

Snells Beach School Board of Trustees Election 2010 Candidates' Statements

CARSTENSEN Paul

I am married (happily) with two children, one of whom goes to Snells Beach School. We have only recently returned from Tanzania where I was Operations Manager for a charitable organisation called The Joshua Foundation. They run a teachers college as well as a number of schools from nursery up to secondary, among other things.

Prior to going to Tanzania in 2006 I was the Sergeant in Charge of the Wellsford Police Station and chairman of the Wellsford Blue Light committee. I am a qualified youth aid officer and held positions in Charge of Youth Services (Mangere), Youth Court Prosecutor (Manukau) as well as a front line officer. In total I served 15 years in the Police prior to my resignation in 2001.

I am committed Christian who holds such values as honesty, fairness, justice and faithfulness dearly.

I believe as the results of life experiences I have a lot to offer as a Trustee to the Snells Beach School.

CORTEEN Lisa

I am currently on the Board of Trustees and feel it would be beneficial to continue in this role building on the knowledge and relationships gained over the last year. I have lived and worked in this community for nearly five years and am keen to remain involved with the school. I have two boys at Snells Beach School in Years 4 and 1 and therefore have time to give as a board member. My husband was on the Establishment Board of Trustees set up in 2007 and we are both committed to the success of Snells Beach School. Due to my experience as a current Board member, I now have more knowledge and understanding required to continue to develop and enhance a successful school.

My other experience, qualifications and interests which I feel are valuable as a parent representative are:

- o 12 years' experience in public sector finance;
- o 3 years on the Committee of the Snells Beach Kindergarten;
- o local community involvement as Treasurer/Secretary for Matakana Coast Wine Country;
- o Office Administrator for Wellsford Kindergarten and previously for Snells Beach Kindergarten;
- o qualifications in Accountancy, Reflexology and Aromatherapy (the latter being my personal interests);
- o B.A. in Social Policy (with a minor in Continuing Education); and
- o my husband teaches at Mahurangi College.

I value education and I believe that school should provide a sound, stable base for our children. I am committed to an honest, holistic approach to education working to government standards. I am also committed to the community and families within it and with my enthusiasm towards education I hope to be a reliable choice for the Board of Trustees. I expect to be able to liaise with parents, teachers and the children to ensure the values of the school and education system are enforced so that our children will be provided with a secure and solid foundation for their future.

FARMILOE Bridget

I have two sons at Snells Beach School. Cayle is in Year 4 and Zac is in Year 2. I also have a daughter at Mahurangi College. I have been on the Snells Beach School Board for the last year. It has been a big learning experience to understand the systems within the school and within the Ministry of Education and to learn about how a school runs. It has also been an exciting challenge to get through the Foundation Year of 2009 and to assist the staff to build on that in 2010.

The next three years will be a time for working to really make an impact on student achievement and help all the children succeed as best as they can as well as supporting the school with good systems and policies. I would also like to see a school that is rich in creativity, physical activity, music and cultural opportunities. I hope that I can continue to offer the Board a person with people skills, long term strategic thinking and an understanding of the role of the Board.

I am an involved community member through my employment as Healthy Communities Coordinator and School Travel Coordinator and through a number of voluntary activities. I feel this gives me an appreciation of the community we live in, some of the issues facing us, and the hopes and aspirations we have for some of the issues facing us, and the hopes and aspirations we have for our children. If you are willing to vote me on the Board for another term I will do my best to be a useful link between the school and the community and keep working to make our school the best it can be.

HESLOP Nathaniel

Hi, my name is Nathaniel. I am a husband and father of three (eight, five, and one months). I have lived in Snells Beach for seven years. When I'm not at the beach with my family you're most likely to find me at the tennis club or going for a run.

We all have a teacher that changed our outlook on life and learning. Ms Kusab and her word mobile (a novel learning aid in 1989) was "my" teacher. Her love for language got on me and led me to study at University. Ms Kusab's passionate and creative teaching is a prime reason I am standing for the BOT. I want to encourage and support our school community; teachers, parents, children, and other support personnel to continue to develop learning strategies and teaching methods that create a learning culture our children are able to internalise and build the rest of their life with.

