

Westlake Boys High School

2019 Board of Trustees Annual Report



The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance of the school. The Board is made up of five parent elected representatives, one co-opted member, a staff representative, a student representative and the Headmaster. This year elections were held for three parent representative positions, and the staff and student positions. At the election Darryl Roycroft's term as a co-opted trustee came to an end, Euphymya Lavelle was elected and following the election Chris Simcock was co-opted back on to the Board. Keryn Russell has replaced Tracy Houzet as the staff representative. I'd like to thank Darryl for his significant contribution to the Board over the last few years, to welcome Euphymya to the Board, and Keryn back to the Board after a break of six years, and to thank Chris for agreeing to continue to serve as a trustee.

The Board operates by way of monthly meetings, through various committees which deal with property, enrolment, discipline, finance and community matters and through plenty of less formal communications. It is a hard working group who have as their goal that each student at Westlake Boys High School should have the best opportunities available to him that the school is able to provide, that the school is a safe and enjoyable environment, and that the staff are high performing and as well looked after as is possible. It is a constant challenge, and a lot of hard work, but the Board is I think justifiably happy with the way that the school is performing.

There are two big issues that I'd like to mention briefly in this report which have been significant this year.

The first is that this is the final year in which the "Cambridge" programme has been available at Westlake Boys. That programme was introduced in the early days of NCEA as an alternative pathway, while NCEA developed. Over the years NCEA has improved immensely and following a comprehensive review a few years ago the then Board decided that Cambridge would be phased out, and NCEA would be the sole programme offered at Westlake Boys. That decision has been followed by an immense amount of work behind the scenes as the staff have prepared, and have begun to roll out, an NCEA programme to suit all students at our school. Cambridge has served its purpose well and has been a valuable programme followed by many students at Westlake, but we now look forward as a Board to offering a single comprehensive programme that is topical and appropriate to young men growing up in New Zealand.

The second thing is to mention again, as I did in my report last year, that we are excited about the imminent beginning of construction of a brand-new double storey classroom block. While we had hoped that this building might be well underway by now the Board has continued to work hard to persuade the Ministry to approve this building, and we are very much looking forward to be able to say by this time next year that the new building will be open for 2021. The property committee and finance committee have worked particularly hard this year to keep this programme on track.

So, I'd like to thank the current board for all their hard work this year. That Board comprises Melinda Bennett, Euphymya Lavelle, Jimmy O'Brien, Phil Harkness and Andrew Nicoll as elected parent representatives, Chris Simcock as a co-opted Board member, Keryn Russell as the staff representative, the Headmaster Mr Ferguson and for 2019 we have had the pleasure of having Felix-Foxx Burnell as the elected student representative. It's a tight knit team, and I think we've had a good year.

A few more final thank you's for 2019 - to our Board secretary Sandra White, thank you for your continued dedication to our school - it is much appreciated by all of the Board. To the Headmaster Mr Ferguson and the Senior Leadership Team thank you for steering the ship and giving our students the opportunities to succeed. To the teaching staff your hard work and care and generosity is greatly appreciated - a Westlake Boys education simply isn't possible without the care, energy, enthusiasm and skill you all bring. To the non-teaching staff - the rest of the staff rely heavily upon you and so your hard work is much appreciated.

The Board remains grateful for the continuing support of the PTA, of the Westlake Boys Foundation and of Westlakers. These organisations work tirelessly to support the school, raising money but also helping with the organisation of events, helping the staff to feel appreciated and working to make sure that the connections that Westlakers make in their years at school are able to be maintained and enhanced in the years that follow.

Congratulations to all our prize winners today - you should be proud of your achievements and we wish you all the very best for your external exams and for whatever 2020 might bring to you.

Andrew Nicoll
Board Chairman