

## Ros Connelly



I am a current member of the Fergusson Intermediate Board of Trustees and served as Chairperson of the Board in 2017. Some of the key things that we have done as a Board during my last term were the appointment of a new management team and the introduction of the school enrolment zone. I would like to continue my involvement with Fergusson to help progress a capital works programme to redevelop the admin block.

I have a daughter who currently attends Fergusson, and a son who was there a couple of years ago. Fergusson Intermediate has capable, motivated staff, enthusiastic and supportive parents and whānau, and excellent resources and facilities and I appreciate how lucky I am to be able to send my kids there.

Areas where I would like to see Fergusson increase its focus are: support for students with special educational needs or requiring extension, a greater focus on environmental education, promoting a safe, bullying free culture and exploring different channels for communicating with parents.

I currently work as a Principal Adviser at the Ministry for Primary Industries. I am also a serving Upper Hutt City Councillor. I have previously sat on the Governance Boards of several early childcare centres, I have been a committee member for the Johnsonville Community Centre, and as a student I served as Chairperson of Student Job Search Aotearoa and was the student representative on the University of Otago Council. I guess I just love going to meetings! Ngā mihi mahana ki to whānau. Best regards, Ros

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## Blair Griffiths

I am a father of 2 girls – Charlotte who attends Upper Hutt College and Sophia who currently attends Fergusson Intermediate.

My daughter, Sophia, has special needs and requires caring, dedicated people around her. We are very lucky to have a school that cares about her and I wish to return some of the energy and love she gets shown.

A little about myself – elected member of the Upper Hutt City Council 2<sup>nd</sup> term. I am the chair of The City Development Committee and Representative for Upper Hutt City Council on Safer Hutt Valley Committee.

I am also involved with other committees inside the council including Local Alcohol Committee, Hearings Committee, Traffic Committee, Community Grans and Economic Stimulus Committee.

I believe I have a large amount of governance skills collected from these roles over the last 5 years. I would enjoy the opportunity to be part of the Fergusson Intermediate Board of Trustees.

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## Andrew Irving



Hi, I'm Andrew, an IT employee that has been working in the industry for over 20 years.

My daughter, Izzy, started at Fergusson Intermediate this year. My second daughter is due to start in 2022, resulting in me having a vested interest in the school for the next 5 years. I thought that putting myself forward for the board was an excellent opportunity to give back to the school and community.

I would bring to the board a wealth of IT and business knowledge that spans different market sectors. I have direct experience with school IT solutions and BYOD programs as well as experience with process and policy.

I bring a positive attitude and enjoy learning, I also believe in fairness and equality for all. These values, coupled with my experiences in business and the community provide an excellent foundation for my first nomination, and possible election to the Board of Trustees.

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## Garth Johnson



Hello there. My name is Garth Johnson. I am married with 2 children, a son (24) and a daughter (12). I am currently the Board chair at Fergusson Intermediate, and have been since February 2018. I have served on 2 other school boards both as a member and a chair when my son was going through his schooling.

I sincerely believe that as a parent it is part of my parental duty to become involved in the governance aspects of the schools my children are attending. This governance aspect is extended for all students, present and future, not just for my child while she is at Fergusson Intermediate.

Governance works in partnership with the school management (principal, deputy principal and syndicate leaders). I believe that a solid working relationship between these two critical aspects of a school determine how the school will succeed.

I have spent my time as chair nurturing and cementing a trustful and amicable relationship between the governance aspect and the management aspect of Fergusson. This has had many positive results for the school, including behaviour management, a stable staff membership, in depth reviews of curriculum and reporting, and better documentation of processes.

I believe Fergusson Intermediate is a fantastic school, offering so much for our children to challenge and excite them. This is reflected in the record number of students we currently have on our roll.

There are so many exciting things happening now and planned for the future that I feel privileged to be a involved in such a dynamic environment, and I am hopeful that I may be able to continue to work with the school and see some of these projects through to completion.

