

WHENUAPAI SCHOOL

Living is Striving



26 April 2018

NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF WHENUAPAI SCHOOL STUDENTS

Dear Parent and Caregivers,

The Whenuapai School Board of Trustees (the Board) met today with Ministry of Education (MOE) and New Zealand School Trustees Association (NZSTA) to discuss the next steps to supporting governance at our school. We take the governance role extremely seriously and understand that you, as a school community, have high expectations. We can confirm that we are a fully functioning Board who are extremely committed and passionate about supporting and growing the students, teachers and staff, families and wider school community.

Following some lengthy and robust conversation, we have requested MOE support and invited the Ministry to provide that support through a Limited Statutory Manager (LSM). We have also requested support from NZSTA to ensure high quality governance and leadership of the School.

An election will be held to fill the recent vacancies. Further information regarding dates and other details will be communicated in due course. We wish to acknowledge our departing board of trustee members and thank them for their time and service on the Board.

Regarding the recent publication in the New Zealand Herald we would like to acknowledge that student safety, wellbeing and achievement is our highest priority. We do not discuss individual student matters in public. We can assure you that in line with our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) school wide program and the Vulnerable Children's Act 2014, in any instances of inappropriate student behaviour the appropriate agencies and supports are engaged. Additionally, we would like to clarify that these instances involved student behaviour only and not staff members.

We acknowledge that the community has raised a number of concerns around leadership and governance and we take these concerns seriously. We will be actively engaging with MOE, NZSTA and most importantly yourselves to strengthen our community relationships and engagements. This will include a review on how we can better manage your concerns and communicate with you going forward.

If parents/caregivers wish to discuss this further you are invited to contact the Board directly via wsbot@whenuapai.school.nz

Yours sincerely,

Mike Leonard (Board Chair)

Paula Pusich

Raewyn Matthys-Morris (Principal)