



OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES – ELECTIONS

(15/02/10)

Parents will soon have an opportunity to participate in Board of Trustees Elections. The Returning Officer, Wayne Jamieson (Canterbury Education Services - CES) will be distributing information to the community in March. Any information that is received by the school will be posted on our website.

Important dates.

- Friday 26 February: Parent roll established
Monday 15 March: Advertisement placed in local newspaper with all nomination details
Nomination form for prospective Board Members posted out
23 April Nominations close
(CES will either: Declare election or go to election...)
Wednesday 28 April: Voting papers posted too eligible (if going to election)
Friday 7 May: Poll closes at noon Friday 7 May
Thursday 13 May: Election results on CES Website

The Elmwood School community has always been fortunate to be well represented by people who have the motivation and drive to take the governance role involved in education seriously. Those who have served on the Board know that involvement is more than just attending a monthly meeting. Once elected the reality of the role differs somewhat to what is often perceived. Although serving, as a Board member is a voluntary community responsibility, it most certainly does require a significant commitment of time, energy and skill. Being a good employer requires a wide range of expertise from within Board members, not only for good governance, but also to ensure that the school staff feel valued and supported whilst also firmly respectful of the importance of their role in educating the children. The lines of communication, responsibility and accountability are two-way and both employer and employees need to feel confident that they are working in a partnership that brings the quality education that we all strive for.

Those parents who accept Board of Trustee responsibilities bring their knowledge and skills to contribute to the culture of the school environment. It is their chance to make a serious contribution to the school's direction, strategic planning, policy making and education priorities. It is challenging, it is hugely exciting, because it's about children and it is rewarding because community expectations are realised through the effectiveness of their education governors and the teachers they employ.

While the role sounds rather daunting new members of the Board will receive considerable guidance from the principal and the re-elected members to make the transition period a smooth one. Further, school Boards throughout New Zealand are fortunate to have extensive support through The NZ School Trustees Association (NZSTA). This is a national organisation that represents Boards of Trustees throughout New Zealand. The NZSTA has a major role in providing support services to Boards as they fulfill their responsibilities as trustees. They provide excellent support on a range of governance responsibilities including curriculum, finance, industrial, personnel and property. They also provide an excellent training service on roles and responsibilities, charter and strategic planning, as well as effective governance guidelines.

Kevin Gooch
Principal