My passion for children's education is what drives me to stand for re-election to the Board of Trustees. There needs to be passionate people in the governance role of a school, because we are not here for our own glory, but to benefit the students, present and future. We need to imagine how things can be for the school, dream about what we want the school to look like in the future, and how we can aid the teaching staff to raise achievement of all the students under our governorship.

Thank you for taking the time to read this candidate statement. Remember to have your say by voting.

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## Melinda McGinty



Hi my name is Melinda McGinty and I would love to be on Fergusson Intermediate School Board of Trustees. I am a solo mum of 2 children – a 14 year girl who is in her first year at Upper Hutt College and an 11 year old boy who is finishing his last year at Tawhai School. I am currently working as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Respiratory at Hutt Valley DHB and have completed a masters in Nursing and am a nurse prescriber.

I have always enjoyed giving back to my school community and have been very involved at Tawhai School. This has included coaching my son's tini-ball and touch rugby teams and working on the parent teacher support group (PTSG). I am also about to finish a 3-year term on Tawhai School's BOT. During that time, Tawhai has had many property works done including a new

safer driveway, carpark and access for pedestrians and two sets of classrooms updated and refurbished.

I have been a member of the health and safety team and have worked with Wellington Region Emergency Management office (WREMO) to make sure we have everything prepared if an emergency occurred. We have also been working through the H&S at work ACT (2015) to make sure we are aligned to the requirements. Some examples include updating immunisation records, reviewing reported incidents and outcomes and ensuring all policies are up-to-date.

I have never missed a BOT meeting and enjoy hearing about all the wonderful stuff our teacher's do, their plans for the future and how they align with the Ministry of Education's expectations. I am aware of the stress teacher's face every day and have wholeheartedly supported our Tawhai School's principal in implementing a "well being" focus for her team. I am not afraid to ask questions or challenge ideas and will do my own research to make sure that I am as best informed as can be to make decisions. I am now ready to take this enthusiasm and knowledge to a new school community.

**Jay McLeary**

I am passionate about Upper Hutt City and as a parent and member of the Upper Hutt community, I am keen to continue to help support Fergusson Intermediate. With one son having recently attended Fergusson Intermediate, another currently enrolled, and another son yet to start school, and with a wife who is a primary school teacher, I maintain a vested interest in the strategic direction of Fergusson Intermediate as a key component within our community.

I am currently a parent representative standing for re-election. I have remained committed to supporting Fergusson Intermediate in 2018 and 2019. I am pleased to have supported Fergusson Intermediate's senior leadership and the Board of Trustees in key decision making and outcomes, such as the recent Individual Challenge Course, and school zoning that will benefit Fergusson Intermediate's long-term resourcing and well-being. I have been pleased to be involved in and witness well-considered, fair and transparent decision making around disciplinary and behavioural challenges, in order to ensure the best possible outcomes for students, teachers, staff, parents and our wider community.

As an Officer in the New Zealand Army, my current role sees me involved in the development and implementation of the New Zealand Army's strategy as well the provision of advice to the New Zealand Army's principal governance boards, the Army Leadership Board and Army Management Board; skills immediately transferable to the role of Board of Trustees parent representative.

I bring an ability to understand strategic policy and intent as set by the Ministry of Education, but I am a firm believer in also considering fresh perspectives, future opportunities along with the unique needs of the school, its students and staff beyond purely a one-size fits all policy.

Just as I play a key role in determining resourcing within the New Zealand Army that it may achieve its directed outputs, so too will I strive at all times to ensure that the school, its staff and students are resourced for success now and into the future. I bring a healthy appreciation of the tensions and the careful balance between the immediate and future needs of the school its students and staff, and the need for fiscal responsibility.

I am pleased to be considered for re-election as a parent representative for Fergusson Intermediate's Board of Trustees.

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**Mark Bier**

Hi

I'm a father of two boys, and have recently returned to teaching after 12 years in the corporate world. Excited at helping our youth as a primary teacher again as well as looking forward to remaining on the board in order to assist transition of our primary school children into college. I'm currently the longest serving member on the BOT team (only just) and hoping to use this knowledge to further the great work that the Fergy team are pursuing.

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