



Wadestown School

Board Members

Amanda Frater
Amy Maddock
Alistair Rumball- Smith
Fazleen Ismail
Genevieve Hancock
Huia Forbes
Mark Crofskey

News from the Board – December 2020

Hi mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa

Here is an update on some of the things coming up that will impact the governance of the School. What an interesting year it has been - but like everything - 2020 is drawing to a close and being that time of year again we would also like to make some thank-you's and, of course, to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday period with your families and loved ones (as well as, hopefully, some good weather)!

Consultation on our strategic plan will be ongoing over the summer break

Are you worried that you will suffer withdrawal symptoms from business, strategy and public policy planning sessions over your summer break? Never fear – the Board will be meeting this need with online surveys over the next few months to prepare our School's strategic plan for formal community consultation.

A review of our Strategic Plan is a regulatory requirement.

Our Board is of the view that our strategic plan has guided the school very well and, without pre-judging any views of the community, is especially keen to carefully adapt the current plan to expressly embrace even more inclusivity at our wonderful school while continuing the School's outstanding record of providing excellent academic, sporting and other educational outcomes.

We welcome any input from any parents or caregivers regarding what educational outcomes or values ought to be prioritised over and above what is set out in the Act and on how school resources ought accordingly, be allocated. We look forward to acting on those views and adapting the strategic plan as a result. As examples, we have had suggestions already on further increasing resourcing of music, Te Reo, climate change science, speech and drama and STEM subjects. Amanda has already begun to capture some of our student's views - and working with our teaching staff, and following further consultation events and methods we hope to have a near final plan in place by Easter – please get involved!

The current strategic plan is on the school website. Any comments can be sent to board@wadestown.school.nz and please also feel free to get in touch with any Board Member to discuss.

Mark Crofskey	027 6446585
Huia Forbes	020 41473822
Genevieve Hancock	021 408255
Fazleen Ismail	021 1206425
Alistair Rumball-Smith	027 5481882

Working towards on-site after and pre-school hours care at Wadestown School

The Board has resolved to investigate the putting into place, subject to the myriad of practicalities involved, a first-class on-site after and pre-school care programme to better meet the changing needs of our students and their families. Any offering resulting from this mahi will be commissioned by the School, be on a user-pays basis, be operated at arm's length to Wadestown School and will be rolled out in a staged and careful way. The Board's first obligation is, of course, to oversee an effective and successful School: accordingly our efforts in this regard and the programme itself will be subordinate to, and not adversely impact on the operation of the School, nor

interfere with the teaching practice of the Staff - we are however fortunate that certain factors mean that threading that particular needle should be very possible at our School - or at least that is what we hope.

The Board is also mindful of the existing after school care eco-system and we will be treading lightly as Wadestown School investigates putting in place its own offering.

Our initial draft/"kick around" operating model envisages care being provided at the Main School for students of all ages.

If anyone would like to help with this project please get in touch at board@wadestown.school.nz.

Property Update

The property projects at school are steaming ahead. At Rose St, the "nature play" area near the top of the school is scheduled for January and the new playground is scheduled for installation in February. The board is working to finalise the details for the new astro-turf and sports areas and installation of these is planned shortly after the new playground. We will be working further with staff and with students about their preferred use of sporting areas before the details are finalised.

The investigation and scoping work for the refurbishment of the Rata block is underway. This is a large project requiring extensive engineering, roofing and architectural investigations.

The building of the new external walkway between the upper and lower parts of the school has started. This is another large job that will continue throughout the holidays and into February.

Work already completed at Weld St includes the new fence and the new lines on the asphalt. Planter boxes are planned for Weld St and we hope these can be installed early in 2021.

Thanks

While none of the following is exactly news – well some might be – we would like to thank the many members of the community who continue to do so much, for no reward, to make the School the treasure that it is.

