



Board Update

BELLEVUE STUDENTS ARE ACTIVE, CONNECTED LIFE LONG LEARNERS OCTOBER 2020

Tena koutou from the Bellevue School Board

Our latest Board meeting was held on 15 October 2020.

We issue these newsletters regularly throughout the school year to help keep you up to date with school news and the activities of the Board. If you have any feedback or suggestions regarding what you would like to see in these newsletters, as well as any positive feedback about the school and staff or any concerns, please feel free to contact us at boardchair@bellevue-newlands.school.nz. We love to hear from you!

Board Vacancy Update

The Board welcomes Edwin Rakanui to the Bellevue Board. We are happy to have him on board, and we look forward to his positive and valuable contributions to the Board and school.

Health and PE Survey

The Board reviewed the results from the Health and PE survey. We only had 9% of our families\whānau who responded and we would like to encourage more of you to respond to these surveys as they do help the school understand what is important to you. Feedback received clearly indicates that Body Care/Physical safety and Mental Health are the areas that we can focus on.

Community Survey for Strategic Planning update.

In our last newsletter we mentioned that a Staff, Student and Community survey will be done this year. The Staff and Student surveys are taking place this term and we will be using an external organisation for this ie: The New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER). NZCER is an independent, educational research organisation that provides educators, students, parents, policy makers, and the public with innovative and independent research, analysis, and advice. The community survey will be run by the Board later this term and will include the following areas, General School Life/Wellbeing; Teaching and Learning/Curriculum; Communication/Reporting to Parents. The feedback will be anonymous and used in our strategy and planning session early next year. The summary will be provided to the community early next year.

Board Members.

Below is a brief intro to each of the Bellevue Board members:-

Karen Hardie - Principal

My name is Karen Hardie. I am the Principal at Bellevue and am part of the school Board. The Principal is a full member of the Board, also the chief executive officer of the school who has the overall responsibility for day to day management within the policies and delegations established and approved by the Board.

I have been a Principal for 28 years and Principal at Bellevue for the past six and a half years. I value the work that members of the Board do to govern and provide strategic direction to improve learning outcomes.

Students learning and their well-being is paramount, and the core business of the Board. This is at the heart of all decisions that are made. I am excited to be working with a Board who always have children at the centre when making governance decisions.

Bellevue School is a place where learning grows for students and adults alike. The Board and staff strive to support individuals to become confident, connected lifelong learners who develop the skills, values and resilience to have successful lives.

Annette Borgonje – Staff Representative

My name is Annette Borgonje and I am the Deputy Principal of Year 4-6 at Bellevue. I have been at the school for two and half years and in leadership roles since 2008. The Bellevue values closely align with my own - in fact they are what drew me to the school in the first place!

As the Staff Representative on the Board I bring a staff perspective to the Board's decision making. This often involves reporting on student achievement or information collected from teachers and students to provide the Board with an overview of teaching and learning.

Born in South Africa but growing up in England I have called New Zealand home for the last 15 years and am officially a kiwi now, even though I may not sound it!

Mandy MacKay – Board Secretary

I live in Woodridge and am married with two boys aged 14 and 6.

I have been actively involved with the school for the past 9 years particularly with planting with the Beautiful Bellevue gardening group as well as a FUNdraiser committee member and am currently in my second term as an elected member of the Board.

I work in the public sector in data quality and reporting and would like the opportunity to use my experience, dedication, and hard work to benefit our children, their educators, and their learning environment.

I strongly believe in supporting our children “to be the best they can be” and am honoured to be involved in supporting Bellevue school “to be the best that it can be”.

Edwin Rakanui – Treasurer

Kia orana, my name is Edwin Rakanui (Eddie to many of my friends) and I have recently been elected onto the Board as a Parent Representative.

I live with my amazing wife Debi and our family in the same home on Kenmore St that I was raised in. Bellevue School has been part of my family since 1984 and has played a pivotal role for myself, my siblings, nephew and now, our children.

In my professional capacity I help organisations with complex problems, and I design practical solutions. My greatest asset to businesses however, is my love of working with people. Learning how their skills can be part of a solution and getting them involved.

I have a wide range of interests and I'm always keen to learn more about the passions of others. I'm a recent President of Ohariu Toastmasters, a Wedding celebrant, Mentor, practitioner of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, property investor, Groove dancer (ideal for dads like me with two left feet), and business owner. Take care and meitaki maata,

Feta Laulau - Property

Hi. My name is Feta Laulau. I've been part of the Board since May 2019.

My wife, Lorraine and I have been in Newlands for 13 years and have brought up our 2 children in this community. Both our children are at Bellevue School. Our son in Hub 5 (Rm 12) and our daughter in Hub 4 (Rm 5).

I have been contracted to Bellevue for the last 4 and a half years as the maintenance contractor tasked with the up-keep of the buildings and grounds.

This, coupled with being a board member has given me the great opportunity to get involved and help with numerous projects and I am thoroughly enjoying being able to help where needed.

Prior to coming to Bellevue School we spent 7 years at our local Newlands Tamariki Playcentre which gave our little family a great start to education. It also gave Lorraine and I a valuable insight into early childhood education.

Before Lorraine and I swapped care roles for our children, I spent 27 years in the construction industry. I am a Crane Operator by trade and specialise in Tower Cranes. I spent many years operating cranes and managing crane teams and co-ordinating crane work with various trades across the industry.

I believe that my past experiences have put me in a position to be able to help the school move forward to a great future. I'm really enjoying being part of our school and the wider community and very much look forward to helping out wherever I can in the future.

Ian Dickson – Property

My name is Ian Dickson. I am currently on the School Board helping with the Property portfolio and have lived in Newlands since 2001.

I have been a member of the School Board for around 11 years ever since my daughter attended Bellevue, she is now Year 11 at Newlands College.

I have a Building Compliance back ground and have owned and run my own business for the past 13 years.

Over the time I have been on the Board we have completed a number of large projects including the new play area, tree removals, classroom upgrades and currently working on Jubilee Corner which I believe will be a highly beneficial learning space for all of the Bellevue children.

Kelvin Russell – Board Chair

Hi Kelvin here. I have lived in Newlands, since immigrating to New Zealand from South Africa in 2006, with my beautiful wife Yolandy and our five children. All our children have attended or currently attend Bellevue. Our eldest started at Bellevue in 2006 and our youngest started in 2019.

I work in Wellington as an IT professional and as a Board member I strongly believe the skills I have enable me to work with the school and community to create an environment where our children are safe, can grow and be the best they can be.

I believe we have a great community of parents, extended family, children and staff and we all have an opportunity to create a nurturing, caring and dynamic learning environment. This is a great community to live in and we are a community that I believe looks out for and cares about each other.

Board members are always available to discuss anything regarding the school. You can reach them on:-

Kelvin - boardchair@bellevue-newlands.school.nz

Edwin - erakanui@gmail.com

Feta - fetalaulau@gmail.com

Ian - ian@codecert.co.nz

Mandy - mandarin.mackay@gmail.com

Annette - annette@bellevue-newlands.school.nz

Karen - principal@bellevue-newlands.school.nz

Next Board meeting

Our next Board meeting is on 19 November 2020, at 7:00pm in the school staff room. Please feel free to join us. If you have any specific items for the agenda or you would like to speak to an item, please email boardchair@bellevue-newlands.school.nz for consideration.

Hei konā mai i roto i ngā mihi,
Goodbye for now and thanks.

Bellevue School Board