



Somerville Intermediate School Board of Trustee Elections 7 September 2022 Candidate Statements



Henare Clarke

*Ko Hikurangi te Maunga
Ko Waiapu te Awa
Ko Ngati Porou te Iwi
Ko Henare Clarke toku Ingoa*

My name is Henare Clarke. I am originally from the East Coast of the North Island and am of Ngati Porou descent.

I have lived in Cockle Bay for the last 31 years and have had 1 daughter, and more recently 1 granddaughter and 1 grandson, attending Somerville Intermediate.

My wife is the existing school counsellor and also has been the school kaiāwhina (advising on all things Māori whilst working in the school, being involved in Kapa Haka and Te Reo Māori) for over 15 years. I have been the back room support for her work at Somerville over this time period, supporting the Kōanga festival and many other initiatives that were introduced by the school to nurture our Taonga (treasures).

Professionally, I have managed large businesses across Auckland and New Zealand for iconic businesses such as Fletcher construction (General Manager for Higgins Contractors), Chief Operating Officer for Kiwirail, and Regional Management roles for Downer NZ. During this time, I have had a passion for implementing leadership programmes for our up and coming youth coming out of school at all levels. I have a passion for weaving Te Ao Māori into our work activities, whilst maintaining a commercial and safety lens across the business.

I was also on the Board of Trustees for Genesis Youth Trust for over 10 years, working with the police and our own internal counsellor to work with youth at risk and their families in having a heart for tamariki and rangatahi that offers HOPE and RESTORATION for them and their whānau in Aotearoa. This was a truly rewarding opportunity for me to be involved in this.

I bring to the Board of Trustees a strong safety culture, a great business mind, a strong affiliation and passion to Māori culture and Tikanga Māori, a long term relationship with the school (hopefully have 3 more of my grandchildren attending school), and last but not least, a desire to make a difference to Somerville Intermediate and to Aotearoa.
Ngā mihi nui

Kim Fox



My daughter Mollie, is now in Year 7 at Somerville. I was privileged to sit on the Board of Trustees at Shelly Park for two terms (6 years) while Mollie was there as not only was I interested in her learning during her time here, but I was keen to ensure that she, her classmates and other Shelly Park pupils had a real pride in their school and fantastic memories that they will take with them. These are some of the most important, memory-forming years in anyone's life. Fast forward to now, and the education system has new challenges. The Covid generation is starting to rear its head, and we have all needed to adapt to how we do things. Whilst there have been some positives, our children have experienced a lot of disruption and turmoil in their education, and I'm keen to play a part in how we navigate through that.

As an HR Manager, many of the principles of my work are aligned to those in education, and I am passionate about ensuring children and teachers alike receive the development and support that they need. I am keen to ensure we give our kids the best start in technology, as this is where their future lies. No career will be left untouched by the sweeping technological change in this era, and the sooner our children start to learn about it, the better equipped they will be. I'm also keenly interested in getting more girls interested in tech and science – it wasn't my forte at school, but now recognise how important it is!

Outside of work and school, I enjoy health and fitness, have been known to engage in a bit of DIY and crafts, and enjoy getting away in our retro caravan with once in a while.

We all lead busy lives, but there is great reward in volunteering and being truly involved in the school community. I am keen to see Somerville continue to thrive and prosper and would love to be involved as part of the Board.



Karen Gibson

Kia ora

I am a grandparent of three boys, the first of whom starts at Somerville Intermediate in a little over a year's time. I am keen to bring my skills and time to the team on the Board of Trustees.

I have spent the last 18 years either on local school Boards or working with trustees from a variety of schools around Auckland to support their governance, strategic planning and other challenges. As chair of the Establishment Boards for three Ormiston schools I was involved in many areas from the design and delivery of buildings, liaising with the Ministry of Education, working with inspiring school leaders to develop innovative curriculum design and delivery, all the way through to welcoming learners and their community into their new schools. I have built relationships with many different trustees and education professionals and have been privileged to learn a lot from them.

Our whānau have lived and worked in the wider Howick community for the last 25 years. I have been involved with various schools, sports and community activities during that time. Currently I volunteer for Riding for the Disabled as a coach where we work together with children of all abilities to build confidence and strength through sharing fun activities on horses.

