aio was appointed as a result.

## **What does an LSM mean for our school?**

Keriana will be working closely with the Board and our Principal to ensure that demonstrable improvement in the key areas is achieved. Her ability to exercise the functions and powers of the board in those areas will mean decisions can be made more quickly and with the benefit of her experience and leadership skills. She will work collaboratively with the Board and Principal but will have the ultimate say in the areas vested in her.

The Board looks forward to working with Keriana to strengthen our school. This intervention will end when the Ministry considers sufficient progress on the key issues has been made, in order to return the school to self-governance.

A key strategic goal for the Board has been to obtain a positive ERO review, and so move to a three -year review cycle, rather than the current one to two year period. We will be discussing the timing of our next review with

ERO to ensure the benefit of the LSM appointment has been achieved by then.

## **Questions about this appointment?**

Parents and whanau may have queries about this appointment and what it means for our school. We welcome those questions. Please feel free to contact me on 021 371 205, or any trustee if you have questions about the Board's priorities, the Scoping Report, and/or this appointment.

Ced Simpson  
Chair, Wilford School Board of Trustees

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<p><b>Trustees:</b> Ced Simpson (Chair), Emeli Sione, Neil Sargisson (principal), Nick Edwards, Sarah Mataiti, Vaughan Smith (staff-elected)</p>
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