Thanks to those who stand outside in all weathers (mainly in rain) on gate duty at the side school: the dedicated group of parents who organised the PTA's parent P party: the parents who provide baking and catering for our school events and in particular parents like Katie and Kirsty who do so year in and year out: the staff, parents and students who help in all weathers (again mainly in rain) with pre-and after school traffic safety: the PTA leadership and exec who work diligently to raise money for the School and build community: the PTA class co-ordinators: the staff and parents who took our kids to camps and overnight zoo stays: all of those who worked at and contributed to our school working bees and in particular Malcolm - who manages all of that beautifully and the truly lovely people at Aspen Landscapes who support us - year after year: the parents who bought the science garden into being: the parents (and especially Gen) helping with our property projects : our student leaders: our relief teacher community, whose (paid hours to one side) willingness to be part of a stand-by team available at short notice provide the School with such amazing and reliable support, the yearbook team and in particular Victoria and Larissa, the parents who helped with the Sallybration events: the whanau group, our various sponsors, the year seven parents who took up their turn to organise the leavers' dinner: parents who accompanied our kids on their various field trips and sporting events: the parents who participated in our Board selection process as electors and candidates – particularly the candidates Matthew, Chris, Beth, Tania and our new member Alistair, our supervisor for that process David McGee QC, our neighbours who cheerfully put up with the numerous unavoidable downsides of living near a school, Neil and Sally for their past contribution and continued support of the school, our videographer Steve Douche and the parents who helped with set building and costumes for our covid year production, the parents who donate their professional services to the school whether it be building, architecture or arborist advice/work - to all of these **and to all of those who have done things for the school without even so much as a specific mention in a board newsletter due to accidental oversight!** – from the bottom of our hearts - **thank you**. Nothing we can say as a Board can repay your generosity but e iti noa ana naa te aroha!

Thank you to our suppliers and the cleaning contractors who keep our school in great shape and our friends and colleagues at the MoE/Te Tāhuhu o Te Mātauranga for all of their work on our behalf.

Our teaching and admin/support staff continue to provide excellent opportunities for our rangatahi. In a year marked by unprecedented disruption they delivered an educational year where it is difficult now for us to see the adverse effects of Covid – except perhaps on themselves and their own families and we acknowledge here the extra effort and sacrifice put into making 2020 work. **In fact looking at various changes this year it is easy to overlook the fact that the most important transitions at school are those experienced by our kids - whether it be them starting school in Year One, moving to the Main School, and preparing to leave school and all of the less marked but equally important milestones in their school lives. It is a testament to our Staff that, in addition to what has been done at home, those important journeys for our kids have been safeguarded and enhanced by their skill and hard work!**

We would also like to acknowledge Ian whose calm and insightful leadership and great sense of fun over his time with us was such a special gift to the School.

Thank you Christine for your contribution to the school and sharing your talent and love of teaching with us. While we want to wish you all the best for your retirement we also selfishly wish to see you back at School as often as it suits!

The Board is delighted to support the extra resources allocated to ensure that staff receive the leadership units and teacher aide support commensurate with their skills and contribution – over and above what would ordinarily be automatically generated by Ministry funding formulas. Such extra resources come from the community and we acknowledge the generosity of parents and the hard work done to establish and maintain the school's firm financial footing. Congratulations to all Staff who have taken on formal leadership roles starting next year as set out in the previous School Newsletter - we wish them well in their well deserved new roles.

Congratulations also to those Staff whose leadership journey takes them to other schools: in particular we want to thank Nick and congratulate him on and wish him all the very best for his new position as Principal at Shannon School. At a heartfelt event on Monday the school community acknowledged Nick's many years of highly successful service and leadership and thanked him for his outstanding contribution to our School - the Shannon School community is very fortunate indeed.

Nicki is returning home to Canterbury in order, no doubt, to escape the blistering heat of Wellington's summers, and we are delighted that she is taking up a syndicate leader role at Lincoln School, Nicki has been a very successful teacher while with us and we congratulate her and wish her all the very best in her new position.

The Board would like to thank Amanda for taking the brave step to join us and the whole community, the Senior Leadership Team and Staff for the openness and/or work and help that made her first term as our new principal that much easier.

And finally, **we should thank our kids – they are credit to you all and are pretty special.**

Noho ora mai me Nga Mihi o te Tau!

Mark Crofskey, Chair
On behalf of the Board/Poari