



Wadestown School December Board News

Tēnā koutou kātoa

The Board met last week and reviewed the end of year leadership reports from the school.

These reports provide detailed overviews of school initiatives including the library, student and staff wellbeing, learning support, culturally responsive teaching and learning, digital technology, spelling and handwriting.

The breadth and depth of content showed the deep commitment that the teachers and the staff have to the school and its students. We are also grateful for the leadership and hard work of our Principal and her senior leadership team.

The Board also noted the proposed school organisation for 2025 and discussed the school budget which will be reviewed again before the end of the year, then finalised in the first meeting of 2025. We also discussed the health and safety plans for the overnight zoo trip and the leavers dinner.

More generally the Board reflected that the school is in good heart; and we have much to be proud of particularly the success of our students throughout the year. We are grateful for the support of our community and will continue to engage with parents as we advance the school's strategy.

Board Elections

Another item discussed at the meeting was that of the upcoming Wadestown School Board elections. Elections are held every three years, and the next elections will be held during September 2025.

A number of Board members will retire at the next election, and it would be great to see parents and caregivers with governance and leadership experience put themselves forward to serve on the Board.

The role of school boards is increasingly complex as, like many organisations, they navigate matters such as developing effective strategy, being financially sustainable and managing risk including health and safety.

Some of the skills we think are needed for the next Board alongside strong governance are strategy, health and safety, legal and property. For the Board to be successful we not only need the right skills but also a range of representation from the community.

In terms of time commitment, the Board meets a minimum of two evenings per term (eight meetings annually), and sometimes special Board meetings are held - e.g., to develop the Strategic Plan. There is also project work and general Board communication between meetings. Traditionally each Board member is responsible for leading "project" pieces of work in partnership with the Principal and other senior members of staff. Recent examples include property and communications.

In the new year, the Board will invite people who are interested in standing to come to an informal information evening where Board members will reflect on their experiences and people can find out more.

The Board will also host a public meeting in August where candidates will all get the opportunity to speak to the community about why they've put themselves forward for nomination.

If you have the skills and experience, and are committed to good governance, please do come, and meet the current Board next year and hear more about what's required.

More generally the Board is always happy to hear from parents and whānau, and you can contact us about any matter at our shared email address board@wadestown.school.nz

Meri Kirihimete and kia pai ngā hararei - Merry Christmas and have great holidays.

Wadestown School Board

Michelle Crutchley

Amanda Frater (Principal)

Robyn Grover (Staff Board Trustee)

Genevieve Hancock

Blair Macdonald (Chairperson/Presiding Member)

Richard Nacey

Madeleine Setchell

Nick Wells (Chairperson/Presiding Member)

Tania Williams