

Elstow-Waihou School

Board of Trustees



Back Row: Tania Horn, Sandy Stirling, Andrew Bell, Todd Nicholls
Front Row: Debbie Darby, Louise Morris, Wendy Oliver

WHO IS YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES?

BOARD CHAIR: LOUISE MORRIS

I'm Louise Morris, Board Chair. My children have been at Elstow-Waihou since 2009. My husband Duncan and I farm on Awaiti Road and have a small contracting business. We have four children. Ethan is Year 10 at HBHS, Claire is Year 8, Ben is Year 5 and Heidi started school in May. When I'm not working I enjoy watching my childrens' many sports, catching up with friends, gardening and trying to fit in a bit of exercise.

I was on our PTA and in the Country Fair committees first, and joined the Board of Trustees in June 2013. Being on the board is time consuming, but I love making a positive difference to our wonderful school. The training and support we get is great and we have wonderful people on our staff, PTA and Board who are fully committed to improving student achievement and making Elstow-Waihou the best little school in Te Aroha.

DEPUTY BOARD CHAIR: DEBBIE DARBY

My name is Debbie Darby and I am proud to be a member of the Elstow-Waihou School Board of Trustees. I have been on the Board for 2 years and currently hold the position of Health and Safety Officer. I am married to Steve who is a teacher at Te Aroha College and we have 4 children, Siege 19, Madison 13, Jayden 11 and Breanna 7. I attended Elstow Primary School and although we don't live in Elstow we wanted our children to attend a good rural school backed by a strong community. I work as a Human Resources Advisor at the Council and in my spare time I love to support the kids in their sporting endeavours, spending time with family and friends and keeping active!

BOARD PROPERTY OFFICER: TODD NICHOLLS

I'm Todd Nicholls and I've been on the Board, as Property Officer since June 2013. I have also been Board Chair. My wife Nicky and I have three kids: Jacinda in Year 10 at College, Emma in Year 8 and Shelby in Year 6. I've been farming on Mikkelsen Road since 2009. When I can get off the farm I love following my kids' sports and I'm a big Waihou Rugby supporter. We love to get away to our bach at Tairua whenever we can and get out on the boat fishing.

BOARD FINANCIAL OFFICER: ANDREW BELL

I'm Andrew Bell and have been on the Elstow-Waihou School BOT since June 2016. My current position on the BOT is financial officer. I have four children with my wife Anna-Lee. Benji who is now at St Peter's, Cooper who is in year 4, Koby in year 3 and Georgia who starts school in September 2017. I grew up in Waihou and now own a dairy farm on Ngutumanga Road. I love that my children go to the same school as I did, (although it has now combined with Elstow) and are getting a rural upbringing. I am passionate about our community and love contributing, through the BOT, to our wonderful community. My interests include rugby, cricket and golf, and am kept busy following the kids sports.

BOARD SECRETARY: TANIA HORN:

Kia Ora! I'm Tania Horn and I have had the privilege of being on the Elstow-Waihou School Board of Trustees since June 2016. I currently hold the position of Board Secretary. Craig and I are dairy farming on my family's farm in Elstow. We have three children, two of which attend Elstow-Waihou school, Maia who is in Year 8, Charley in Year 5 and our youngest daughter Harper who is 2. I too, attended Elstow school (as it was known then) and I'm very proud of the fact that Maia and Charley are the 5th generation of my family to attend Elstow School. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year of being on the Board and I'm excited as to what the future holds for our amazing little school. When not busy on the farm or running children to and from sport trainings and games I enjoy spending time with my family and friends and the occasional fishing adventure with Craig and the kids.

STAFF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE: WENDY OLIVER:

I am Wendy Oliver and I am currently the deputy principal at Elstow-Waihou School. In 2016 I was elected as the Board of Trustee staff representative. I have been at our school for 8 years, teaching Year 7 and 8 students. My first year of teaching began at this school. It is a pleasure to be working at Elstow-Waihou School again many years later as I enjoy being part of this small rural community who are friendly and supportive. Teaching is my passion. I enjoy watching young people develop into our future generation which is very rewarding when I have been part of their education. In my role I have the privilege of working with all children and parents. When I am not teaching I enjoy gardening, travel, and socialising with friends and family.

ROLE OF THE BOARD of TRUSTEES:

Boards of trustees are Crown entities and are responsible for the **governance** of schools. Our role, as a trustee, is to make sure that Elstow - Waihou school is run in the best interests of our students and community.

A school's board needs to be able to assure the government that:

- the students in the school are receiving a high quality standard of education
- national priorities for school education are being addressed in the school
- the resources are being used prudently to ensure the highest possible quality programmes are provided for students.

The board's role is to:

- ensure the school has a clear sense of purpose by establishing its strategic objectives, documenting these objectives in a school charter, and monitoring progress in achieving these objectives
- set priorities and goals for improvement of learning and achievement in the school
- seek assurance from the management (principal and senior staff) that the programmes being implemented in the school can achieve the goals
- monitor the school's performance against student achievement outcomes
- seek assurance from the school's management that the school's resources are being used optimally to deliver the agreed outcomes, ensuring, for example, that resources are available to ensure the knowledge and skills of the teachers are up to date
- be accountable for the exercise of decision-making rights.

Representation

School boards, and individual trustees, are elected to act in an independent, stewardship role on behalf of those who cannot sit around the board table. The representation role includes effective succession planning, options for governing, and the importance of effective and meaningful community consultation and engagement.

Accountability

The board takes its accountability for the performance of students and the school seriously and ensures that the school is well managed, well prepared and on track towards achieving its aims, objectives and targets.

Leadership

Boards provide strategic leadership and direction to schools through the Charter and policy framework which give direction to guide all school activities and decisions. Leadership involves setting direction, vision and strategy to ensure that every student achieves their educational potential.

Employer Role

One of the most important responsibilities of the board is that of the legal employer of all school staff. The board is responsible for a range of decisions and tasks that arise during the employment relationship, including ensuring the are policies, plans and programmes in place to meet all requirements related to this role.