

Principal's Column

Brent Gray



Congratulations to all readers who have successfully been voted onto or retained positions on a school Board of Trustees after the recent elections. You are in for an exciting next few years as you review and establish the policy and procedures that determine how the school is run, all the time asking 'what are we doing to raise student achievement?'



To those of you who have stood down after time on a board, thank you for the hours you have given to ensure the smooth running of your community's school. It is a big commitment and the time and energy it takes can lead to some frustrations but ultimately it can be extremely rewarding.

At Mt Somers Springburn School, our community was fortunate enough to have seven candidates seek election, which means two people unfortunately missed out. But be assured that because this meant that an election was needed, the community had the opportunity to make an informed decision about the make-up of the board. It also meant that there was a 75% voter turnout, highlighting the fact that the community was interested and eager to be part of this democratic process.

The New Zealand School Trustees association lists the following as some of the tasks boards of trustees are involved in:

- Work with the principal and consult with staff, students and the community.
- Set the educational goals and strategic direction of the school.
- Monitor progress and let parents know how the school is progressing against its annual targets and how well students are achieving.
- Decide how the school's funding will be spent.
- Select the school's principal and support the development of all staff.
- Oversee the management of staff, property, finances, curriculum and administration.

All of the above are crucial to the success of the school and in voting, you have elected a group of representatives that have an important role supporting strong professional leadership and effective teaching for all students through informed governance.

The school community now has to support the new boards in helping them to realise the goals that are set annually with the school's charter.

To the previous board members at Mt Somers Springburn School, thank you for having the vision and skills to develop a school that prospers and provides quality educational outcomes for its pupils.

And to the new board, I look forward to working with you to provide the best learning opportunities for Our Children, Our Future.