

Candidate Statements

There are 13 candidates and four pages. These statements are as supplied to the Returning Officer.

PAULA VAUGHAN



I am a dedicated supporter of our school and continue to be so. I believe all students are entitled to the best education and support available and would like to assist the school in achieving this.

In developing the school, it is essential that we appreciate and support our principal, teachers and support staff.

As a parent, I feel it is vital for me to be involved in my child's education and work alongside the teachers in setting a solid foundation for learning that will lead to success in all areas of school life.

Having worked in a school for many years, I think I have an excellent understanding of the inner workings of a school and what it involves to be a productive member of the Board of Trustees. I have the ability to work well with others to achieve a common goal and feel our children benefit the most when their parents and caregivers, the school staff and the Board of Trustees work together as a one.

I understand the unique nature of our school community needs and am committed to continuing to creating a positive future. School is about developing a love of learning, forming strong friendships, developing strength of character, pride in our School and our community and excelling in whatever we do. Our School should be accessible to all students and their families. Our school is a place fostering the growth and development of our youth and provides an environment in which individual students can perform to their very best. I am committed to ensuring Whenuapai School delivers the best opportunities for all students.

TINEKE JOUSTRA

For those parents that want a positive impact on this school, I represent you. For those parents who would like to be involved in the management of a school board, I represent you. For those parents who want their children to have the opportunity to exceed the standard, I represent you.



Why am I standing for parent representative on the Whenuapai School Board? Because I feel my previous experience as a successful Board of Trustees member (at St Francis Primary School) gives me familiarity with the requirements and dedication Board members need. Furthermore, I believe parents and current Board members would welcome experienced representatives.

Having been a lecturer at University level for the last 10 years, I am actively involved in the education sector. In my spare time I have recently completed my Masters in Science. My working background includes working at Auckland Zoo and for global conservation

organisations. Most of the roles I have held have a strong educational and legislative element to them.

My vision as a Board member at Whenuapai School is to ensure all children are given the opportunity to flourish and exceed their own expectations; to engage the entire school community in the school's values which should be reflective in the day to day running of the school; and to promote a positive learning environment that the entire community can be proud of. Due to my previous experience as a BOT member and university lecturer, I have been approached by several parents who would like to see me apply for the position of parent representative. I am grateful that these parents have faith in my ability to be a successful member on this BOT and I am sure you will as well.

KARL GUSH

I would consider it an honour to be elected to the BoT and would relish the opportunity to serve the students and Whenuapai School community on the Board. I have lived in the Whenuapai community for over 20 years, have one daughter attending Whenuapai School and my other daughter recently moved on to a Junior High School. I believe that creating a safe and effective education environment is the primary responsibility of the School Governance (BoT) and Management (Staff) teams. Both teams must work collaboratively in the best interests of all students, parents and the wider community.

Our school is currently facing a number of challenges and I am confident that I can help maintain the appropriate environment in our school, ensuring that our children have the opportunity to attain the highest possible standards in educational achievement.

Serving on a board will be a new experience for me, but I believe that I have much to offer and I am very keen to learn any additional skills that will enable me to work more effectively in this role. I am confident that I will make a positive contribution to the role of governance of the school; bringing families, the community and the school together to work for a quality education for our children.

After 27 years of service in the RNZAF, I have developed a wide range of skills that I believe would be of benefit to the Board. I know how to work well in a team, I have excellent communication skills and am not afraid to ask challenging questions. I have experience achieving results within a Government bureaucracy and I am able to simply "get things done".

I am of both European and Maori descent, so I will bring with me an understanding of both of those worlds, as well as international experience working alongside people from a wide range of cultures, countries and backgrounds. If selected for this honour, I vow to serve on the Board with courage, commitment, professionalism and integrity, all in the best interests of our children. It is my goal to be part of a team that enables all of the students at our school to develop their own love of learning. Yours sincerely Karl

AARON HENDERSON

With five years of previous Whenuapai School Board experience I have a good understanding of governance, management and the issues that face the school.

I have worked in IT for over a decade, graduate degree in Business (accountancy), I am a member of a local business group and have contact with other school boards on a regular basis. I believe strongly in local community schools.

We should have high expectations of our school's leadership, especially in management and the board of trustees. It is important that both teaching and financial resources are handled with a deft hand for the benefit of Whenuapai Schools students. Every student deserves the best opportunity to achieve their success.

Every student needs a school environment in which they feel is safe and that they are supported in their learning journey.

I would like to continue to foster a lifelong love for learning, encouraging strong friendships, pride in our school and see students succeeding both academically and on the sports field. I'm looking forward to talking with parents and teachers to improve Whenuapai Primary School, with the right Board we can do it.

KYLIE HASKINS

Parents and caregivers generally want their children's school to be a caring place where their youngsters can successfully learn, grow and be happy. Whenuapai School over many years has delivered that. The 2016 report from the Education Review Office is positive, particularly in the way the school is responding to a growing Maori role and its holistic care of those children's learning needs. It is positive about the way the new school leadership team has started reviewing and redesigning the school curriculum to provide better for the modern learner. This month's audit has proven its finances have been managed well. Parents should request that audit from the Limited Statutory Manager Alan Curtis, who the Ministry of Education has placed at the school.