We have had a great start at Snells Beach School; I would like to see that continue this year by supporting the implementation of learning strategies and learning opportunities that will benefit our children. My commitment to you is to be available and actively listen to feedback or concerns about our school that you may hold and strongly advocate adherence to the vision we have set out to embody: to prepare our children for success and life-long learning through dynamic teaching and quality learning opportunities. My involvement in a number of local charities and businesses enables me to bring a range of experiences and skills to the BOT that I believe are valuable. First and foremost I desire to see this school succeed in achieving its vision. I will proactively work towards that, opposing moves to dilute our school culture and learning environment. Secondly, participating in Toastmasters has helped me become a passionate communicator that is persuasive and vocal when airing opinion or concerns. Thirdly, my professional training has familiarised me with understanding governance and policy issues. Finally, I have a vested interest. My two girls attend this school. If I believe learning is important for them, then it should be important for us to ensure your kids can learn at school and home as well. I am happy and willing to do that if elected.

Thank you for reading my candidate statement and participating in these elections.

KLEYN Maarten

I believe we live in a fantastic area and the local school is a vital part of any community, one that needs the input of the local people to ensure that we have the best possible platform for our children to start and continue their education.

I am managing a buildings supplies branch at present which gives me an excellent insight into business administration and accounting which form an important part of the board's responsibilities. We supplied the building materials for the school through the branch and two of my children are founding pupils so you could say I've literally been involved with the school from the ground up.

I have coached and assisted various sports over the past years and this to me is an important part of school life both for the kids and for the parents to become involved in and part of. I also know many parents that have children at the school both personally and through business and feel that I'm well placed to take on board and communicate their ideas and thoughts to the board.

Finally, one of the main reasons which compelled me to stand for the Board of Trustees is the fact that I currently have three children attending Snells Beach School -Leila in Year 5, Jack in Year 4 and Pearl in Year 1. This gives me very much a vested interest and I feel that it's the right time to become involved and to have an influence on the School's direction and future.

SAWITZKI Ylia

I've been a trustee on the board since I was asked to stand in for Selina last year. The experience of supporting the school as a team has been very positive and something I would like to build on.

One of the official trustee goals is to ensure that every child gets to "achieve their potential". To my understanding that involves a lot more than just getting good at numeracy and literacy. To me it's about creating a learning environment where the children thrive on all levels; academic, creative and personal.

Happy kids just love to learn!

My personal background has been in adult education and midwifery, both in Germany, where I come from, and here in New Zealand. Since becoming a mum I've moved onto working as a massage therapist and sculpture artist and lately some of you might have met me doing teacher aiding at kindy. I've been part of the local community for the last five years, living in Snells Beach with my husband Ian and my son Anjamo (Year 5).

To keep growing the sense of cooperation and mutual support around our school is what excites me! Thank you, with kind regards.

SCANDRETT Don

When the Snells Beach School opened last year, I was impressed how it contributed to creating a real sense of community in the area that had not been there previously. Suddenly things started to happen. How long did we have to wait for a pedestrian crossing in the area? It has also created a source of pride and excitement - not only in what it has achieved in just over a year since it opened, but also for what our kids can do in the future.

I stood for the Board of Trustees last year in the school's first election because I believed that I had the necessary range of skills, experience and enthusiasm that I have been able to contribute to the school. I would like to get your support to be able to continue for the next three years.

I am married to Ruth and we have three children. Meredith and Trent go to Mahurangi College and our youngest Xanthe, is in year 5 at Snells Beach School. I have lived in the Snells Beach area all my life. I work as the Marketing and Business Manager for Coastguard in the city and spend a lot of time not only making sure that the organisation has enough funds to do its job, but also that people are aware of what it does and why it needs the community's support. Previously I ran the family farm.

I have had a lot of experience over a number of years in community organisations both locally and nationally and in my own businesses. I know how important it is that any organisation is run along sound business principles as well as being in touch with its people. I also know how important it is that a Board of Trustees has an effective working relationship both with the school's staff and with others within the community that contribute towards the successful functioning of the school.

As parents, it is our job to make sure that our school is helping our kids to be the best that they can be. Snells Beach School is a great school with a great team and our kids have got a great start. I have enjoyed my time on the Board of Trustees and the contribution that I have made and I'd like the opportunity to help that continue.

Suckling Ian

I've worked in education for 20 years, recently as deputy principal, and currently, helping primary schools to develop e-learning. Before this, I worked in accounting and business. I'm keen to contribute what I can as a member of the Board.

I have a son at Snells Beach School, aged 6 and a daughter, aged 3. I want them to come home inspired by their school experiences and to develop a range of academic, personal and social skills that will enable them to succeed in what they want to do.

I believe my experience will help to navigate the various demands placed on the school and enable it to be seen to be run in the best interests of students and the community, while leaving the teachers and managers feeling supported.

I'll ensure the school's planning and use of resources provides high quality education for all students that includes a range of opportunities and is relevant to the world our children are growing into.