

22 February 2021

Kia ora koutou katoa, welcome to the 2021 school year from the Eketahuna School Board of Trustees (The Board). We hope everyone had an awesome summer break with friends, family and loved ones and are feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

The first Board meeting of the year went very well, Melinda and the staff have been working hard to get everything in place for the upcoming year. Maree Reddington who has been on the Board for the past nine years resigned as Chair and so I, Skye White, have taken on this role. A massive thank you goes to Maree for all her hard work, and hours of time and dedication, Maree has been an amazing chairperson and will be big boots to fill. Lucky for us Maree will still be remaining on the Board and is taking on the role as Property Liaison. The other amazing Board members are Megan Governor as the Finance Officer and the Deputy Chair, Evelyn Chase, Roseanne Sayles the teacher representative, Melinda Cowe and Denise Drysdale as minute taker.

Our school is looking so good, and there are lots of exciting new plans on the horizon. You may have seen the builders on site, they are renovating the old boiler room into a storage room for sports equipment. There is a new shade sail going up over the pool to help keep our children safe in the sun. Also new playground equipment on route, the students were all able to vote on the equipment and have a say in what was purchased, they like us are really looking forward to its arrival.

On February 14 we moved into alert level two, school was prepared for this and it was a smooth transition for staff and students. Although the alert level shift managed to stop the junior minor sports from going ahead, we are hopeful that the rest of the term will go ahead without a hitch, I am really looking forward to swimming sports down at the town pools and the junior swimming display in our own heated pool.

At the end of January, the Board met specifically to start the planning and drafting of the school Charter goals. The Charter sets out the direction for the school and identifies the priorities the Board expects the Principal to be leading. The Charter is the key planning document for schools and includes the strategic aims and annual plans. The Charter goals will be on display for you all to read and give feedback on at the Meet and Greet tonight.

If anyone is interested in joining the Board or they just want to come and see what the meetings are all about please come along, we had a lovely guest at our last meeting which I hope was interesting for them. The meetings vary in length but usually a couple of hours and at differing times depending on what suits the group at differing times of the year. The next meeting is on the 8th April at 4pm in the staff room. I personally really enjoy being part of the Board - I like knowing what the school has planned, helping where I can and being a big part of the children's school experience and journey.

Hope to see lots of you tonight at the Meet and Greet

With warmest regards

Skye White