I believe school Boards need to listen to the aspirations of their students and families, to staff and to the community so that students can follow their passions, taste success and most importantly enjoy their time at school. I believe I can bring my skills in school governance, my experience working together with lots of different people, my energy and a real desire to see all learners thrive to the role of trustee.

Seeing school through the eyes of our grandsons refreshes my enthusiasm for education and the exciting opportunities schools can offer. Somerville Intermediate is doing a great job for their learners and the community. I am keen to contribute to see the school continue to innovate and grow. I would consider it a privilege to join the Board of Trustees.

Ngā mihi



Alvin Liu

Hello. My name is Alvin Liu. I am self-employed operating a food catering business. I am a 38 year old father of two children. My older son Brian is attending Somerville Intermediate school in year 7, and younger son Andrew is at Baverstock Oaks school in year 5.

I think children are naturally inquisitive, they will eagerly absorb everything that is going on around them, so it is important to have good role models to lead their pathway of learning. I am keen to speak out for parents in our local community for some of their opinions or problems they might be facing with their children's learning journey. I believe the key is to maintain a positive attitude.



Michael Pienaar

My name is Michael Pienaar and I have 1 daughter, Isabella Pienaar, at Somerville Intermediate in Year 7. My youngest daughter is at Willowbank School in year 4.

As the current Presiding Member of the BoT at Willowbank, I have been involved first hand in key learning and infrastructure developments within Willowbank over the last 6 years and would love to do this at Somerville Intermediate too.

I have worked in the electrical industry for 17 years in a variety of roles and am currently the GM APAC – Marketing & Strategy and NZ CEO & Director for a global entity with manufacturing facilities across the Asia Pacific region, including New Zealand.

As a member of the board for the business we fundamentally manage governance, develop the vision for the business and ensure it is done with an absolute priority on the health and safety of the employees and in the best interest of the environment.

The position allows identification and elimination of risks, improvement in well-being of the employees and with being a global organisation the acceptance and learning across cultures both within and external to the business.

In terms of marketing and strategy, future focus and assessment of innovative opportunities in digitalization, IoT and agility from concept to launch, are valuable skills as we navigate a changing world. I would be able to bring this experience to the board to ensure our children are equipped with the skills and resilience to manage this change.

Our children are so important; this school, its teachers and inherent values are the building blocks to provide them with the requirements to succeed in the world. In an ever-changing world, we need to be fully aware of the trends in society and adapt to meet these while ensuring the highest level of values are instilled in the children.

I would like to be in a position to contribute and drive continuous improvement within the school in ensuring the schools development and learning environment delivers the key outcomes each child is entitled to.

It would be an honour to serve Somerville Intermediate on the Board of Trustees, supporting the school in enhancing its values and vision in growing great citizens and seeing them flourish in a positive, stimulating learning environment – so our children can individually and collectively own the school motto of “the best you can be”.

David Pointon



Seeking election as parent representative to the board for Somerville Int.

As an Executive of a global technology company, I am aware of the continued impact that technology is having on our children in the way they learn, both in and outside the classroom. Covid and lockdowns has continued to make this a challenge for all and looks to cause disruption in the foreseeable future, however that doesn't need to impact how our children are consuming learning.

Now more than ever it is important to ensure schools are adopting best practice learning strategies. I believe that the BoT can assist in guiding the school in its policies and procedures to focus on student achievement, so our children are in the best position as they head onto higher learning at college.

With over 20 years in technology management and leadership I am experienced in fiscal management, budgeting, and business management overall. I am a strong communicator and collaborate well with others, accepting of all views and understanding that all voices need to be heard. These skills will help ensure that we are effectively allocating resources to those in need, ensuring we are getting tangible ROIs from our partners and suppliers, and ensuring the parent community has a voice at the table. I feel these attributes would serve the board, and Somerville Intermediate well.

Thank you for your consideration

Darren Powell



Kia ora koutou. I'm Darren Powell – my son Harvey is in Year 7 – and I would like to be elected onto the Somerville Intermediate School Board of Trustees.

What I will bring to the Somerville Intermediate School Board of Trustees is a wealth of experience as a teacher, an education researcher, a parent, and a Board member. My knowledge and experience leads me to constantly ask: how can we provide the highest quality teaching and learning experiences for our children?

