



## Media Release – 2019 school trustee elections

### Working together for our tamariki

As a mother of school children, Arama firmly believes in the purpose of her local Wharekura and she wanted to have an active involvement in her children's education. This is why she became a trustee on the Te Wharekura o Te Kaokaoroa o Pātetere board.

"I believe in the Wharekura philosophy. We are a collective whānau and we need to work together to ensure that all our tamariki reach their full potential".

Arama joined her local board back in 2009 and she is still a trustee today. "Being on our board has far exceeded my expectations. Our principal is outstanding and we as a board have had to deal with some of the most challenging issues. Our board has drawn strength and guidance from our Wharekura whānau."

Wharekura and mainstream schools are an important part of our communities and should provide opportunities for students to learn and achieve. It is important for our communities to be involved, to ensure their school continues to meet and reflect the communities' needs. The more diverse the board the better.

Arama says that she is proud of her board's work for rebuilding Wharekura. "It reflects the calibre of our students and encourages them to achieve to the highest standards."

The environment in which school boards operate constantly changes and boards throughout Aotearoa New Zealand need to evolve and adapt. Arama says that since she became a trustee, she has seen the changes in technology, in the political climate, and the significant impact of social media on our children. As technology continues to advance at an almost rapid and unprecedented social pace, we as parents need to respond accordingly.

"I am grateful and humbled to be a part of the board of trustees process. To see school boards disestablished will have serious and negative effects on Māori."

Parents, caregivers and people from the community can be nominated for election to a school board. It is important that the board reflects its community.

"We need to help lead our children and not let them fall behind in any area. We as trustees need to be better, do better and expect nothing less of ourselves as we expect the best of our children."

Anyone who is interested to be on the school board can find more information on [www.trustee-election.co.nz](http://www.trustee-election.co.nz). The call for nominations for school trustees will be happening for most schools between 10 and 24 May.

[END]

**About the school trustee elections**

School trustee elections are one of the most significant democratic processes in New Zealand and are a way that parents, caregivers and communities can make a difference to their local school. The New Zealand School Trustees Association runs the trustee elections on behalf of the Ministry of Education. NZSTA provides election resources and election advice to all schools to help run successful elections.

**For further information contact:**

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