Why is the LSM at Whenuapai and why is this election necessary? The answer is your four parent representatives resigned because they were bullied over a case of the theft of a pair of \$29.99 headphones. After three months of constant harassment that impacted on us, our families and staff, we were exhausted and not getting any help. We asked for help from the Ministry of Education. It was not forthcoming. We have complained to the Minister and the Auckland Regional Manager of the Ministry has instigated an investigation on our behalf. It is important you know that the Ministry of Education had not once informed us as trustees that it had any ongoing concerns about the school.

Being a trustee is really a labour of love – not a job. However, while we were accused of not having proper governance in place or policies that is not true. Some of us had undertaken professional development so we can do the best by the school. Our school's name was muddled in the media on ANZAC Day. What was in that story was cobbled together selectively to paint a grim picture. As former trustees we have documented evidence to prove how nasty and slanted the story was. We are asking you to vote us back on the board because not only do we have the skills and experience to be good trustees, but we now have the strength and professional knowledge to deal with anyone who has a personal agenda. However, the most important reason we want your vote is because we want Whenuapai School to continue on the new path the ERO report applauded.

KIM WESTON

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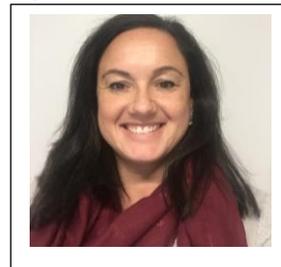
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AMERIA GILBERT

My name is Ameria Gilbert. I am a mum of three daughters. I have been at Whenuapai School for 12 years and currently have a daughter in Year 3. We spend our spare time looking after our pets, training in waka ama, playing waterpolo and netball. I have also volunteered as manager and coach to support their teams.



Like all of you, I want the best for my children and their future. Whenuapai School is the start of their education journey and the values of the School determine their experiences of the Education System. These values weave across facets of our everyday life, our interaction with each other and the wider community. It is important our voice as parents is heard. To stand and act with integrity, authenticity and real accountability to ensure that our journeys start is the strongest and safest it can be. I am extremely passionate about making this school operate to the best it can be. This is why I am having a go at putting myself forward as your parent representative.

I currently work in Kumeu at a local community business. I have financial skills built up through Chartered Accountant work, business planning and implementation consultancy and board experience with audit and risk management committees. I have also taken the time to research and educate myself to ensure I have a solid understanding of the current Education Act and what is required to be an effective and authentic board trustee.

I am proud of my Māori heritage and this has helped me understand and accept diversity of thought in our growing multi-cultural community. It is from this perspective that I think I can be of value in strengthening our diversity of ideas and thought at the governing table. I am a dedicated and caring person and will bring these

attributes to the board where I will be accountable, available and be transparent to our school community. I want to ensure that our teaching staff are supported and given access to the tools and direction to ensure a safe environment at our School. So they can give our children the best opportunities for their future. When children are safe, they thrive. When accountability occurs healing and resolution are natural outcomes.

TUPARA MORRISON

Kia ora. My name is Tupara Morrison. Originally from Rotorua I moved to Auckland in 2012 and am a new resident to the Whenuapai School area. My two children attend Auckland University and I have enjoyed being part of their growth from early childhood learning through to tertiary education.



I am excited to be able to put my name forward for nomination to the Whenuapai School Board of Trustees at a time when there is a focus on establishing a governing body with a fresh approach, strong and relevant skill sets, and a commitment to do the very best for parents and their

families. My current work focus is developing and activating business strategies for a variety of organisations including Geneva Healthcare and NIB Insurance. This requires a strong focus on partnership, understanding people's respective needs, and most importantly, listening.

With respect to skills and knowledge, I bring the following experience:

- A Fellow of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand;
- A member of the Institute of Directors of New Zealand;
- Previous Chair of Montessori Primary Trust (Rotorua), Rotorua Intermediate School, and Waiariki Institute of Technology and Polytechnic;
- Previous Director of Student Experience and Māori Transformation at Unitec Institute of Technology;
- Current Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee of Competenz, a national industry training organisation;
- Current Board member of the New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute and the Meteorological Service of New Zealand (MetService). Throughout my career, I have operated with integrity, professionalism, transparency and accountability. Ethical behaviour is fundamental to building trust and confidence. I will bring these behaviours to the Board as they go to the heart of what it means to be a trusted adviser and decision maker for the Whenuapai School community.

I have strong connections with Government, and more specifically, education sector leadership including the Ministry of Education, New Zealand School Trustees Association, and the newly formed Tomorrow's Schools Review Independent Taskforce. It is important that the school fosters good relationships with these agencies to ensure Whenuapai moves from statutory management to a well-governed school. I am willing and able to achieve that as part of a student and community focused Board. I look forward to representing the parents of Whenuapai School on the Board of Trustees. Nga mihi

GLEN RUSSELL

Hi, my name is Glen Russell and I would like to be considered for the position of parent representative on the Board of Trustees for Whenuapai Primary School. My wife Clare and I have a daughter in her first year at Whenuapai Primary School and a son who we intend to enrol there in just over a year. I am passionate about education and want the best for our future generation. I would bring to the role a wide range of relevant experience and look forward to the opportunity to represent your interests in the continued support of your children's education. I am currently employed as an Engineer at RNZAF Base Auckland. Throughout my career in the Air Force I have experienced both sides of educational systems, initially as a student and later managing the delivery of training to Air Force Technicians.