I have been involved in education for over 20 years. I was a primary and intermediate school teacher for 11 years, with my first teaching job here at Somerville Intermediate School (1999-2001), and then in a variety of schools in Auckland, England and Scotland.

Since completing my PhD in 2014 I have worked as a Senior Lecturer in Health Education in the Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Auckland. In this role I teach Initial Teacher Education students, as well as conducting academic research and writing books and articles on health and education programmes in primary and intermediate schools. I also provide expert advice to the Ministry of Education to support the development of curriculum resources and policy documents. This includes the Relationships and Sexuality Education guide for schools, and the soon-to-be released Mental Health Education guidelines and teaching resources.

I have nine years' experience as a board member. For the past six years I have been on the Board of Trustees for Shelly Park School, where I was heavily involved in a number of initiatives, such as building the new covered court, appointing a new principal, advocating for CO2 monitors to be installed in all classrooms, and organising the annual BoT Quiz Night. Before that, I was a nationally-elected member of Physical Education New Zealand's board for three years.

I will certainly be involved with Somerville Intermediate School for many years to come as my daughter, Matilda, will be here in 2026!

Ngā mihi nui



Rebecca Rose

Kia ora, ko Rebecca Rose taku ingoa

I am excited to offer my nomination for a parent representative for the Somerville Intermediate BOT.

For the past 5 years, I have proudly been Deputy Principal at Brookby School (full primary, year 0 - 8) and was the staff representative on the BOT during that time. I thoroughly enjoyed understanding the bigger picture of running a school, from property management, being a part of Principal and staffing appointments, through to establishing and developing strong community relationships.

Prior to my DP role, my career spans almost 20 years in Education, teaching in local East Auckland schools, and at Brookby for the past 10 years.

Recently, I have moved into Educational Professional Development, working alongside schools all over NZ - building teaching capabilities in key MOE priorities - such as Localised Curriculum, Assessment for Learning and Digital fluency. Primarily, I work with leadership teams, developing robust strategic plans to target specific areas to develop and enhance curriculum.

I am also working on my Level 4 Diploma in Tikanga and Te Reo through Te Wānanga - and leading professional development in house, building cultural capabilities across our staff.

My daughter is in Year 8 this year at Somerville, moving on to Howick College next year - and my son will be Year 7 in 2023.

I would feel honoured to be considered for this position. I will bring a vast array of skills, knowledge and experience from an educational context to the BOT, but also with a parent perspective.



Richard Tosh

Thank you for considering my application for election onto the Somerville Intermediate School Board.

I have significant school governance experience. I have been on the Board of Botany Downs Primary School for 7.5 years, the most recent 5 years as Presiding Board member. I am likely to be standing down from that Board shortly because my children have moved on from the school. I was also a Board member at Howick Intermediate for 3 years. And just to complete the trifecta, I am currently a Board Member at Howick College!

During the last 7.5 years I have been involved with a huge range of issues that have arisen at the schools I have been involved with. These include overseeing large property remediation projects, the appointment of Principals and other senior staff, dealing with complaints and dealing with staff and student disciplinary matters. I was Chair of the Finance Committee at Howick Intermediate, and I am Chair of the Property and Health & Safety Sub-Committee at Howick College and sit on the Finance Sub-Committee. I am therefore well equipped to assist with guiding the school through any issues that arise in the next 3 years, both good and bad.

I was born in the UK, and in 2002 I met my wife Jennifer in London when she was doing her OE. After living in London for a couple of years we moved to Hong Kong for two and a half years, and then onto Auckland. We originally lived near Ellerslie but have been in the Howick area for the last 13 years.

I have two daughters, Brianna who is 16 and Lauren who is 11. Brianna is currently in Year 12 at Howick College. She was previously at Botany Downs Primary, and then Howick Intermediate. Lauren is in year 7 at Somerville Intermediate. My wife works in the school office at Somerville Intermediate.

I am a lawyer by profession and am currently a Special Counsel at Wotton + Kearney where I specialise in insurance law and litigation. I have been involved in dealing with a multitude of different disputes during my career. While in New Zealand I have done a lot of leaky building litigation, and more recently, litigation arising out of the Christchurch and Kaikoura earthquakes. My knowledge of insurance law has come in useful at the other schools with which I have been involved.

I am passionate about the education of our children, and making sure they enjoy their educational experience and, to quote the school's motto, be the best they can be!