In my recent position managing technical training I was responsible for student and staff welfare and performance, training material and standards, infrastructure, property, equipment and finance. I believe this provides me with the necessary skill set to be an effective member of the board. As an engineer I am accustomed to questioning and problem solving. I am involved in policy on a daily basis and have accrued years of experience in planning and management. From this experience I understand the importance of quality relationships and how this is supported through open and honest communication.

I want to make a positive difference to the Whenuapai Primary School learning environment and as mentioned above, I believe I have the necessary skill set to do. I have a vested interest in the success of the school as a whole and the proximity of my current workplace will aid in my ability to attend to board and school needs. If successful in gaining a position on the Board of Trustees for Whenuapai Primary School, I look forward to providing quality leadership and oversight in support of your children's education.

JAMES HUTCHINS



My family and I moved to Whenuapai 5 years ago when we bought a house in the village. My partner, Peta, and I have 2 children at the school – Gray who started in late 2016 and is currently in year 2, and Millar who started in April this year and is in year 1. The school is such a critical part of the wider community and we all have a responsibility to ensure that we

offer the next generation the best possible opportunities to learn and develop socially.

My natural approach is to be part of the development, and any changes if required, of this community resource rather than being a spectator hoping that other people have our children's best interest at heart. My approach to this role will be to focus on the best outcome for the children, both mine and yours, and their education first. Everything else comes after that in some order.

In my professional life for the last 3 ½ years I have been General Manager of a service business so I am hopeful that my leadership, commercial and technical skills will provide some valuable skills to the team (ie the Board) and the broader school environment. I look forward to the opportunity to work on your behalf in this role.

MICHAEL FARAC

My wife and I have two children at Whenuapai now and my oldest son finished Year 8 in 2017. Whenuapai is the only primary and intermediate school all our children have attended. We live on Herald Island. My wife Catriona for a number of years was an active member of the PTA and volunteered in the Breakfast Club programme at the school. I have been involved in the property industry for 21 years and own real estate business primarily involved in the sale, leasing and management of commercial property throughout New Zealand.

I am standing because I believe the school board needs to be representative of the school community and have a membership that is balanced in terms of gender and experience. I am standing because as a parent, I was not at ease with the way things were going at Whenuapai. I think that now at this point in time, there is an opportunity for the school to set a direction and standard for the future. I want Whenuapai to be the school we all want our children to attend and where we know that the best decisions are being made for the benefit of our children. Decisions that will lead to our children having the best education in a great and secure environment.

KIRI MANE



Kia Ora, My name is Kiri Mane and I am of Ngapuhi decent. I have two daughters, four grandchildren and I am a foster parent to five wonderful children. Three of my grandchildren attend Whenuapai School. I am applying for a parent position on the Board of Trustees as I believe that Whenuapai School is a wonderful

school with a lot of potential. I moved in to the Whenuapai area earlier this year and have been very happy with the school and how it operates. I would love the opportunity to represent the parent community on the Board of Trustees and help to continue the wonderful work that the school does and support it to grow in the future. I am committed to supporting the systems in the school and the communication to the parent community.

I bring with me many years of accounting experience which would be an asset to the School and am able to commit the time necessary to fulfill the role of a parent representative. I also have experience as a courier, network marketer and love working with people. I have seen my children, grandchildren and foster children all go through the schooling system so I understand the education process and want to support that in any way possible. I believe in strengthening the bonds between all cultures in our school and celebrating the growing diversity. Nga Mihi Kiri

ROB GREER



My name is Rob Greer and I have just recently moved to Whenuapai. My eldest daughter Marlee has just started at Whenuapai Primary School. I am looking forward to potentially being involved in the wider community of Whenuapai as an elected member of the Board of Trustees.

As an ex teacher, I have a great understanding of how the education system works and I would offer great value by helping drive Whenuapai Primary School in the right direction for our young people.

I am currently an Orthopaedic Product Specialist where I educate a wide range of medical staff within Auckland and ultimately help surgeons achieve better outcomes for their patients. With over 15 years' experience in the Education system, as well as educating people in a wide range of different environments, I will bring a unique blend of skills such as leadership, thinking outside the square to gain better results and adaptability to the role.

I feel that values such as honesty, accountability for actions and being trustworthy are the keys to success. As a member of the Board of Trustees, I would integrate these values to ensure that your child can be the best they can be. I welcome your vote and I look forward to helping Whenuapai Primary School grow in a positive and productive way.

TO VOTE:

Select only **THREE** candidates on the voting paper.

Place your voting paper in the FreePost envelope supplied.

One voting paper per envelope. Voting papers without the envelope will be invalid.

You may return your voting paper in the envelope to the school office OR FreePost at any New Zealand Post Office.

Voting closes at noon on July 6 2018.